



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 Additional Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Monday, 11 February 2013, I would like to make the following corrections.

The first correction relates to a question by Senator Colbeck which can be found on page 28 of the proof Hansard:

Senator COLBECK: Yes. So they could not take a share in another Tasmanian business?

Ms Freeman: I would have to confirm this to be sure but, if there have been commitments made to exit native forest contracts, regardless of the business, depending on what they are working on, there would be commitments made for whatever business they are involved in. The exit was in relation to native forest contracts.

Senator COLBECK: Yes.

Ms Freeman: I think to be really clear, what someone may or may not do as part of that, they have met a condition of a deed to not operate that business and they have withdrawn those contracts that they had with native forest. So depending on what they are or are not doing speculatively with another business, I think it would depend on the terms of the deed that that other business may or may not be involved with. So it is a bit hard to answer that conclusively.

Ms Freeman wishes to advise the committee that since the hearing it has been drawn to her attention that the answer given was incomplete.

Under the contractual arrangements, grantees and the nominated individuals were required to exit and not re-enter, for a period of 10 years, the Australian forest industry harvest, haulage and silviculture sectors within two months of the execution, by the Commonwealth, of the Funding Deed. The exception is where existing contractual arrangements (as advised by grantees in their milestone 2 documentation submission) in the mainland or the Tasmanian private native forest and/or plantation harvest, haulage and silviculture sectors are in place.

Nominated individuals are permitted to sell the businesses forestry machinery, become an employee and or own shares in a publicly listed company engaged in the Tasmanian native forest harvesting, haulage or contracting business.

The second correction relates to a question by Senator Colbeck, which can be found on page 40 of the proof Hansard:

Senator COLBECK: We are running out of time. I just want to go on to the IER. And can you tell us the current status of the IER and how much it might have dropped this financial year?

Mr Schaeffer: The IER is forecast to be around \$10 million by the end of this financial year.

Senator COLBECK: How much has it dropped this financial year? What is the projected change?

Mr Schaeffer: Just to confirm, you are talking about the Import Clearance Program? We forecast it to change from \$24,688,000 to \$10,402,000.

Mr Schaeffer wishes to advise the committee that since the hearing it has been drawn to his attention that the figures were incorrect. The correct response should have been:

Mr Schaeffer: The IER is forecast to be around \$10 million in deficit by the end of this financial year, and

Mr Schaeffer: Just to confirm, you are talking about the Import Clearance Program? We forecast it to change by \$24,688,000.

The third correction relates to a question by Senator Colbeck which can be found on page 58 of the proof Hansard:

Dr Grant: ...Exclusively at this stage it was about harness racing. At this stage, one horse in Australia's history has been imported for harness racing.

Dr Grant wishes to advise the committee that since the hearing it has been drawn to his attention that it would be more correct to contextualise his comment, as follows:

Dr Grant: ...Exclusively at this stage it was about harness racing. At this stage, one horse in Australia's history that is known to have been in training has been imported for harness racing from countries other than New Zealand.

The fourth correction relates to Ms Schneider's response to a question by Senator Colbeck. The relevant dialogue is on page 59 of the proof Hansard:

Ms Schneider: Could I go back to your question about the date the CRIS was put on the website. We do have an answer: it was 4 February.

Ms Schneider wishes to highlight to the committee that on page 59 she mistakenly stated the incorrect posting date for the horse CRIS on the DAFF website. The correct response should be:

Ms Schneider: The horse CRIS was made available on the DAFF website on 1 February 2013.

The final correction relates to Mr Thompson's response to a question by Senator Colbeck. The relevant dialogue is on page 100 of the proof Hansard:

Mr Thompson: There are a whole lot of things to discuss at meetings about these things—timings about quotas and the like. We have no commitment to move to stereo video, and the Japanese keep holding us to that commitment. The AFMA commission makes the actual decision about whether to apply stereo video or not and whether the capacity to do it is there. I think, as you said, the AFMA commission did make the decision to move to stereo video; they did actually call a tender but they did not actually let it at this point in time. That is why as an interim step we are doing the 100-fish sample while some of those technical details and cost details, in particular of stereo video, are still sorted through.

Mr Thompson wishes to highlight to the committee that on page 100 he mistakenly stated that AFMA had called a tender to deliver stereo video, and that they had not actually let the tender at this point in time. The correct response should read:

Mr Thompson: There are a whole lot of things to discuss at meetings about these things—timings about quotas and the like. We have a commitment to move to stereo video, and the Japanese keep holding us to that commitment. The AFMA commission makes the actual decision about whether to apply stereo video or not and whether the capacity to do it is there. I think, as you said, the AFMA commission did make the decision to move to stereo video; they did actually call a tender and let the contract on 5 October 2012. The first year of the contract will be to provide services based on a 100 fish sample and the following three years will be to provide stereo video monitoring. As an interim step we are doing the 100-fish sample while some of those technical details and cost details, in particular of stereo video, are still sorted through.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the Additional Estimates hearing on Monday, 11 February 2013 and to provide clarification on the above points.

Yours sincerely



Vikki Fischer
A/g Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary Business Branch

March 2013