



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Rural
Affairs and Transport Legislation
Suit SG-62
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

Subject: Budget Estimates May 2011

I write regarding statements made at the Budget Estimates Hearings held on 25 May 2011.

At the time of the hearings, one of my responses to a question from Senator Williams may have been ambiguous. The excerpt appears in the Hansard as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 25 May 2011
Page: 70, lines 8-11

During the hearings, Senator Williams stated:

“So the plan is: through Queensland parliament then through other states' and territories' parliaments by end of June next year so it can start on 1 July 2012?”

Mr Mrdak responded: “That would be our intention.”

I stated: “That is correct.” This may have been ambiguous.

For clarity: COAG has asked that the national heavy vehicle regulator be implemented by 1 July 2012, if possible, but no later than the end of 2012. We anticipate that the national law will be passed in Queensland before 1 July 2012 and that the regulator will be appointed soon after. However, Parliamentary processes in some jurisdictions means that it is possible that the enabling legislation may not be passed through some of the other parliaments until later in 2012.

I apologise for the ambiguity and trust this will clarify the matter raised.

Yours sincerely

Karen Gosling
Executive Director
Surface Transport Policy

17 June 2011