



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

Senator A McEwen  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment  
Communications and the Arts  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator McEwen

On 29 May 2008 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts. During the hearings, Senator Cormann and Senator Bushby asked the following questions which appear on ECA79 and ECA86 of the transcript.

1. ECA79: Senator Cormann "there is a \$30 million towards the Gngangara Mound aquifer recharge projects. How much funding has been allocated towards that in 2008-09." I replied "it is \$386,222 out of a commitment of \$3.862 million - so basically the first milestone".

I misheard the Senator and thought he was referring to the Water Smart Australia project "Support for a Statutory Water Plan for the Gngangara Mound". On reading the transcript I realise he was referring to a groundwater replenishment trial being conducted by Water Corporation. The correct answer is "it is \$1.27 million out of a commitment of \$19.4 million".

2. ECA86: Senator BUSHBY—And do you have any further information as to the extent of the project and what it might also fund out of their own resources?

Mr Costello—The preliminary information is that the Commonwealth commitment will meet stage 1 of the project. If they wish to proceed with subsequent stages, there will need to be other funding secured.

I would like to clarify that my response relates to the Derwent Estuary project. In relation to the Huon Valley project, the preliminary information is that the Huon Valley Council will need to contribute in the order of \$6 million to the project.

Yours sincerely

Steve Costello  
Assistant Secretary  
Urban Water Security Branch

30 June 2008



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CERTIFIED  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



MEMBER