



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, Senate Building
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

Subject: BUDGET ESTIMATES MAY 2008

I write regarding a statement I made at the Additional Budget Estimates Hearings of 28th May 2008.

At the time of the hearing information was unintentionally given that may be ambiguous. The excerpt appears in the Hansard as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2008
Pages: RRA&T 30

In response to a question from Senator Fisher as to the overall budget for the office, I stated:

Mr Palmer - We have a standing budget of 400,000 a year. It has just recently been increased to \$600,000 per annum.

Senator Fisher – When you say recently?

Mr Palmer – This financial year, and this calendar year, if you like.

Senator McGauran – Under the previous government I take that?

Senator Fisher – Yes, exactly. Under the previous government my colleague just indicated, which would be right.

Mr Palmer – That is right exactly.

At the time I made this statement I believed it to be accurate.

However, a completely accurate statement is that the budget of the Office of the Inspector of Transport Security was increased from \$400,000 to \$600,000 in the Department's 2007-08 Mid Year Review. This baseline budget of \$600,000 has been maintained for 2008-09.

I trust this removes any ambiguity my original statement may have inferred.

Yours sincerely

Mick Palmer AO APM
Inspector of Transport Security
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
2 August 2008