

Dr Kathleen Dermody for Senator Trood
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House Canberra.

23rd April 2010

Dear Senator Trood

I refer to my evidence to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee: matters relating to the Torres Strait region, 25 March 2010.

I wish to address two matters from my statement to the Committee.

The first is a matter of clarification regarding the information and data referred to throughout my statement. This information has been derived by the research organisations that constitute the consortium of the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) and the previous CRC Reef Research and the CRC Torres Strait which predated the RRRC. The RRRC became the managing entity for information and data developed by the CRC Reef Research and the CRC Torres Strait on the conclusion of the CRC arrangements in 2005.

The second matter is a correction of the record.

In my statements to the committee I stated that Dr Kevin Parnell "*said that he would not waste his time on trying to find mitigation solutions for Saibai and Boigu*". This statement is not an accurate reflection of Dr Kevin Parnell's professional opinion regarding mitigation or remedial action on Saibai and Boigu Islands. I misunderstood Dr Parnell's comments made at another forum regarding the reason that he did not focus his research on the Saibai and Boigu and have subsequently inadvertently misrepresented his views when responding to questions from the Committee regarding why the research was not focused on these islands. In addition the extensive communication carried out by Dr Parnell was with communities other than Saibai and Boigu.

I apologise to Dr Parnell for the misrepresenting his work and to the Committee.

Regards



Sheriden Morris
Managing Director