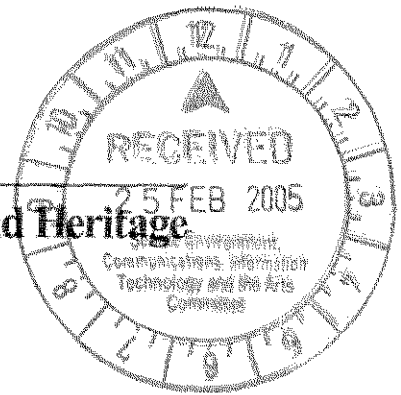


Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage



22 February 2005

Senator Alan Eggleston
Chair
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Eggleston

During the Additional Estimates hearing of 15 February 2005, Committee members questioned officers of the Department of the Environment and Heritage in relation to the additional appropriation for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Structural Adjustment Package (the package).

During the questioning, as recorded on Page 120 of the proof transcript provided to the Department, the following exchange occurred with Senator McLucas.

Senator McLUCAS – Then we turn over to page 39 and we have an enhancement and a part measure of \$41.12 million. How does that relate to the first \$20 million and then subsequently? I understand where the \$1.02 million goes to.

Mr Oxley – The first \$20 million, as I indicated, was an amount that was allocated to the package in the pre-election financial statement. We then subsequently worked on those estimates with the Department of Finance and Administration. So that \$20 million is incorporated in its entirety within the \$41.12 million identified there. The departmental appropriation is a separate amount."

I wish to advise the Committee that there was a technical inaccuracy in my response. It would have been more accurate for my response to include the words "So \$16 million of that \$20 million is included in the \$41.12 million identified there and the remaining \$4 million in the appropriation for 2005-06".

I would be most appreciative if you could arrange for this advice to be forwarded to members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN OXLEY
Assistant Secretary
Marine Conservation Branch

cc Committee Secretary