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BORDER FORCE

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11 November 2020

Senator Amanda Stoker
Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

The Home Affairs Portfolio appeared at the Senate Estimates Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee hearing on 19 and 20 October 2020.

In my capacity as Group Manager, Customs Group, Australian Border Force, I gave evidence to the Senate. I have reviewed the Hansard record and, in relation to my testimony, I have become aware of the need to correct a response I made to Senator Patrick.

The particular reference for correction is on page 96 from Tuesday 20 October 2020, in response to Senator Patrick's question:

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade had a report called *Hidden in plain sight: an inquiry into establishing a modern slavery act in Australia*. It made a recommendation that the Commonwealth publish a list of products, services, people, groups, areas and industries with a high risk of modern slavery both within Australia and internationally. That recommendation was accepted by the government. Will that listing be included in the modern slavery risk statement that I understand that you're obliged to make?

My response to this question was in part:

The Commonwealth is also required to provide its own statement. We're required to do that by 31 October.

This response contained a factual inaccuracy and I am providing the following correction of evidence in response to this question.

The Commonwealth's Modern Slavery Statement is due to be tabled by no later than 31 December 2020.

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I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bradley Armstrong PSM
Group Manager
Customs Group

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