



Australian Government
North Queensland
Water Infrastructure Authority

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

Dear Senator McDonald

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 25 October 2019

I refer to evidence given at the above hearing in respect of the timeframe for the expected completion of the Hells Gates Dam (including Big Rocks Weir) Scheme Business Case. Following our review of the Estimates Hansard I would like to clarify a statement made in regard to the above.

On page 66, it was stated:

Dr Bacon: The minister is correct. On the Hells Gate project, the Commonwealth has committed \$24 million for a business case to support **that** [my emphasis] project. That business case is currently underway, and, as to the time frame for that, the business case for that project is due in March 2020.

Although the statement appears to show the timeframe provided for the Hells Gates Dam Business Case as March 2020, Dr Bacon was actually referring to the Big Rocks Weir sub component previously referenced by the attending Minister, Sen the Hon Matthew Canavan. The timeframe for the expected completion of the Big Rocks Weir Business Case is March 2020, while the broader Hells Gates Dam (incl Big Rocks Weir) Business Case is expected in April 2022.

I would appreciate if you could note this clarification for the information of the Committee. I would also apologise to the Committee for any confusion caused.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Power
Interim Chief Executive Officer
North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority