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Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

Chief Operational Officer
Deputy Secretary
Pip Spence PSM

Ref: EC21-000123

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear ~~Mr Palethorpe~~ ^{Stephen}

Responses to corporate focused Questions on Notice

Thank you for the email from the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Secretariat on 1 March 2021, regarding an inquiry from Senator Kitching in relation to questions 5-32 on the Questions on Notice (QoNs) index which were addressed to the Department and all agencies.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications appreciates Senator Kitching's interest in its corporate operations, and has sought to answer all questions transparently and consistently. The Department has included input from all portfolio agencies, consistent with the corresponding questions from the March 2020 Additional Budget Estimates, ensuring a consistent timeline of reporting.

We have generally, although not consistently, presumed "departments/agencies" refers to the department, whereas a question referring to "department or agencies" requires co-ordinated responses across the 28 agencies in this portfolio.

Any changes to the approach would be a significant diversion of resources at a time when our focus is now on preparing for the March 2021 Additional Budget Estimates hearings which are scheduled in two weeks' time.

Yours sincerely



Pip Spence

10 March 2021

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