



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government**



File Reference: 08/5990

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 statements made at the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings held on 21 October 2008.

At the time of the hearings information was given that may be ambiguous. The excerpt appears in the Hansard as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 21 October 2008
Page: 52, lines 13-18

In response to a question from Senator Adams regarding rest areas, I stated:

'I am aware of the Austroads report that identifies that issue. The \$70 million is not sufficient to redress the shortfall in terms of rest areas. It will be part of the Australian government's contribution towards improving the number of rest areas that are available to the heavy vehicle industry. I am aware of a number of jurisdictions that are also providing funding, such as Queensland, which I believe recently identified \$50 million in terms of rest areas in remote areas within Queensland. I understand that a number of the other jurisdictions are undertaking similar programs.'

Please be advised that:

In March this year Queensland identified \$54 million in funding for road improvements, which included funding for rest areas in remote areas within Queensland. In October, the Queensland Government outlined plans to provide an extra 25 heavy vehicle rest areas over the next few years, including a \$6 million allocation to get the first 11 of these built.

I apologise for the inaccuracy and trust this will remove any ambiguity.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wilson
Executive Director
Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy

12 January 2009