



**Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm**  
Assistant Minister for Education  
Assistant Minister for Regional Development

Ref: MC24-001477

Senator the Hon Sue Lines  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

See attached letter for tabling from the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, regarding the Order for the Production of Documents (OPD) No. 458.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A', located to the right of the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Senator Anthony Chisholm

12/2/2024

Enc

Senator for Queensland  
PO Box 6100, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 | (02) 6277 3103  
Level 1, 212/53 Endeavour Boulevard North Lakes QLD 4509 (07) 3881 3710


OFFICIAL



**The Hon Catherine King MP**

**Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
Member for Ballarat**

Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm  
Assistant Minister for Regional Development  
Senator for Queensland  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator 

I am writing with regard to the Senate Order for the Production of Documents No. 458 (the order) moved by Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie and agreed by the Senate on 7 February 2024, and the forthcoming Senate Estimates hearings.

The Government claims public interest immunity over documents relating to the Senator's request. Disclosure of the NVES modelling would not be in the public interest because its disclosure would reveal the deliberations of Cabinet. It is a long held and accepted principle that deliberations of Cabinet be appropriately protected in order to ensure that decisions can be discussed in an open manner preserving Cabinet unity.

In addition, disclosure of the modelling would not be in the public interest, due to future market sensitivities relating to the credit trading mechanism central to the operation of the NVES. Providing Government forecasts of credit volumes in a standalone credit trading system would be a signal to the market, creating the risk of significant flow-on effects for the effectiveness of the NVES.

I further note that the decision to not release the modelling is consistent with past practice, including by the former coalition government when the Hon Paul Fletcher MP released a proposal for fuel efficiency standards in 2016.

As you know, the Government has produced a detailed Impact Analysis that is currently open for public consultation. I encourage all interested Senators to make submissions.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Catherine King MP

12 / 2 / 2024