



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Ref: D15/152277

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Heffernan

Having reviewed the proof Hansard of the Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Monday 25 May 2015, I wish to make the following correction:

The correction relates to my response to a question from the Chair. The relevant dialogue is on page 77 of the proof Hansard:

CHAIR: I want to go to a couple of practical things about the dog in the handbag. When you come in, do you go through X-ray?

Ms Mellor: The dog did not.

CHAIR: Where did the dog go?

Ms Mellor: It woke up.

CHAIR: He woke up before he got to it?

Ms Hinder: In relation to the dog that arrived in the handbag, it is a slightly different scenario insofar as the person that brought the dog with them did have a valid import permit to be able to bring the dog through. But it was carried on board the aircraft without having the necessary prearrival information. In that instance, the dog was located before it hit the customs and immigration process. An officer identified that a valid import permit was there but that it was outside the parameters to be able to bring the animal through.

I wish to advise the Committee that I mistakenly advised that the 'dog was located before it hit the customs and immigration process'. The correct response should read:

the dog was identified by an officer of the Department of Agriculture at secondary screening, located after the customs and immigration screening point.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the Budget Estimates hearing held on Monday 25 May 2015 and to provide clarification of my response.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Hinder
Assistant Secretary
Pathway Compliance

29 May 2015