



Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

On 23 May 2023, I appeared as a witness before the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator Canavan said in relation to animal welfare cost recovery:

"Minister, are you continuing that decision? Are the costs of the animal welfare group excluded from the cost recovery?"

In response I said:

"Yes"

I wish to correct this answer. Animal Welfare costs are partially recovered. The previous government made the decision to exclude some aspects of animal welfare from the cost base including:

- Stakeholder engagement with non-regulated entities and state and territory animal welfare regulators
- Strategic evaluation of markets
- High level animal welfare policy advice and legislative development.

These activities have and will continue to be funded with appropriation.

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

Activities that are cost recovered include:

- Stakeholder engagement with relevant industry groups on regulatory reforms
- Developing informed animal welfare-based operation policy and undertaking voyage data and analysis that provides a scientific basis for setting standards
- Verifying that the systems in place are achieving the intended animal welfare outcomes.

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

Yours sincerely

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Andrew Metcalfe
Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
13 June 2023