



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage



Mr Alistair Sands
Finance and Public Administration References Committee
Australian Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sands

**Proof transcript of evidence
Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 June 2005 providing a copy of the proof transcript of evidence I gave to the Committee at the Public Hearing in Canberra on 17 June 2005.

I am writing to provide clarifications and corrections to the proof transcript of evidence given by the Department of the Environment and Heritage officers on 17 June 2005. I also attach responses to the questions that were taken on notice during the Public Hearing on 17 June.

The clarifications corrections have been made in Attachment A.

Responses to the questions taken on notice are provided in Attachment B.

Should you have any questions in relation to this material, please do not hesitate to contact me on 6274 2015, or by email : theo.hooy@deh.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Theo Hooy
Assistant Secretary
Heritage Management Branch

29 June 2005

Clarifications

1. Page 108:

Clarification of a response by Mr Young.

Senator Bishop asked: "When did your department learn that Australia had requested the roadworks that were referred to in the letter that Mrs Vale wrote which was released by the Prime Minister in April?"

Mr Young responded: "I do not believe the department was ever advised of that letter."

Clarification:

The Department became aware of the letter when it was mentioned by the Department of Veteran's Affairs in a meeting on 15 March 2005.

2. Page 109:

Senator Bishop asked: "Did your department receive from Dr Cameron advice of his preliminary research work on the heritage values of Gallipoli and the need for further research?"

Mr Young responded: "Not to my knowledge."

Clarification:

With respect to the question on the need for further research, in December 2002, Dr David Cameron provided to the Department a project proposal for an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant for an archaeological and biological anthropological project at Gallipoli.

Corrections

1. Page 103:

Please make the following correction:

Mr Young – "My predecessor, ~~and~~ Mr Bruce Leaver."

2. Page 111:

Senator Bishop asked: "But you only became aware of the DVA's involvement in the roadworks and the request for the roadworks some eight or nine months after Minister Vale wrote to the Turkish government, and only when the Prime Minister chose to release her correspondence".

My Young responded: "Correct."

Correction:

At a meeting on 15 March 2005 DVA provided information on the roadworks and raised the existence of the letter.

Inquiry into matters relating to the Gallipoli Peninsula

Responses to Questions on Notice

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Question:

Page 101: Senator Bishop asked

“How many other applications does the department have extant at the moment?”

“Can you take it that on notice and provide us the details of which ones they are and what stage they are at?”

The question relates to the number of overseas places.

Response:

Apart from Anzac, there are four nominations from members of the public relating to places in overseas countries. The relevant governments have been informed. Consistent with the advice provided by Mr Young on page 107 of the Inquiry proof transcript, it is not appropriate to disclose information on nominations that may prejudice discussion with foreign governments.

Question:

Page 104: Senator Bishop asked

“Can you take it on notice and find out where it was conducted?”

The question relates to the location of the first meeting with Turkey in relation to the proposed inclusion of Anzac on the National Heritage List.

Clarification and Response:

An initial meeting took place in Melbourne in September 2002. Shortly after, this was followed by a formal meeting in Canberra between Australian Government officials including Mr Leaver, and the Turkish Ambassador, as mentioned by Mr Young in his evidence to the Inquiry on page 103 of the Inquiry proof transcript.

Question:

Page 105: Senator Bishop asked

“Can you take it on notice and advise us how many times the post in Ankara pursued the listing of Gallipoli on behalf of your department and the government from its inception until the current time?”

Response:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has advised that the Australian Embassy in Ankara has pursued the proposal for the National Heritage Listing of Anzac at least 22 times with the Turkish authorities.