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Senator Sterle
Chair Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

I write regarding statements made during the Additional Budget Estimates hearings held on 24 February 2009.

During the hearing, I unintentionally answered two questions incorrectly. The excerpts appeared as follows:

- Pages 64, lines 19-21

In response to a question from Senator O'Brien about air traffic control staff numbers, I stated:

Mr Russell—During 2008 we had 49 resignations, 14 of whom left to go overseas and 25 in fact rejoined us, most of whom are expats from overseas.

Please be advised that in 2008 we had 49 retirements and resignations.

- Page 65, lines 10-12

In response to a question from Senator O'Brien about the deployment of air traffic control staff, I stated:

Mr Russell—It goes to the question of the way we are organised on a sector basis. There are some 32 sectors across the country, and we have people endorsed specifically to some of those sectors, so you do not have quite the flexibility. That is part of the issue that we are working on with this broader reform in this air traffic group.

Please be advised that there are 32 airspace sector groups across the country comprised of 144 individual sectors. As staff are endorsed to specific sectors, the system lacks flexibility. This matter, in part, is being addressed through the reform of the air traffic control group.

I trust this clarifies the information provided to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Russell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Greg Russell
Chief Executive Officer

23 April 2009