



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

Dear Senator Duniam

On 22 October 2018 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing Senator Urquhart said in relation to departmental appropriation

“What is the department’s budget? That’s departmental funding as separate from administered funding.”

In response to Senator Urquhart’s original question I said

“.....excluding the Director of National Parks, for 2018-19 is \$436,096,000.”

I correct this answer. The word ‘excluding’ should be replaced by ‘including’.

During the hearing Senator Urquhart also said in relation to 2018-19 departmental appropriation

“.....Is that a change from last year?”

In response I said

“.....if you include the Director of National Parks, the actual total amount of appropriation, if I understand correctly, has gone up.”

And Ms Nitschke, the Chief Financial Officer said

“The total amount due to new measures that came through has gone up by \$16.5 million...”

I correct the first part of the response as, including the Director of National Parks, departmental appropriation from 2017-18 to 2018-19 has decreased by \$18,302,000. I also clarify the second part of the response to make it clear that departmental funding increased in 2018-19 as a result of new measures announced since the previous Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements by \$16,584,000.

During the hearing Senator Urquhart then asked

“.....So this year it’s \$436 million, and that excludes the Director of National Parks. Is that right, Mr Cahill?”

In response I said

"Yes."

I correct this answer to 'No' as the departmental appropriation in 2018-19 including Director of National Parks is \$436,096,000.

Senator Urquhart then asked

"Do you want to give me more clarification around that?..."

In response I said

"That total appropriation has gone up by \$16.5 million over this year versus last year."

I correct this answer as total departmental appropriation has decreased in 2018-19 compared to last year by \$18,302,000 when including Director of National Parks. I wish to clarify the response to make it clear that departmental funding increased in 2018-19 as a result of new measures announced since the previous Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements by \$16,584,000.

I provided an update to the Committee, later in the hearing, where I took on notice to provide Senator Urquhart with a fully integrated table showing the movements that have happened in departmental appropriation between the 2017-18 Budget, Portfolio Additional Estimates and this year's Budget.

The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the error and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Matt Cahill

Deputy Secretary
Strategies and Operations Group
1 November 2018