



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



ACTING SECRETARY

3/ January 2012

Senator 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

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is due to appear before the Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for the Additional Estimates hearing in the week commencing 13 February 2012. I would like to advise you of some changes to the Senior Executive Service of the department.

The temporary taskforce established in mid-2011 to deal with live animal export issues has been closed. Paul Morris has returned to ABARES as its Executive Director and I have assumed responsibility for coordination of live animal export and animal welfare issues in my role as Deputy Secretary. The department has established a new Animal Welfare Branch in the Biosecurity Animal Division. This new branch assumes responsibility for coordinating the government's response to the Farmer Review. Senators should direct questions concerning live animal export issues to Ms Karen Schneider, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Animal Division or to me.

On 6 February Mr Mark Tucker will join the department as Deputy Secretary, filling the position vacated by Dr Rhondda Dickson last year. The Climate Change, Sustainable Resource Management, Government and Finance and Business Support Divisions report to him. Mr Tucker has been a Deputy Secretary since 2007, first at the former Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts and then at the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. He has a high level of familiarity with issues facing the department, including marine and forest issues.

In October 2011, Mr Greg Williamson became the acting First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Policy Division, replacing Mr Russell Phillips, who has been posted as Minister Counsellor (Agriculture) in Brussels. This division has a lead role in progressing biosecurity reform initiatives, the development of new biosecurity legislation and supporting post border incursion management arrangements.

These changes, as well as some other changes arising from a recent realignment of the department's corporate functions, are summarised in the attached organisational chart.

Yours sincerely

Philip Glyde