



**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 14 February 2023, I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing you, as Chair, asked a question in relation to biosecurity risk material (page 82)

*'If we could break this down. I have the numbers now for the 88 per cent increase in risk in cars. What about in cargo? I will let you tell us.'*

In response I said

*'In the last calendar year, January to December, we saw a 42 per cent increase in cargo volumes...'*

I wish to clarify this answer. In the last calendar year, January to December, there was a 42 per cent increase in cargo volumes *compared to the 2019 calendar year*. 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

Tina Hutchison  
First Assistant Secretary  
Biosecurity Operations  
9 March 2023