



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water

Senator Karen Grogan  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Grogan

Having reviewed the transcripts of the Budget Estimates hearings conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water would like to provide the following factual corrections to the Committee.

### **Correction 1**

On 22 May 2023, Ms Jo Evans PSM appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator David Pocock said in relation to recommendation 9.8 of the Pepper Inquiry (page 36)

“Last Friday Minister Bowen said there was some work to go yet with meeting recommendation 9.8 of the Pepper inquiry. I'm wondering if you accept that recommendation 9.8 has not yet been met”

In response Ms Evans said

“As you would be aware, there's a baseline of zero for direct emissions from the reservoir for shale gas, which would include Beetaloo. That deals with the scope 1 emissions.”

This answer should be corrected to:

“As you would be aware, there's a baseline of zero for direct emissions for shale gas, which would include Beetaloo. That deals with the scope 1 emissions.”

### **Correction 2**

On 26 May 2023 Dr Simon Banks appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator David Pocock said in relation to Australia's obligations under the Ramsar convention;

“Can you take on notice how many have been listed in the last 10 years and how many nominations you've received?”

In response Dr Simon Banks later said (recorded on page 54 of the Hansard):

“..... Senator Pocock asked how many nominations there have been for Ramsar in the last 10 years. I can confirm there have been three: Piccaninnie Ponds, Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay, and Caryapundy. That is the one I mentioned before. ...”

This answer should be corrected to:

“In the last 10 years the Australian Government has received two Ramsar nominations. Both were successful and the sites have been added to the Ramsar Convention’s List of Wetlands of International Importance. They are;

- Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetlands (listed in 2018), and
- Caryapundy Swamp (listed in 2021).

There was also a nomination and listing just outside the 10 year period; for Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands (listed in 2012).”

### **Correction 3**

On 26th May 2023 Matthew Dadswell appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing Senator McAllister said in relation to the \$40 million funding for First Nations communities.

“I wonder whether officials could talk through the next steps.”

In response Mr Dadswell said:

“The funding for this, the \$40 million, is set out in the 2024-25 financial year, so, that is from July this year. As I mentioned, on the basis of that announcement on 26 April—having that enduring arrangement in place and being able to consult on the design of that is critical to being able to then deliver the \$40 million and make sure that when that water is purchased it is able to be then held for long-term benefit for First Nations people. So, we’ll be working with First Nations groups throughout the Murray-Darling Basin in a number of workshops in late July and early August on where that water needs to be and what sorts of entitlements are needed to support that water. Then, on the basis of that information, we’ll then know where to cover that water.”

This answer should be corrected to:

“The funding for this, the \$40 million, is set out in the 2023-24 financial year,…”

I apologise for the errors in the answers outlined above and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee. The remainder of the answers to questions given at the hearing are correct.

Kerryn Richardson  
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Ministerial Liaison and Governance Branch  
Portfolio Strategy Division  
29 June 2023