



Australian Government



Dr Paul Hardisty, Chief Executive Officer

TOWNSVILLE

DARWIN

PERTH

9 November, 2018

Senator Jane Hume  
Chair  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Hume

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by AIMS at the Senate Estimates hearing on 25 October 2018, I find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Kim Carr and me:

**Senator KIM CARR:** I'm concerned about the long-term financial basis of AIMS, particularly what has happened with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the controversy around that matter. Because there's no guarantee you'll get any money out of that at all, is there?

**Mr Hardisty:** There's no guarantee, but what I can say is that we've been working very, very closely with the partners in the RRAP consortium—we had long meetings today—and with the foundation; they're part of that consortium. As time has gone on, we're increasingly aligned in terms of where things are going to go, hopefully, in the next few months and how money is going to flow. We've always been optimistic that we've got such unique skills as an agency that we would get something, and our confidence is improving literally week by week.

**Senator KIM CARR:** But I read the return to order on this, and I noticed that there was a requirement for you to put money into the fund.

**Mr Hardisty:** Yes, that's the way it's looking at the moment—that there's going to be co-investment from the research providers.

In accordance with the Grant Agreement between the Reef Trust and Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Clause 8 (Other Contributions) research partners such as AIMS will make in-kind (non-monetary) contributions towards activities funded by the Grant Agreement. Contrary to the implication of the advice provided at the hearing, this in-kind co-investment does not involve putting money into the fund.

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

Yours sincerely

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