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**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications**

Senator Susan McDonald
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McDonald

I refer to the appearance of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee at the Estimates Hearing on Friday 23 October 2020. Following review of the Estimates Hansard, I would like to clarify a statement made in regard of the above.

Senator O'Neill asked whether the one Advisory Body Member referenced was the only member who had declared an interest in water entitlements. The relevant Hansard references are pages 53-55 of 23 October 2020. The statements made were:

- **Mr McRandle:** Yes, in fact, I was just getting advice on that. My staff were confirming that she has declared that she has some water entitlements, and she declared that as part of her interests in the appointment process.
- **Senator O'NEILL:** Is she the only one?
- **Mr McRandle:** She's the only one that I'm aware of.

Advisory Body members were required to make a Private Interests Declaration and advise of any potential conflicts of interest prior to their appointment to the National Water Grid Advisory Body. I provided my answer on 23 October on recall. Upon subsequent review of Departmental records, I am advised that, as part of the standard appointment process, two members, Ms Elizabeth Stott and Ms Sue Middleton, noted that they or an organisation they were associated with held water entitlements. The answers to Senate Question 445 also refers.

I would appreciate if you could please note this for the information of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Brendan McRandle
Deputy Secretary

04 December 2020