



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Senator Karen Grogan
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Grogan

Having reviewed the transcript of the Budget Estimates hearings conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 28 October 2022, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water would like to provide four factual corrections to the Committee.

Correction 1

During the hearing Senator Cox said in relation to First Nations cultural heritage funding:

"Is this the improving engagement one? In this budget they've allocated \$14.7 million."

In response Dr McEwen said:

"No. That's funding for other more specific, targeted cultural heritage issues. There was complexity in the March budget and the October budget. There was \$11 million for maintaining timely approvals under the ATSIHP Act but also \$5 million over two years for reforming First Nations cultural heritage protections in partnership with the alliance."

This answer should be corrected to:

"No. That's funding for other more specific, targeted cultural heritage issues. There was complexity in the March budget and the October budget. There was \$11 million for maintaining timely approvals under the ATSIHP Act including \$5 million over two years for reforming First Nations cultural heritage protections in partnership with the alliance."

Correction 2

During the hearing Senator Rice said in relation to recovery planning for greater gliders:

"Okay. I will ask questions of them. The other one I wanted to follow up on, in a similar line of questioning, is greater gliders and the recovery plan process for greater gliders."

In response Dr Kiessling said:

".....As Ms Kennedy has identified, there has been a listing decision for greater gliders. The minister made a call that the southern greater glider should be uplisted to endangered. The northern greater glider remains as a vulnerable listing. The northern greater glider has a recovery plan in place. The southern greater glider will require a recovery plan to be made."

This answer should be corrected to:

“The minister made a call that the southern greater glider should be uplisted to endangered. The northern greater glider was split from the southern greater glider and listed as vulnerable. Both the southern and northern greater glider will require a recovery plan to be made”

Correction 3

During the hearing Senator Duniam said in relation to 30 by 30:

“On some of those key elements that we’ve been talking about, the habitat loss and the 30 by 30, can I understand where we’re at against those goals in terms of terrestrial and oceanic reservations? What percentages are we at?”

In response Mr Larsen said:

“If you look at planned or proposed future protected areas and you combine general proposals with Indigenous protected areas that gives you an additional 4.7 or so hectares.”

This answer should be corrected to:

“If you look at planned or proposed future protected areas and you combine general proposals with Indigenous protected areas that gives you an additional 4.7 or so per cent.”

Correction 4

During the hearing Senator Duniam said in relation to 30 by 30:

“Is there an annual target between now and 2030 that the government seeks to meet to make it to the 2030 target?”

In response Mr Larsen said:

“No, there is not, save that I mentioned before that in the Threatened Species Action Plan there is a five-year target, which, if I recall correctly, is 45 million hectares under the Indigenous Protected Areas program and five million hectares under ‘other’. I stand to be corrected by colleagues if I’ve got that figure wrong.”

Ms Kennedy then said:


“That’s right; it gets to 27 per cent at the five-year mark.”

This answer should be corrected to:

“That’s right; 45 million hectares and 5 million hectares at the five-year mark.”

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


Dana Sutton
Branch Head

Ministerial Liaison and Governance Branch
Portfolio Strategy Division
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