



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator David Pocock and Ms Megan Quinn, Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Who does the Chief Scientist report to?

Ms Quinn: She's appointed by the government, so she has a strong relationship with the minister for science. But she is appointed by the Governor-General, so, in that sense, she reports to the cabinet and the whole of government, and she had a lot of connections across. On particular projects and particular tasks, she may be tasked by particular ministers or outside parties.

Australia's Chief Scientist is appointed by the Prime Minister, or at his discretion, the Cabinet, and reports to the Minister for Science.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Arbaut-Zaalen
A/g Head of Science Division

3 July 2023