



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

Senator Glenn Sterle  
Chair  
Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

On 24 May 2023 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing, Senator Sterle said in relation to annual reviews of the department's biosecurity cost recovery arrangement:

*"We've had these conversations in the Senate. There have been some high-profile arguments. What I'm assured happens, and what happened prior to my coming, is that each year the department does a review and provides advice to the minister of the day in relation to whether or not we're achieving cost recovery or whether we're falling behind with cost recovery. But Mr Pak Poy might take up the story."*

In response I said

*"The majority of the cost recovery implementation statement that's in place for biosecurity was first introduced in December 2015. It was next updated in 2019. I think you cited the comprehensive review. That wasn't the basis of the comprehensive review; that was to make a minor change to I think two of the fees and charges. It was then again updated in February 2022 to implement a government decision around the cost recovery of hitchhiker related costs and then, as mentioned earlier, we've been undertaking a review and working with the minister on that at the moment."*

I wish to correct this answer.

*"The majority of the cost recovery arrangement that's in place for biosecurity was first introduced in December 2015. It was next updated in 2019. I think you cited the comprehensive review. That wasn't the basis of a comprehensive review; that was to make a minor change to I think two of the fees and charges. It was then again updated in February 2022 to inform industry of a government decision around the cost recovery of hitchhiker, the related costs were implemented and published in the 2022-23 Hitchhiker CRIS released in December 2022 and then, as mentioned earlier, we've been undertaking a comprehensive review and working with the minister on that at the moment."*

The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Paul Pak Poy  
Chief Finance Officer  
Finance and Investment Division  
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