

20 December 2022

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Budget Estimates 2022-23 – Clarifications

On 7 November 2022, in my capacity as Group General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, I appeared with other Australia Post representatives as witnesses before the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee (**Committee**) for Budget Estimates 2022-23. During the hearing, my colleagues and I answered questions about various matters. The purpose of this letter is to clarify for the Committee a small number of responses provided to the Committee at the hearing.

In responding to questions from Senator Bilyk about the electric vehicles in Australia Post's delivery fleet, an Australia Post witness stated on one occasion that Australia Post had 4,627 such vehicles. To clarify, and as referred to elsewhere during proceedings, the number of electric vehicles in Australia Post's delivery fleet is 4,635 (as noted in Australia Post's 2022 Annual Report).

In responding to questions from Senator Henderson about an incident during the 2022 Federal Election, an Australia Post witness referred to a publicised incident occurring in the federal electorate of Bonner. To clarify, the publicised incident occurred in the federal electorate of Blair and was quickly rectified. Relevant deliveries in the federal electorate of Bonner have been reviewed and confirmed as having been delivered as addressed. In connection with the publicised incident, an Australia Post witness referred to the team member's employment as having been terminated. To clarify, the team member was suspended pending investigation and subsequently resigned. An Australia Post witness also stated that Australia Post delivered 110 million articles relating to the 2022 Federal Election. To clarify, Australia Post delivered approximately 107 million articles.

In asking questions relating to remuneration, Senator Henderson stated "*Australia Post has paid its employees a total of \$28 million in bonuses*". To clarify, this approximate amount was paid to both key management personnel and persons occupying roles referred to in Australia Post's 2022 Annual Report as 'Other Highly Paid Staff'. Variable remuneration was also paid to 2,425 other team members, along with approximately 33,000 team members engaged under Award rates recently receiving a 6.1% pay increase.

In responding to questions from Senator Bilyk about preparations for the upcoming peak period, an Australia Post witness stated that Australia Post was looking to put on between 5,000 and 5,500 additional personnel. To clarify, while the significant majority of these vacancies are being filled to support the peak period, a number are being filled to support business-as-usual activities.

In responding to questions from Senator Henderson about the number of kilometres of roads in the country that Australia Post vehicles cover, an Australia Post witness stated that an estimate of the kilometres of national highways we operate on could be estimated. To clarify, an estimate of that kind would take some time to generate, noting that, while many of Australia Post's delivery routes are stable, others flex and change over time to suit operational needs.

In responding to questions from Senator Henderson about the volumes of mail and parcels being moved around by air, an Australia Post witness stated that Australia Post has 25 aircraft in its fleet. To clarify, Australia Post has 25 daily chartered flights in its fleet.

In responding to questions from Senator Henderson about service provision in regional Australia, an Australia Post witness referred to restrictions on mail services across the whole of Australia during COVID-19 that also impacted regional Australia. To clarify, intrastate delivery timeframes were temporarily adjusted across the country, but the temporary letter delivery frequency changes made during COVID-19 were in metropolitan areas only (i.e. not in regional areas). An Australia Post witness also stated that regional Australian addresses receive either daily delivery or delivery three days per week. To clarify, regional Australian addresses receive either daily delivery or delivery two, three or four days per week.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Nick Macdonald.

Nick Macdonald
Group General Counsel and Corporate Secretary