



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Senate Estimates hearing held on 9 February 2016 concerning the department's implementation of the recommendations of the freedom of information review.

In answer to a question from Senator Bullock (page 97 of the Proof Hansard 9 February 2016) regarding the procedures to identify and manage complex and sensitive cases, I stated that *where there is a sensitive matter the decision maker should be the first assistant secretary in the area that had dealt with the substance of the matter in the first place.*

This information was incorrect as the relevant first assistant secretary would usually nominate a decision maker at assistant secretary level or above for sensitive or complex requests rather than ordinarily being the decision maker.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours faithfully

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary

19 February 2016