



SECRETARY

Ref: EC19-000985

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

Dear Chair

Having reviewed the proof transcripts of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Tuesday 22 October and Friday 25 October 2019, the Department of Agriculture would like to identify one factual mistake made in providing evidence to the Committee.

The correction relates to a response I provided to a question asked by Senator Gallacher. The relevant dialogue is on page 72 of the Hansard:

Mr Quinlivan: It sums to about \$5½ million over the last three or four years. There was \$3 million through the white paper Established pest animals and weeds measure for four competitive grants and one targeted grant. There was just over \$1 million for the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions to develop next generation autonomous technologies targeting pest animals, including feral pigs. There was \$380,000 to Charles Darwin University to develop a cheaper and simpler to use animal locating technology for so-called Judas pest animal control applications, including feral pigs. There was \$360,000 to the WA department to evaluate the effectiveness of aerially deployed thermal sensors to detect the presence of feral pigs. There was \$1 million to CSIRO to develop a low-cost and simple system for tracking pest animals, including feral pigs. There is \$200,000 to CISS to develop a next generation feral pig bait and \$2½ million over four years to a number of state governments towards four projects to build the capacity of landholders in the community to manage feral pigs. So there is a variety of things there. It is not perhaps on the scale that the committee has just been talking about, but they've been happening over the last couple of years.

I wish to highlight to the committee that on page 72 I mistakenly represented the total investment made to programs that support feral pig management and the number and scope of state government projects for feral pigs. The number should have been \$7 million over the last three or four years.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proof transcripts of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings and to provide clarification on the above points.

Yours sincerely

Daryl Quinlivan

6 December 2019