



Senator Doug Cameron
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Cameron

On 12 February 2013 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing, Senator Birmingham asked a question regarding the scoping study of future directions in managing Lake Albert water quality and Narrung Narrows:

"so the funding is being provided to the South Australian Government?".

In response to the question, I said:

"The contract has been signed and initial payments have been made".

I wish to correct this answer. On 19 December 2012, the Minister announced the government's decision to fund the Lake Albert water quality scoping study. By the date of the Estimates hearing, South Australia had commenced the study. However, a formal variation to the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project (CLLMM) Funding Agreement with South Australia to provide for payments for the study was still being negotiated. As a result, while South Australia was receiving payments under the existing CLLMM Funding Agreement, no payments had been made specifically for this scoping study at the time of the hearing.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Tony Slatyer
First Assistant Secretary
Water Reform Division

5/3/2013