



Australian Government
Director of National Parks

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

Dear Senator Cameron

On 28 May 2013 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing Senator Heffernan said in relation to the use of helicopters for feral animal management

“If it is \$1,200 an hour instead of \$400 an hour, which would be a chopper good enough to shoot from—that is what I really want to get to.”

In response I said

“..... We go out annually on a tender basis for helicopter services generally for the park.”

I wish to correct this answer. The Director of National Parks establishes long term deeds of standing offer for helicopter services following an approach to the market through an open tender process. The last tender was in 2007, and we are currently in the early stages of preparing to approach the market again. The remainder of my answer to this question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

During the hearing Senator Birmingham said in relation to crazy ant baiting on Christmas Island

“If I can move away from Uluru and Kakadu and turn to Christmas Island, what has been the outcome of the investments in relation to the yellow crazy ants on Christmas Island?”

In response I said

“We bait every year for yellow crazy ants. We have done three major island-wide or broad-scale baitings, which have been very successful.”

I wish to correct this answer. We have done three major island-wide or broad-scale baitings since 2002, which have been very successful. We also do some targeted small scale baiting, but this may not be done every year. The remainder of my answer to this question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Cochrane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Peter Cochrane
Director of National Parks
7 June 2013