



## SCRUTINY DIGEST 4 OF 2021—CORRECTION

### Correction to entry on Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2020-2021 and Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2020-2021

The committee has become aware that the Advance to the Finance Minister Determinations listed at paragraph 1.7 of *Scrutiny Digest 4 of 2021* were made under *Supply Act (No. 1) 2020-2021* or *Supply Act (No. 2) 2020-2021*, rather than under *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020-2021* or *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2020-2021*. As a result, the committee presents this correction.

#### Omit the following paragraphs:

- 1.7 In 2020-21 to date, the AMF provisions have been used to allocate funding:
- for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to provide funding to local government for the delivery of road resilience and community infrastructure projects (\$250 million);<sup>5</sup>
  - to Austrade to extend the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) to 31 December 2020 (the IFAM supports exporters of premium and perishable agricultural produce by underwriting domestic and international airfreight connectivity) (\$230.1 million);<sup>6</sup>
  - to enable Australians to be able to receive COVID-19 vaccines, once they are available (\$808.8 million);<sup>7</sup>
  - to enable the Department of Health to fund the procurement of personal protective equipment and other essential medical supplies and equipment for the National Medical Stockpile (\$384.1 million);<sup>8</sup>
  - to enable the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications to fund payments under the Domestic Aviation Network Support program to maintain connectivity on major domestic air routes (\$71.7 million);<sup>9</sup> and
  - to enable the Department of Social Services to fund payments to not-for-profit organisations in early December 2020 in accordance with grant agreements (\$159.7 million).<sup>10</sup>

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5 Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 1 of 2020-2021) [F2020L00875].

6 Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 2 of 2020-2021) [F2020L01057].

7 Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 3 of 2020-2021) [F2020L01237].

8 Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 4 of 2020-2021) [F2020L01273].

9 Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 5 of 2020-2021) [F2020L01483].

10 Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 6 of 2020-2021) [F2020L01493].

1.8 Under clause 10 of the bill (and clause 12 of the Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2020-2021), this amount (\$1.9 billion) would be disregarded for the purposes of the \$4 billion cap imposed by subsection 10(3) of Appropriation Act No. 1 and the \$6 billion cap imposed by subsection 12(3) of Appropriation Act No. 2.

1.9 In light of the matters raised by the committee in relation to the Advance to the Finance Minister provisions in Appropriation Acts No. 1 and No. 2,<sup>11</sup> the committee draws to the attention of senators the proposal to disregard previous expenditure of \$1.9 billion for the purposes of the \$10 billion cap on amounts that may be determined under the Advance to the Finance Minister in 2020-21. The committee notes that the effect of this proposal is that \$1.9 billion in additional funds will be available for expenditure via a non-disallowable legislative instrument.

**Substitute the following paragraph:**

1.7 In light of the matters raised by the committee in relation to the Advance to the Finance Minister provisions in Appropriation Acts No. 1 and No. 2,<sup>5</sup> the committee draws to the attention of senators the proposal to disregard amounts determined by the Finance Minister under these provisions for the purposes of the \$10 billion cap on amounts that may be so determined. The committee notes that the effect of the proposal is that, if amounts are determined under these provisions before the commencement of Appropriation Bills No. 3 and No. 4, additional funds will be available for expenditure via non-disallowable legislative instrument.

**Senator Helen Polley**

**Chair**

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11 Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills, *Scrutiny Digest 15 of 2020*, pp. 13-15.

5 Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills, *Scrutiny Digest 15 of 2020*, pp. 13-15.