



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Department of Defence, R1-6-C001, CANBERRA ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA

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28 June 2011

Dr Kathleen Dermody
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Dr Dermody

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Budget Estimates hearing held on 31 May 2011 concerning Project AIR 5402 – *Air to Air Refuelling Capability*.

In answer to a question from Senator Humphries (page 48 of *Proof Hansard* 31 May 11), I stated ‘We are looking at initial acceptance of the aircraft tomorrow at Amberley. The first aircraft landed at Amberley at 2:45 on Monday afternoon. The DMO have completed commercial negotiations with Airbus Military and we will take initial or interim acceptance tomorrow. That allows us to go through the airworthiness process and we will be flying the aircraft within about six weeks, and working up then to an initial operational capability.’

This information was incorrect because the first flight of the KC-30A aircraft, following aircraft acceptance will be after the successful completion of the airworthiness process including an Air Worthiness Board and the issue of a Special Flight Permit aircraft. The Air Worthiness Board is scheduled for 11 August 2011 and the first flight is likely to be late August 2011.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

/ M.D. BINSKIN
Air Vice-Marshal
Chief of Air Force