Ms Maureen Weeks
Committee Secretary
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Weeks

Thank you for your letter of 14 July regarding evidence I gave to the Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on 25 May 2005 on imported meat from Brazil

I have reviewed the transcript of my evidence provided to the Committee. On page 96 of the transcript, Senator O'Brien asked for information on the number of consignments of beef imported from Brazil. I referred to a document and advised that there were about 10 importations.

Senator O'Brien then asked "cooked or uncooked?" to which I answered that there had been 544kg of uncooked meat, three container loads of cooked meat and some small samples of cooked meat for testing purposes. My answer did not refer to the importations of casings because casings are a preserved product. I also provided the Committee with a table which listed the cooked meat, uncooked meat and casings importations which I referred to during the hearings, a copy of which is attached for your information.

The Committee has also requested information on the implications of importing uncooked beef into Australia. The policy for importing uncooked beef is determined by Biosecurity Australia (BA). BA assesses the risks associated with the importation of all animal and plant products which could affect Australia's human, animal and plant populations. BA develops conditions, in consultation with stakeholders, to manage the identified risks. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) issues import permits which list the conditions developed by BA and which importers must meet before the product will be cleared at the border by AQIS.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to clarify my evidence to the Senate Committee.

Yours sincerely

Narelle Clegg

A/g National Manage

**Animal Programs** 

28 July 2005

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