



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

7 July 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Clarification to Hansard – Budget Estimates hearing on 1 June 2021

I am writing to provide clarifications to evidence I gave to the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment during the Budget Estimates hearing on 1 June 2021.

On p 114 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator O'Neill regarding Work Health and Safety (WHS) Ministers' agreed outcome on recommendation 29a of the Boland review, I said:

Ms Anderson: This is effectively the Boland recommendation, but the decision RIS said to accept both 29a and 29b.

I wish to clarify that the decision Regulation Impact Statement recommended accepting 29b only, which was to develop an intuitive, interactive tool to support the completion of fit-for-purpose Safe Work Method Statements.

Additionally, on p. 115 of the transcript, in response to a question from Senator O'Neill regarding WHS Ministers' agreed outcome on recommendation 34 of the Boland review, I said:

Ms Anderson: This was in line with the decision RIS. That was implementing both options: one to publish additional guidance to improve the asbestos register and also 34b as is, so partially the Boland recommendation.

My response suggested that the decision RIS option was to implement both recommendations 34a and 34b of the Boland review. I wish to clarify that the decision RIS option did *not* include implementing recommendation 34a of the Boland review, which was to amend the model WHS Regulations to require that asbestos registers are created by a competent person and update the model Codes to provide more information on the development of asbestos registers. The decision RIS recommended that Safe Work Australia publish additional guidance to improve the quality of asbestos registers and implement Boland review recommendation 34b. This was the option agreed to by WHS Ministers.

The action officer for this matter is David Cains who can be contacted on (02) 5122 4362.

Yours sincerely



Jody Anderson
First Assistant Secretary
Safety and Industry Policy Division
Attorney-General's Department