



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

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Fawcett

Having reviewed the transcripts of Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 24 May 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment would like to provide three factual corrections to the Committee.

Correction 1. During the hearing Senator Sheldon said in relation to Threat abatement plans

“Have there been any threat abatement plans completed since 2013?”

In response Dr Stobutzki said

“Since 2013, there have been 12 threat abatement plans completed.”

I wish to correct this answer. Seven threat abatement plans have entered into effect since 2013.

Correction 2. During the hearing, in relation to the backlog of assessments within the Environment Approvals Division, Ms Brown said

“Our current performance in the division is 99 per cent of key decisions. So 77 of 78 that were due in the March 2021 quarter were made within the statutory time frames, and this compares to only 19 per cent in the December 2019 quarter.”

Senator McALLISTER asked

“You note that there's been a substantial increase in the resourcing for this function. Have any permanent staff been brought on using this funding?”

Ms Brown answered

“No. We've remained within our ASL cap within the division, and we're bringing on contractors, as noted at last estimates.”

I wish to correct this answer. The correct answer is, yes, the division has appointed approximately 30 additional ASL, and we're bringing on contractors, as noted at last estimates.

Correction 3. During the hearing, in relation to the government's response to the senate inquiry into shark mitigation Ms Vickery said

"In terms of that inquiry, I think we answered at that time that the response to that inquiry is being considered by the Australian government. We have investigated that and provided our advice to the government."

Senator Whish-Wilson asked

"Can you tell us when that was done? How long ago did you—"

Ms Vickery answered

"Earlier this year."

I wish to correct this answer. The correct answer is November 2020.

I apologise for the error in the answers 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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20 July 2021