

Senator Slade Brockman
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Brockman

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearings on 3 and 4 June 2021, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between you and myself on 3 June:

CHAIR: Would appointments, I assume, come as a joint decision of the Australian and New Zealand governments?

Mrs Urquhart: The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology is responsible for making JAS-ANZ board appointments for board members. I have had responsibility for standards and conformance policy a relatively short time. I assume there was consultation with the New Zealand government in that space, but I don't have that information with me.

In answer to your question, I would like to clarify that the Australian Minister responsible for Industry (or equivalent) makes Australian board appointments to JAS-ANZ. There are six Australian appointments.

The New Zealand Minister for Commence (or equivalent) makes the three New Zealand appointments to JAS-ANZ. The Chief Executive Officer of JAS-ANZ is also a Board Member.

The Australian and New Zealand Ministers inform each other of their respective appointments out of courtesy.

The following exchange also occurred between Senator Canavan and Deputy Secretary Sean Sullivan on 4 June:

Senator CANAVAN: But you haven't. Have any of the companies that Senator Watt mentioned to you provided information about what specific actions the Australian government would have to take to reestablish trade in coal to China?

Mr Sullivan: Not to my knowledge. Again, as you well understand, that is a question for foreign affairs. We are part of that mix. As Mr Trotman says, we've got counsellors on the ground in Shanghai and other countries who work in a whole-of-government sense to provide advice back. But that is really a whole-of-government issue.

The department does not have a Counsellor deployed in Shanghai, but rather in Beijing.

I would be grateful if you would alert other members of the Committee to these corrections.

Yours sincerely

Jane Urquhart

Deputy Secretary A/g

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

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