

Mr Phillip Glyde
Acting Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Dear Mr Glyde

I am writing to clarify an aspect of the evidence that I provided to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee on Thursday 5 March 2015, having read the proof Hansard on Saturday 14 March 2015, following a period of personal leave from the department.

I specifically reference the following exchange reported in the proof Hansard (at page 17):

Senator STERLE: So did any of your staff speak to Senator Joyce or his office before?

Dr Grimes: I have no knowledge.

In answering the question I was referring to the fact that I had no knowledge of any discussions directly between the Minister and any member of the department, other than myself on Monday 27 October 2014.

However, in responding I genuinely missed the reference to 'or his office' in the question.

Earlier in my evidence I had advised the Committee of my request to former deputy secretary Tucker to directly contact the Minister's office on the evening of Wednesday 22 October (page 10 of the proof Hansard refers). I also indicated that there were discussions between the department and the Minister's office extending over the period from 22 to 27 October (page 13 of the proof Hansard refers). Questions relating to more specific details were taken on notice.

Having now left my position with the department, I would be grateful if you could convey this information to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee as I wish to ensure my evidence in response to Senator Sterle's question is clarified.

Yours sincerely

Paul Grimes
14 March 2015