



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

Senator Andrew Bragg  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Bragg

Having reviewed the transcript of the Additional Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 14 February 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment would like to provide one factual correction to the Committee.

During the hearing Senator Uquhart said in relation to Congestion-busting funding:

*"Thank you very much. The minister made a number of announcements to bust congestion within the department after a report revealed that 95 per cent of key decisions were being made outside of the statutory time frames. The Morrison government has now spent \$78.7 million on labour hire contractors to clear this backlog. When is that funding expected to run out?"*

*"When is the funding expected to run out? We know that \$78.7 million has been spent."*

In response Melissa Brown said:

*"We have \$17.1 million for the 2022-23 financial year".*

I wish to correct this answer to:

*"The funding is expected to run out in 2022-23. Of the \$17.1 million announced in 2021, \$10.6 million was for 2021-22 financial year and the remaining \$6.5 million is for 2022-23."*

I apologise for the error in the answer outlined above and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee. The remainder of the answers to questions given at the hearing are correct.

Yours sincerely

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Governance and Parliamentary Business Branch  
Corporate and Business Services Division  
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