



THE SENATE

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

8 March 2022

The Hon Angus Taylor MP  
Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Taylor

**Oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin**

The committee is writing to you again regarding your failure to provide unredacted correspondence between you and your office, and representatives of Empire Energy, about the Beetaloo Cooperative Drilling Program. The committee notes that you have also recently failed to provide to the Senate the unredacted documents specified in Order for Production No. 1291.

You stated in your undated letters received 21 October and 24 November 2021 that the information 'has been previously provided and is in the public domain'. This is clearly incorrect as the unredacted documents have never been provided to this committee and are not available in the public domain.

The committee reminds you that Senate Procedural Resolution 51 clearly provides for the provision of documents and answers to questions, irrespective of whether a freedom of information request has been or could be refused under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (for example, pursuant to section 47(1)(b)).

In order to advance this matter, the committee proposes that the unredacted documents requested for the purposes of its inquiry, and as ordered by the Senate, be provided on an *in camera* basis. It would be reasonable for personal details to remain redacted.

If the unredacted documents have not been provided to the committee by 17 March 2022, the committee will lodge a motion in the Senate requiring the Leader of the Government in the Senate to explain why the requested documents have not been produced or further remedial actions that may be agreed by the Senate.

The committee awaits your response by 17 March 2022.

I have copied this letter to the Hon Simon Birmingham, Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Yours sincerely

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young  
**Chair**

CC Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Leader of the Government in the Senate