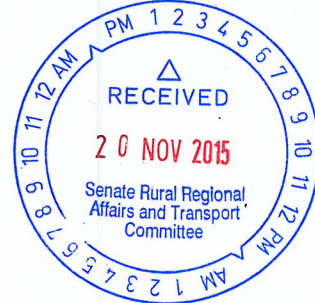




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources**

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

Having reviewed the proof Hansard of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Tuesday 20 October 2015, I wish to make the following corrections:

The corrections relate to my response to a question from Senator Doug Cameron. The relevant dialogue is on pages 31 and 74 of the proof Hansard.

The first correction relates to the below dialogue:

**Senator CAMERON:** Who did the analysis?

**Ms Freeman:** I can take that on notice, but the department worked with ABARES in the calculation of that.

I wish to advise the Committee that I mistakenly advised that the 'department worked with ABARES in the calculation.' The correct response should read:

I can take that on notice, but the department calculated these figures.

The second correction relates to the below dialogue:

**Senator CAMERON:** So, if ABARES is listening, I want the methodology.

**Ms Freeman:** That has been provided previously at the last estimates.

I wish to advise the Committee that since the hearing it has been drawn to my attention that the methodology was not provided at the previous Estimates. I regret the error.

The third correction relates to the below dialogue:

**Senator CAMERON:** Are the standard fraud control plans ticked off by the department?

**Ms Freeman:** Yes

I wish to advise the Committee that I mistakenly inferred that the department endorses the RDC's fraud plans. The correct response should read:

Consistent with the requirements of the funding agreements, RDCs are required to provide their Fraud Plan to the department. The department ensures they are periodically reviewed. The Board of the respective RDC is legally responsible for management of fraud risk. Where requested, the department reviews plans and provides comments for the relevant RDC to consider.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the hearing and to provide clarification of my response.

Yours sincerely

Fran Freeman

16 November 2015