



Ref: 2012/01253

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Ms Dennett

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 2013 to Dr Paul Grimes inviting the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department) to respond to a submission from the Law Council of Australia to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the impact of federal court fee increases since 2010 on access to justice in Australia. I am responding on Dr Grimes' behalf.

Before commencing regulatory action, the department carefully considers the costs involved.

The recent increase in court fees means that taking regulatory action is more expensive than it was previously. However, the increase in court fees will not prevent the department from commencing legal action to enforce Commonwealth environmental law.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Oxley
First Assistant Secretary
Policy and Communications Division
7 May 2013