



October 27, 2009

Senator Glenn Sterle, Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle,

I am writing on behalf of the Pew Environment Group in relation to the Supplementary Budget Estimates by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee held on October 19, 2009.

During questioning about the Coral Sea to the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the following statements were made in relation to an article in *Fishing News International* (Vol.48 No.10). Below is the excerpt from page 112 of the Hansard transcript for Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee for Monday, October 19, 2009:

“Senator BOSWELL—In the *Fishing News International* there is a photo of a fisherman with huge catches,

and it has been circulated around Parliament House. Have you seen that?

Prof. Hurry—Yes, that was the one of the seamounts off Queensland, off Brisbane recently. It was in the last copy of *Fishing News International*.

Senator BOSWELL—That has been circulated around by an organisation, with the implication that it has been caught. Senator Macdonald might help me here. Was it your understanding that—

Senator IAN MACDONALD—The suggestion was that it had been caught in the Coral Sea Fishery.

Prof. Hurry—Our understanding was that it was taken on the seamounts east of Brisbane, not in the Coral Sea part of it. It is a Queensland state fishery, but I can check the information.

Senator BOSWELL—No, I think that is—

Dr Findlay—Queensland.

Prof. Hurry—Yes. We actually did a bit of checking on that when we saw it, because we were interested in

whether it was a new fishery we missed, but we could not find—

Senator BOSWELL—That is being put around by Pew and that is being circulated to all members of parliament. That is completely and utterly dishonest—to circulate a photo of a fishing boat out there with huge

catches. I hope my colleague Senator Macdonald is right, because that is the way I understood it. The implication was that those fish were being caught in the Coral Sea. Everyone has been circulated with that photo and the implication is that came out of the Coral Sea.”

Over the past two years, the Pew Environment Group, working within a coalition of other conservation organisations, has spoken to many federal Senators and Members of the House of Representatives in support of a fully protected marine reserve in the Coral Sea. We have also communicated by mail and email to many elected representatives. In none of these communications has Pew distributed any copies of *Fishing News International* or any photo extracts from the publication to elected representatives or their staff.

I therefore respectfully request that in its official record of the Supplementary Budget Estimates on October 19, 2009, the Committee notes that Pew neither circulated *Fishing News International* or any photo extracts from the publication to any elected representatives or their staff nor indicated the fish referred to in the article were from the Coral Sea.

I would also be most grateful if this correction could be sent to senior government officials who are noted in the Hansard as being present during this section of the meeting (namely, Prof. Hurry and Dr. Findlay).

Yours sincerely,



Imogen Zethoven AO
Director, Coral Sea Campaign
Pew Environment Group