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Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport

Ms Noreen Hay MP  
Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000



RML 78437

Dear Ms Hay,

I refer to your correspondence received by me on 6 April, 2006 regarding the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into managing animal and plant diseases. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you are aware, the Department of Primary Industries is the lead NSW agency for managing animal and plant diseases. In the event of a significant animal disease, the Ministry of Transport may be asked to provide a supporting role to coordinate the necessary transport resources that may be needed as part of the response operation. This role is broadly defined in the NSW State Disaster Plan.

The Ministry of Transport is represented on the State Emergency Management Committee and has been working with the Department of Primary Industries on the movement of animal carcasses. In November 2005, the Ministry participated in Exercise Eleusis which examined coordination and response arrangements associated with an outbreak of avian influenza.

Please contact Mr Greg Nott, Ministry of Transport's, Manager Security and Emergency Management on 02 9268 2829 should the Committee require any further information.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport

ML06/04700

16 MAY 2006