



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Meghan Quinn PSM

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 exchange occurred between Senator Hollie Hughes and Secretary Meghan Quinn:

Ms Quinn: Acreage releases is the responsibility of NOPTA, which comes under the Department of Industry.

Senator HUGHES: Sorry? Who is that?

Ms Quinn: NOPTA.

Mr Grebe: That's for petroleum.

Ms Quinn: They have been designated from DCCEEW to be the people who manage the acreage release. They do the acreage release for oil and gas. They are going to do acreage release for offshore renewable projects. That's one component of the process. But they do the acreage release, not necessarily the regulatory approvals, environmental plans—that sort of thing.

Senator HUGHES: Who does those?

Mr Grebe: Us.

Ms Quinn: NOPSEMA. It depends. The acreage release is about the areas designated, what people bid for activity, and that assessment is done by NOPTA.

Although the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) sits in the Oil and Gas Division within the department, it is the Offshore Resources Branch that is responsible for the Offshore Petroleum Acreage Release process.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is responsible for the offshore renewable energy area declaration process (referred to as acreage release for offshore renewable projects above).

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

Yours sincerely

28 November 2023