



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

MS21-001654

Ms Lyn Beverley  
Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the hearing for Budget Estimates held on Wednesday 2 June 2021.

In response to Senator Fierravanti-Wells I stated that:

“No, to date we haven't been”... The Port of Newcastle has not been referred. Those parameters for us have to do with where we operate, where our bases are, where our training ranges are and so forth. So that particular site hasn't triggered an involvement from Defence. What I could say, though, is that we work very collaboratively, particularly with those other parts of government, in the implementation of both the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act and the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act. The Defence role, for instance, in a national interest test might be in the intelligence assessment. But I can confidently state that, on the Port of Newcastle that has not triggered a Defence referral or engagement to date.

I wish to correct my evidence with the following information:

A detailed review of Defence records indicates that Treasury did consult Defence in February 2018, on a proposal for a foreign-owned company to acquire 50 per cent of the shares in the Port of Newcastle. Defence undertook an internal review and consulted internal stakeholders who identified no concerns regarding the transaction. Defence responded to Treasury in March 2018.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

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