



Senator Raff Ciccone
Acting Chair
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Ciccone,

On Tuesday 23 April the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry appeared as a witness before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee. I would like to make the following corrections to the transcript.

1. During the hearing you said in relation to the Craik review's position on a container levy

"What did the Craik review say about a container levy? Did it say the government had an option of either increasing the full import declaration charge or using a container levy?"

In response the witness, Ms Saunders said

"As you indicated, the Craik review suggested either option as a means by which we're going forward. As per evidence earlier today, the Craik review recognised that an alternative to the introduction of a container levy would be to increase the charge on the full import declaration, FID, which applies to container imports. As a result, certainly in terms of the government's deliberations, we have increased the FID for, say, cargo from \$49 to \$63, which I think is consistent with evidence earlier today."

I wish to correct this answer by adjusting the last sentence of the answer.

"As a result, certainly in terms of the government's deliberations, we have increased the FID for, sea cargo from \$49 to \$63, which I think is consistent with evidence earlier today."

2. During the hearing you said in relation to the Full Import Declaration (FID) charge

"What was the FID in 2018? I guess what I'm after is the FID charge that was in 2018 versus the FID rate in May 2022 versus what it is today"

In response the witness, Ms Saunders said

"I don't have that information available to me. I've got the figure. There's certainly the increase in 2023, which was \$49 to \$63, but I would have to take it on notice if you'd like the 2018 figure."

I wish to correct this answer by confirming the category of the FID charge discussed.

"I don't have that information available to me. I've got the figure. There's certainly the increase in 2023, which was \$49 to \$63 for sea cargo, but I would have to take it on notice if you'd like the 2018 figure."

3. During the hearing you said in relation to revenue spending

“What happens to that revenue? Does it go back to being spent on biosecurity?”

In response the witness, Ms Saunders said

“Yes, it does. Whilst I note that this committee's focused on the border protection levy...”

I wish to correct this answer.

“Yes, it does. Whilst I note that this committee's focused on the biosecurity protection levy...”

The remainder of the Departments answers to the questions, provided at the Hearing, are correct.

I apologise for these errors and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jessica Mitchell
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Biosecurity Sustainable Funding Branch
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
02 May 2024