



21 June 2024

Ms Pothida Youhorn
Committee Secretary
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Pothida

I am writing to correct evidence given during the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Senate Estimates hearing on Monday 3 June 2024.

I would like to correct my response to Senator Birmingham's question regarding DFAT's facilitation of Ministerial-level engagements with New Zealand on the topic of Ministerial Direction 99 (refer to Hansard page 33). I made the following response:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Have any other ministers had engagements with New Zealand?

Senator Wong: It's a matter for those portfolios.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Has DFAT helped to facilitate any other ministerial-level engagement with New Zealand?

Ms Logan: No.

I would like to amend the record to clarify that there was a meeting between Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism, and HE Andrew Needs, New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia, on 30 May. Even though this meeting was arranged prior to the 29 May announcement on Ministerial Direction 99, I consider it warrants correction of the record, given the importance of establishing a comprehensive timeline of engagements with New Zealand on the Direction. I request the following amendment to the record:

Ms Logan: DFAT supported a prearranged introductory meeting on 30 May between Minister Farrell and High Commissioner Needs.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Logan
First Assistant Secretary
Pacific Strategy Division