



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Senator Glenn Sterle
Deputy Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

Having reviewed the transcript of the Additional Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on 25 February 2014, I would like to make a correction to the following response.

The correction relates to a response made by you, as Acting Chair of the committee, which can be found on page 99 of Hansard:

Ms Freeman: There has been a reallocation of the moneys as announced. But I should also say that for some of the states who have reduced funding for 2014-15 there is \$40 million held in reserve. So they may, pending circumstances, potentially gain some of that money.

ACTING CHAIR: So it has not all been spent or taken; there is \$14 million sitting somewhere.

I wish to advise the committee that since the hearing it has been drawn to my attention that you mistakenly stated the incorrect amount of loan funds held in reserve. The correct amount is \$40 million and it is recommended that your response should read:

ACTING CHAIR: So it has not all been spent or taken; there is \$40 million sitting somewhere.

I would be grateful if you could bring this correction to the attention of the members of the committee. I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 02 6272 4300.

Yours sincerely

Fran Freeman
First Assistant Secretary
Drought Concessional Loans Taskforce

24 March 2014