Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Senator the Hon. Glenn Sterle
Chairman
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

Having reviewed the transcript of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on 17 October 2011, I would like to make the following corrections.

The first correction relates to an answer provided by Ms Cale to a question from Senator Back, which can be found on page 19 the proof Hansard of 17 October 2011.

> **Senator BACK:** As a result now of the new arrangements being in place, can you tell me what the added costs are to an exporter of fees associated with the department in terms of reviewing the audit processes that must now be undertaken? Can you give me in either hours or dollars the added costs to the exporter for that purpose?
> **Ms Cale:** The costs to the exporter are the same. They have not increased under the new regulatory framework. The costs to the exporter for cattle going to Indonesia remain $1.55 per head for the first 11 hours of assessment. If they go over the 11 hours, there is a fee of $8.50 per quarter-hour thereafter. Those fees are the same as have been in place for some time.

Ms Cale mistakenly referred to the incorrect fee for exporters if they go over the 11 hours. The correct response should read:

> **Ms Cale:** The costs to the exporter are the same. They have not increased under the new regulatory framework. The costs to the exporter for cattle going to Indonesia remain $1.55 per head for the first 11 hours of assessment. If they go over the 11 hours, there is a fee of $80.50 per quarter-hour thereafter. Those fees are the same as have been in place for some time.

The second correction relates to an answer provided by Mr Aldred to a question from Senator Nash, which can be found on page 41of the proof Hansard of 17 October 2011.

> **Senator NASH:** I want to ask some questions around the financial hardship that was created from the ban. One of the impacts of that ban was on families either educating their children at home through the School of the Air or who, in these remote locations, have no choice but to send their secondary school children away to boarding school. Has the department looked at that issue specifically?
> **Mr Aldred:** As we have provided to the select committee, there is a range of assistance measures—

Mr Aldred mistakenly referred to the incorrect committee. The correct response should read:

> **Mr Aldred:** As we have provided to the references committee, there is a range of assistance measures—

The third correction relates to an answer provided by Dr Grant to a question from Senator Colbeck, which can be found on page 62 of the proof Hansard of 17 October 2011.

> **Senator COLBECK:** No. You have told us that 13 consignment lots have been approved and three rejected. I am trying to get a sense of tonnage or something of that nature.
> **Dr Grant:** There have been 17,638 kilograms or 1,121 boxes or 87,438 apples inspected. The numbers that have been rejected are 5,030 kilograms or 280 boxes or approximately 21,840 apples.

To clarify, the volumes quoted by Dr Grant were the volumes in the consignments that had been inspected and cleared for export to Australia, as well as the volumes in the consignments that had been inspected and rejected for export to Australia. The corrected response clarifies this:

> **Dr Grant:** There have been 17,638 kilograms or 1,121 boxes or 87,438 apples inspected and cleared. The numbers that have been rejected are 5,030 kilograms or 280 boxes or approximately 21,840 apples.

The fourth correction relates to an answer provided by Ms Mellor to a question from Senator Waters, which can be found on page 76 of the proof of Hansard of 17 October 2011.

> **Senator WATERS:** Yes. I know Peter.
> **Ms Mellor:** So he had a very strong background in production and was a very active advocate for biosecurity. We have a former member of the Victorian government who has a very strong background in biosecurity and environment.

Ms Mellor mistakenly referred to the incorrect government. The correct response should read:

> **Ms Mellor:** So he had a very strong background in production and was a very active advocate for biosecurity. We have a former member of the Tasmanian government who has a very strong background in biosecurity and environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing from October 2011 and to provide clarification on the above points.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Bie

General Manager
Ministerial and Parliamentary Branch

8 November 2011