

## **Opening Statement**

### **Additional Budget Estimates – 2 March 2020**

- I am Stephanie Foster, Deputy Secretary of the Governance Group in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- The members of PM&C's Executive in attendance for this session to answer your questions are:
  - Mr Simon Duggan, Deputy Secretary, Economic, Industry & G20 Sherpa
  - Ms Cath Patterson, Acting Deputy Secretary, Social Policy
  - Ms Caroline Millar, Deputy Secretary, National Security
- Other senior officers will be available to assist as required.
- There have been the following changes to the Executive since the last hearings:
  - Former Deputy Secretary, Economic Group, Dr David Gruen, took up his role as Australian Statistician on 11 December 2019 and was replaced by Mr Simon Duggan.
  - On 24 February 2020 the Department moved to a new structure of four deputies, with functions formerly covered by Deputy Secretary, Industry and Jobs distributed between Deputy Secretary, Economic, Industry & G20 Sherpa and Deputy Secretary, Social Policy
  - On 24 February 2020, Caroline Edwards temporarily moved to the Department of Health as acting Secretary. Cath Paterson is acting as Deputy Secretary, Social Policy until Ms Edwards returns.
- In January 2020, the National Bushfire Recovery Agency was established within the PM&C Portfolio.
  - The National Coordinator, Andrew Colvin and staff from the NBRA, will be available to answer questions regarding the work of the

NBRA. I understand the NBRA has been scheduled to appear at 4.30pm.

- I have PM&C's current organisational chart here for the Committee.