

Estimates Opening Statement

Today is my first appearance before the Senate as Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

It is an honour to lead this Department, and the broader portfolio, as it has an important role in Australia's economic development.

The portfolio's core purpose is to support Australian industry, including in the resources sector, to become more productive, science and technology-enriched and resilient, to create jobs for all Australians.

The work of this portfolio supports prosperity across the nation, including in regional Australia.

We are working with a broad range of stakeholders to leverage Australia's many strengths and to advise on policies, implement programs and deliver services across our diverse areas of responsibility.

Over the past six months, the Department has gone through a significant change.

Several functions related to climate change, energy and liquid fuels have moved to the newly created Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water.

This involved the movement of approximately 665 people and around \$2.5 billion of funding.

In addition, several portfolio bodies moved, including the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Climate Change Authority, Clean Energy Regulator, and Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. *Australian Institute of Marine Science, Snowy Hydro, CEFC*

Other functions, such as The Office of Supply Chain Resilience, Critical Technologies Hub and the Digital Technology Taskforce were moved into the Department.

This involved less people, approximately 35, and it brought responsibility for cross-government coordination on these issues.

Our Department has supported the operation of Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water during its creation and we continue to provide services as they build their organisational capability.

Against this backdrop of change, I am proud of how we have come together as a Department and how we have remained focussed on supporting the Government and the Australian people.

Thank you.