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Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator O'Sullivan

I refer to Airservices Australia's (Airservices) recent Senate Estimates appearance before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Monday, 18 February 2019. There were some technical inaccuracies in my evidence I have since become aware of which I would like to correct for the record.

Airservices was asked a question in relation to the implementation of the recommendations of the Darwin Coronial Inquest in 2013. The question and response appears in the Proof of Committee Hansard as follows:

Senator GALLACHER: *Arising out of that terrible incident, a number of recommendations were made by Coroner Greg Cavanagh. Can you confirm that they have all been implemented?*

Mr G Wood: *They have except for the lighting upgrade on the large vehicles, which is due to be completed in the next couple of months.*

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I write to provide the following correction:

The coronial recommendations included changing the appearance of the lime green MK8 and Mk9 vehicles to ensure they were easily recognisable as emergency service vehicles. My understanding was all the lime green MK8 and Mk9 vehicles had received the updated livery (emergency markings) package. However, I am advised there are four lime green Mk9 vehicles which are yet to be updated with new markings. The livery package update on these Mk9 vehicles is in progress and is expected to be completed by 30 June 2019.

Senator Gallacher later asked a similar follow up question:

Senator GALLACHER: *Have you reviewed paint or markings upgrade and applied it to the entire Mk8 fleet?*

Mr G Wood: Yes, in the sense that new livery has been put on the vehicles since the coronial inquest. It's a more plain type of look with some bold lettering on the side which, based on the research we've undertaken, was the best type of livery to use. It was the most visible, if that makes sense.

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In considering the reference to the coroners recommendations, I overlooked three "non – operational" Mk8 vehicles used for training which are painted red and do not have updated emergency markings. Additionally, I am advised one of these red Mk8 vehicles recently transitioned into an operational role as a spare vehicle at Avalon. These vehicles are also expected to be updated in new colours and markings by 31 January 2020. When completed, the entire fleet of 90 Mk8 and Mk9 vehicles will be of the same colour and emergency markings.

Airservices was also asked a question in relation to the implementation of an emergency lighting package on our vehicles. The question and response appears in the Proof of Committee Hansard as follows:

Senator GALLACHER: Has the emergency lighting package been applied to the entire fleet?

Mr G Wood: To all the Mk8 and Mk9 vehicles, yes.

Senator GALLACHER: But not to the entire fleet.

Mr G Wood: There are four domestic response vehicles which are getting their lighting upgraded as well. Two have been done and two will be done fairly soon.

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I would also like to provide the following correction:

The lighting upgrade package on the large vehicles (MK8 and MK9) is still underway and is due to be completed in May 2019. Please refer to my previous response to this question also on page 132.

Please also note the emergency lighting upgrade was not part of the coroner's recommendations, rather it was identified as part of Airservices internal improvement program.

I apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Wood

Chief Fire Officer

4 March 2019