

**CLARIFICATION OF EVIDENCE GIVEN AT THE
2005-06 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 16 FEBRUARY 2006**

SENATOR CAMPBELL – EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

(Refer Proof Hansard 16/02/06, page E69)

In responding to a question from Senator Campbell regarding employee provisions, the Chief Financial Officer, Ms McClusky stated:

‘The movement in the employee expenses is in part due to increases in ASL and in part due to the impact of the actuarial assessment.’

Clarification

The statement should have been: ‘The movement in the employee provisions is in part due to increases in ASL and in part due to the impact of the actuarial assessment.’

SENATOR CAMPBELL – AVERAGE STAFFING LEVEL (ASL)

(Refer Proof Hansard 16/02/06, page E71)

In responding to a question from Senator Campbell regarding Average Staffing Level (ASL), the Chief Financial Officer, Ms McClusky stated:

‘It is a calculation. It is simply the average ASL per pay over a particular period.’

Clarification

The statement should have been: ‘It is a calculation. It is simply the average Full Time Equivalent (FTE) per pay over a particular period.’

SENATOR McLUCAS – ACCESS TO PREMISES STANDARD

(Refer Proof Hansard 16/02/06, page E82)

In responding to a question from Senator McLucas regarding the process for implementing the Access to Premises Standard, Mr Pettifer stated:

‘The next step is to get the further input to determine a policy position on it. My understanding, and Mr Donaldson might be closer to it than I am, is that the regulation would be an instrument under the Disability Discrimination Act, so it would be a disallowable instrument.’

Clarification

The statement should have referred to ‘an amendable instrument’, rather than ‘a disallowable instrument’.

SENATOR O'BRIEN – BIOFUELS CAPITAL GRANTS

(Refer Proof Hansard 16/02/06, page E93)

In responding to a question from Senator O'Brien regarding the grants that have been paid for biodiesel plants, Mr Peel stated:

'For biodiesel there have been two payments so far, one of \$5.36 million and one of \$960,000.'

Clarification

The amounts of the payments specified above are incorrect. The correct amounts are one payment of \$1.787 million and one of \$320,000. The answer provided at the hearing represented payments the Department expected to make in 2005-06.

SENATOR O'BRIEN – GRANT TO LOGANS BEACH RESORT

(Refer Proof Hansard 16/02/06, page E107)

In responding to questions from Senator O'Brien regarding the payment of a grant to Logans Beach Resort under the Australian Tourism Development Program, the following exchange took place:

Senator O'Brien: ... You tell me the grant would not be approved before planning approval was given; is that right?

Mr Peel: That is right. We would insist that all the necessary approvals were in place before we made the grant payment.

Senator O'Brien: So you could approve it subject to—

Mr Peel: Subject to that process. No money would change hands is what I mean.

Senator O'Brien: Would that be a normal circumstance?

Mr Peel: That is correct.

Clarification

The answer should have included the following information.

In the case of the Logans Beach Resort and Day Spa project, all the planning and building approvals were in place before the contract was executed. However, it is not always possible for the planning approvals to be confirmed prior to executing the contract. As the approvals process can take some time, to avoid delaying the development of the project the contract can be executed prior to confirming that the planning approvals have been provided. This enables the grantee to pursue other aspects of the project while the approvals process takes place. In the event that the project cannot proceed because planning approval is not obtained, there are provisions within the contract that enables the agreement to be terminated and the funding returned to the Commonwealth.