



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Senator

Having reviewed the proof Hansard of the Additional Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Thursday 25 May 2017, I wish to make some corrections.

The first correction relates to a response by Mr Matt Barwick to a question by Senator Carol Brown. The relevant dialogue is on page 87 of the proof Hansard:

Mr Barwick: We gave a direct briefing to the fisheries ministers last month, who have been invited to come and give a presentation to COAG at their next meeting, to brief them as well. In terms of the national governance that I alluded to earlier, we report directly to the Invasive Plants and Animals Committee, who report on to the National Biosecurity Committee, who answer to the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and up to the agriculture ministers themselves. There is that direct line of communication through that channel as well.

Mr Barwick incorrectly refers to COAG. This should be replaced with Murray Darling Basin Water ministers.

The second correction relates to a response by Mr Venslovas to a question by the Acting Chair. The relevant dialogue is on page 91 of the proof Hansard:

Mr Venslovas: For this financial year they were all adults. There have been three juveniles apprehended in the last three years.

Mr Venslovas incorrectly refers to no juveniles being apprehended in the current financial year. This should be replaced with 'two juveniles were apprehended in this financial year'.

Mr Venslovas was correct in saying that three juveniles were apprehended in the last three financial years. Details are:

Financial year	Number of juveniles apprehended
2014-15	1
2015-16	0
2016-17	2
Total:	3

The Acting Chair may wish to also note that AFMA does not charge juveniles and they are rapidly repatriated to their country of origin.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the Additional Budget Estimates hearing.

Yours sincerely

Ian Thompson
First Assistant Secretary
Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division
06 June 2017