



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government**

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

Dear Senator Sterle

Subject: BUDGET ESTIMATES MAY 2008

I write regarding several statements made at the Additional Budget Estimates Hearings held on 28-29 May 2008.

At the time of the hearings information was unintentionally given that may be ambiguous. The excerpts appear in the Hansard as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2008
Page: 14, line 21-22

In response to a question from Senator Adams regarding frequent flyer points, Ms Page stated:

Senator Adams – ‘Coming back to the travel, I have asked this question of the department as well: do your staff utilise frequent flyer points for official travel?’
Ms Page – ‘No, we do not. I do not even know whether we have access to them.’

Please correct to:

Ms Page – ‘No, we do not, although our travel agent can redeem frequent flyer points for an additional fee.’

Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2008
Page: 49, line 11

In response to a question from Senator O’Brien regarding the cost of the keys2drive project, Ms Page stated:

Senator O'Brien – 'What is the total cost of the project and where are the other funds coming from?'

Ms Page – 'I do not know that we are aware of the total cost.'

Please correct to:

Ms Page – The cost of keys2drive is \$17m over 5 years from 2007-08.

Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Page: 52, line 8-10

In a response to a question regarding funding contributions, Ms Wilson stated:

Mr Wilson – 'The contributions in 2007-08 were \$200,000 from the Commonwealth; \$520,000 from New South Wales; \$430,000 from Victoria; \$430,000 from Queensland; \$205,000 from Western Australia; \$140,000 from South Australia; \$55,000 from Tasmania; and \$20,000 from the Northern Territory.'

Please correct to:

Mr Wilson – 'The contributions in 2007-08 were \$207,000 from the Commonwealth; \$538,200 from New South Wales; \$445,050 from Victoria; \$445,050 from Queensland; \$212,175 from Western Australia; \$144,900 from South Australia; \$56,925 from Tasmania; and \$20,700 from the Northern Territory.'

Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Page: 126, line 45

In response to a question from Senator Ian MacDonald regarding staffing numbers in Townsville and Cairns, Ms Page stated:

Senator Ian MacDonald – 'And how many staff do you currently have in Townsville and Cairns?'

Ms Page – 'I would be guessing, but it is of the order of probably about eight in Townsville and I think two or three in Darwin.'

Please correct to:

Ms Page – There are currently 7 Regional Office staff and 1 Area Manager in the Townsville Regional Office.

At the time of the hearings, the representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government believed the statements to be accurate.

However, it has now been brought to my attention that they were incorrect and I wish to rectify the previous statements made to remove any ambiguity that may be inferred.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Banham
Chief Operating Officer
Corporate Services

30/7/08