



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional
Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

I am writing to amend the answers to two previous Questions on Notice. One question from the Budget Estimates May 2008 hearings - NRM 10 and one question from the Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2008 hearings - SRM 03.

Each answer refers to employment data for regional bodies as at 7 May 2008. In each instance this date should read 27 May 2008.

The answer to SRM 03 also refers to employment data for regional bodies as at 1 July 2008 and 20 October 2008. The figures for these two dates should read:

- 1 July 2008 a total of 1819.37 full time equivalent position were employed; and
- 20 October 2008 a total of 1785 full time equivalent positions were employed.

These changed figures arise as some NRM regional organisations were using different methodology to that employed within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to collate employment figures. As a result the original reply (to SRM 03) included data for outsourced jobs. To ensure consistency with previous advice we feel that the employment figures should reflect only those directly employed by the NRM regional bodies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth Bie'.

Elizabeth Bie
General Manager
Ministerial and Parliamentary