



9 March 2023

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

Dear Senator Grogan,

On 13 February 2023, I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates hearing.

During the hearing, the following exchanges took place:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: I know you're talking about weather radars here, but do you track the weather balloons with radars, and, if not, how do you keep—

Dr Johnson: Yes.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: You do? So they can be detected, even at really high levels, by your ground radar?

Dr Johnson: Yes. In fact, there are some radars that we have that are not visible to the public that are utilised to track weather balloons.

I wish to correct this answer. The Bureau of Meteorology recently ceased tracking weather balloons using radar and now utilises GPS technology to track its weather balloons.

In response to a question by Senator Duniam on a solar panel at the Sydney Observatory Hill site, I have identified the following statement requiring correction on page 96 of the Hansard:

Dr Johnson: 1858. So for 10 months, out of a record starting in 1858, we had a solar panel there. I'm very optimistic that it had no material impact on the record.

I would like to clarify that the solar panel was installed on 11 February 2022 and removed from the site on 25 January 2023, a period of approximately 11 months.

I wish to apologise to you and the Committee for these inadvertent errors and trust that this updated information will be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Johnson FTSE FAICD
CEO and Director of Meteorology