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Secretary, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

OPENING STATEMENT

Additional Senate Estimates Hearings

Parliament House, Canberra

I take this opportunity to make an opening statement to update the Committee on the Jobs and Innovation portfolio established in December 2017.

The portfolio comprises two Australian Government departments: one, the Department of Jobs and Small Business; and the other, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, of which I have been Secretary since 18 September 2017.

The portfolio is divided into four areas of ministerial responsibility:

- Jobs and Innovation, Minister Cash
- Resources and Northern Australia, Minister Canavan (no change)
- Small and Family Business, the Workplace, and Deregulation, Minister Laundy; and
- assisting Minister Cash in Science, Jobs and Innovation, Assistant Minister Seselja

Under these relatively new portfolio arrangements, my Department continues its previous work, and importantly, works very closely with the Department of Jobs and Small Business to ensure that intersecting opportunities for policy development and implementation under the Government's jobs and innovation policy agenda are optimised.

The two departments have a common purpose - to stimulate jobs, investment and economic growth.

The Department has welcomed the new portfolio. We see this as an important development for the APS in the way we work to deliver on the Government's agenda – particularly on the key issue of the future of work – where technology and the innovation associated with digitisation are creating both challenges and opportunities for business (SMEs and large) and for citizens.

We will also focus on how we do business as a department, in particular how we better collaborate across the two departments and where we can align our processes to ensure that the portfolio performs at the highest level.

We have a collective focus on understanding how science, technology and innovation is impacting on business and sectors of the economy; the transitional and transformation issues this gives rise (including the uneven impacts on individuals, industries and regions); and the skills required for jobs of the future. This focus, in turn, will underpin our advice to Government and inform how we design, deliver and evaluate the programs we are responsible for.

Thank you, I look forward to assisting the Committee.