



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Ref: 2015/81822E

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Heffernan

Having reviewed the proof Hansard of the Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Monday 25 May 2015, I wish to make the following correction.

The correction relates to my response to a question from Senator Glenn Sterle. The relevant dialogue is on page 86 of the proof Hansard:

Senator STERLE: Serana WA Pty Limited, I think, is the actual name. On that statement that you just made and my comment about my thoughts on it, can you tell how much the investigation has cost to date?

Ms Vivian: As of 30 April, the costs tied up with the Serana investigation are \$239,282. I will just say around \$240,000.

Senator STERLE: Sure.

Ms Vivian: They do not include some freight that we had to carry in that time and they do not include other entities subject to the investigation.

Senator STERLE: What are the other activities?

Ms Vivian: Other entities.

Senator STERLE: Contractors?

Ms Vivian: No. In this investigation, there are entities involved other than Serana.

Senator STERLE: Okay. You do not have those costs?

Ms Vivian: No. The costs I have just given you, I think in answer to your question, were around the Serana part.

Senator STERLE: But those costs are borne by the department, being the taxpayer?

Ms Vivian: Yes. Predominantly those costs did relate to some of the core proceedings. They include airfare costs, car hire costs and some accommodation.

I wish to clarify for the Committee that the costs related to the Serana investigation did not include staff costs. The correct response should read:

Ms Vivian: They do not include some freight that we had to carry in that time and they do not include other entities subject to the investigation or departmental staff costs. The investigative staff costs for the Serana element of the investigation were around \$108 000 as at the end of April 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the Budget Estimates hearing held on Monday 25 May and to provide clarification of my response.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Raelene Vivian
First Assistant Secretary
Compliance Division
// June 2015