



Australian Government

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

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

I refer to the appearance of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the Department) before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee at the Estimates Hearing on Monday 13 February 2023. Following a review of the Estimates Hansard, I would like to clarify a statement made in regard of the above.

Senator Canavan asked a question in relation to the Australian Government subsidy for land rates on Norfolk Island. The relevant Hansard reference is on page 100 of the 13 February 2023 transcript. The response I provided was:

Senator CANAVAN: So \$1 million, apparently, over two years. Given this doesn't taper, apparently, does that just mean that the increases in rates and charges for Norfolk Island residents will climb that cliff in two years?

Ms Vandebroek: That needs to be determined as we get further into it. There is a joint standing committee inquiry into the future form of the council and future revenue raising options. The community has asked us to look at other revenue raising options because they don't want to pay rates, so we will see what comes out of that process and then determine next steps.

I write to provide the following correction to this discussion:

There are individuals in the Norfolk Island community who are opposed to paying rates, however those individuals do not represent the entire community.

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

Yours sincerely

Sarah Vandebroek
First Assistant Secretary
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

24 February 2023