



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

Ref: 2015/205510E

Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Having reviewed the proof of Hansard of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Tuesday 18 October 2016, I wish to make a correction.

The correction relates to a response by myself to a question by Senator McCarthy. The relevant dialogue is on page 83 of the proof Hansard and relates to the measures implemented as part of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper:

Senator McCARTHY: I want to turn to the coalition's election policy commitments. Can you provide an update on the implementation of the white paper? Do you want me to put this question on notice?

Mr Smalley: In general, the *Agricultural competitiveness white paper* remains a priority for the department. Twenty-two of the 31 measures are considered to be now in a state of business as usual and another five of the submeasures—

Senator McCARTHY: So that was 22 of the 31?

Mr Smalley: That is correct and another five of the submeasures. Those in effect have become business as usual for the department. The other measures are either longer run issues that are still ongoing in terms of their implementation but are not yet in that status of business as usual.

Senator McCARTHY: Can you tell us about the 22 measures?

Mr Smalley: Yes. I could name them, should you wish.

Senator McCARTHY: If you have got them there.

Mr Smalley: The Productivity Commission's inquiries into regulations affecting agriculture; the Productivity Commission's inquiries into regulations affecting fisheries; the cooperatives and innovative business model knowledge; the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's engagement with the agriculture sector; increasing the deposit limit for farm management deposits to \$800,000; allowing farm management deposits to be used as farm business loan offsets; a more simplified accelerated depreciation regime for fencing; better seasonal forecasting through the Bureau of Meteorology; tax arrangements for new water facilities and fodder storage; the Managing Farm Risk Program; the transitional drought and drought recovery concessional loans; the early access to farm management deposits in times of drought; increased farm household allowance case management and activity supplement; the Australian Taxation Office's advice and assistance in drought affected communities; the additional resources to Rural Financial Counselling Service providers; the enhanced social and community support; the Drought Communities Program; the pest, animals and weeds management in drought affected areas; the expansion of CSIRO's freight modelling for agriculture; the development of clear, farm-oriented priorities to target research development and extension funding; the extension of the Rural Research and Development for Profit program; improving the efficiency of the research and development corporations by improving governance; the additional funding to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation for small industries; the levies for export fodder; the emergency pest and disease eradication and national response capability; reducing technical barriers to trade, including the five new counsellors; and the communications campaign. All of those are considered to be implemented and have become business as usual.

My correct response should read:

Mr Smalley: In general, the *Agricultural competitiveness white paper* remains a priority for the department. Twenty-two of the 31 measures are considered to be now in a state of business as usual including five submeasures—

Senator McCARTHY: So that was 22 of the 31?

Mr Smalley: That is correct and includes five submeasures. Those in effect have become business as usual for the department. The other measures are either longer run issues that are still ongoing in terms of their implementation but are not yet in that status of business as usual.

Senator McCARTHY: Can you tell us about the 22 measures?

Mr Smalley: Yes. I could name them, should you wish.

Senator McCARTHY: If you have got them there.

Mr Smalley: The Productivity Commission's inquiries into regulations affecting agriculture; the Productivity Commission's inquiries into regulations affecting fisheries; the cooperatives and innovative business model knowledge; the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's engagement with the agriculture sector; increasing the deposit limit for farm management deposits to \$800,000; allowing farm management deposits to be used as farm business loan offsets; a more simplified accelerated depreciation regime for fencing; better seasonal forecasting through the Bureau of Meteorology; tax arrangements for new water facilities and fodder storage; the Managing Farm Risk Program; the transitional drought and drought recovery concessional loans; the early access to farm management deposits in times of drought; increased farm household allowance case management and activity supplement; the Australian Taxation Office's advice and assistance in drought affected communities; the additional resources to Rural Financial Counselling Service providers; the enhanced social and community support; the Drought Communities Program; the pest, animals and weeds management in drought affected areas; the expansion of CSIRO's freight modelling for agriculture; the development of clear, farm-oriented priorities to target research development and extension funding; the extension of the Rural Research and Development for Profit program; improving the efficiency of the research and development corporations by improving governance; the additional funding to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation for small industries; the levies for export fodder; the emergency pest and disease eradication and national response capability; and reducing technical barriers to trade, including the five new counsellors. All of those are considered to be implemented and have become business as usual.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing.

Yours sincerely



Simon Smalley
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Corporate Strategy and Governance Division
8 November 2016