

**OFFICIAL**



**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 26 October 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following statements occurred between Senator Hughes and Ms Deb Anton, Head of Industry and Manufacturing Division, from page 97:

**Ms Anton:** I'm happy to do so. The department provided a very long list of names to the assistant—

**Senator McAllister:** Could we just be clear which minister?

**Ms Anton:** Yes. I was about to pull myself up. There was a very long list of nominations of possible candidates that were provided to Assistant Minister Ayres's office. Having talked through that option with Assistant Minister Ayres a brief was then forwarded to Minister Husic to support any final recommendations that were then made to cabinet.

In reference to the above statement from Ms Anton, both the Assistant Minister and Minister Husic were provided with separate briefs from the department. The briefs outlined the appointments process and included a number of names to be considered for appointment to the Rail Council. These names had been developed by the department through research and consultation with stakeholders to identify suitable candidates. The preferred candidates' names, as agreed by Assistant Minister Ayres and Minister Husic, were then provided to Cabinet for consideration.

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

Yours sincerely

~~Louise~~ Talbot  
Acting Head of Industry and Manufacturing Division

**22 November 2023**