



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

File Reference:

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Suite SG-62
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

Subject: Budget Estimates October 2008

I write regarding a statement made at the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings held on 21 October 2008.

At the time of the hearings I unwittingly answered a question incorrectly. The excerpts appear in the Hansard as follows:

Date Tuesday, 21 October 2008-11-20 Page 44, lines 39-40

In response to a question from Senator Ian MacDonald regarding work on the Outback Highway, I stated

Senator Ian MacDonald—have you ever been required to do any work on the Outback Highway, the highway from Winton to Laverton?

Mr Potterton—No. I recall being made aware of some of the studies that were done some years ago, but essentially no, the bureau has not been asked to undertake work.

Please be advised that:

In 2002-03 the Outback Highway Development Council put forward a proposal for the sealing of the Outback Highway to an all weather standard road. The then Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics prepared estimates of the potential additional traffic that would use the upgraded road, to inform decision process at the time.

I apologise for the inaccuracy and trust that this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely

Phil Potterton
Executive Director

20 November 2008