



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

Senator Susan McDonald  
Chair  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McDonald

Having reviewed the transcripts of Additional Estimates hearings conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on 23 and 26 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment would like to provide six factual corrections to the Committee.

**Correction 1.** On 23 March 2021 Mr Andrew Metcalfe appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator McCarthy asked in relation to the percentage of Australia's exports going to China

*"Is that across the board?"*

In response Mr Metcalfe said

*" ..... The government announced an initiative – the Agricultural Business Expansion Initiative – at the end of last year. .... "*

The department wishes to correct this answer. *" ..... The government announced an initiative – the Agri-Business Expansion Initiative – at the end of last year. .... "*

**Correction 2.** During the hearing on 23 March 2021, Senator McKenzie said in relation to measures to get trade and market access information to stakeholders quickly

*"Great."*

In response Mr Metcalfe said

*"The other point I should add to that is that the other part of the agricultural business expansion initiative is the fact that Austrade, with whom we work extremely closely, will be working more closely with major exporters .... "*

The department wishes to correct this answer. *"The other point I should add to that is that the other part of the Agri-Business Expansion Initiative is the fact that Austrade, with whom we work extremely closely, will be working more closely with major exporters .... "*

**Correction 3.** On 23 March 2021 Ms Emma Campbell appeared as a witness.

Senator Rice said in relation to Regional Forestry Hubs

*"Can you walk me through—I'm still a bit fuzzy—exactly what these forestry hubs are doing? And what level of resourcing has been put into these hubs? They're quite significant, aren't they?"*

In response Ms Campbell said

*"Each of the hubs has been provided about a million dollars a year, before GST, through to the end of 2021-22."*

The department wishes to correct this answer. *"Each of the hubs has been provided about a million dollars in total, before GST, through to the end of 2021-22".*

**Correction 4.** On 23 March 2021 Dr Chris Parker appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

Senator Ciccone said in relation to the department's role and contribution to combatting fruit fly

*"Thank you. So the federal department of agriculture doesn't provide resources to combat fruit fly?"*

In response Dr Parker said

*"Yes, we do, but not in the sense of combatting it on the ground. But, certainly, in the case of South Australia, we've offered resources to South Australia to assist them in managing the outbreaks they've had in the Riverland. That is something we stand ready to do, certainly for areas like South Australia where they're trying to maintain a pest-free status. We have a range of other programs. The government committed \$16.9 million to a fruit fly strategy—half from the Commonwealth and half from the states—that's about doing research that's specifically targeted towards fruit fly."*

The department wishes to correct this answer. *"Yes, we do, but not in the sense of combatting it on the ground. But, certainly, in the case of South Australia, we've offered resources to South Australia to assist them in managing the outbreaks they've had in the Riverland. That is something we stand ready to do, certainly for areas like South Australia where they're trying to maintain a pest-free status. We have a range of other programs. The government committed \$16.9 million for strategic fruit fly investment, including a component of that funding going towards a \$13 million research program that's specifically targeted towards fruit fly, with half from the Commonwealth and half from the states."*

**Correction 5.** On 26 March 2021 Ms Kirsty Bunfield appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator Patrick said in relation to Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Regulator:

*"What about from the Commonwealth government?"*

In response Ms Bunfield said

*“For example, the South Australian manufacturer has spoken to members of the WELS team who are observers on that committee and they have put through the request for a future agenda item and for future work for that committee. “*

The department wishes to correct this answer. *“For example, the South Australian manufacturer has spoken to members of the WELS team who are members and observers on that committee and they have put through the request for a future agenda item and for future work for that committee. “*

**Correction 6.** During the hearing on 26 March 2021, Senator Patrick said in relation to Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Regulator:

*“In effect what I think my constituent is asking for, noting the difference in his business model, is treatment under the standard in respect of small variations and changes. He may have the same pipe size in the tap; he just might make it slightly longer for a particular customer and he's finding that he has to go through a regulatory process. I'm also informed that even if the colour changes he has to go through a regulatory process. Is that your understanding as well?”*

In response Ms Bunfield said:

*“No. If it's just a colour, if it's a variant which is a colour that doesn't impact the size or the water efficiency of the product, that can be registered as a variant. While it's registered there's no cost to the registration and it is done at the same time as the main product. So if you have a set of taps and you can get them in a range of colours, you register the tap. You do need to advise on the registration that there are different colours but that's done at the same time.”*

The department wishes to correct this answer. *“Yes. If it's just a colour, if it's a variant which is a colour that doesn't impact the size or the water efficiency of the product, that can be registered as a variant. While it's registered there's no additional cost to the registration, but it is currently an additional regulatory process.”*

I apologise for the error in the answers outlined above and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee. The remainder of the answers to questions given at the Hearing are correct.

Yours sincerely

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07 May 2021

