

22 April 2024

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Committee Office
Department of the Senate

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Dear Standing Committee members,

I write to raise concerns about a statement made by Committee Chair Senator Hanson-Young at the beginning of the Committee's public hearing in Darwin on Thursday, 11 April.

Senator Hanson-Young said:

It was reported that this Committee had not invited proponents or the gas industry or gas companies to appear. That is false. We have invited them. A number of them declined or asked to be seen before this Committee in Canberra. I think that's a shame. I think they should have been able to front the community here.

As Committee Members are aware, Tamboran Resources accepted the Committee's provisional invitation to appear at the public hearing in Darwin, and in fact was eager to do so. Not only did Tamboran agree to appear in Darwin, we followed up with the Committee on March 5, as we had not received any formal invitation. In addition, we sent a further email on Thursday 4 April requesting confirmation of the date and time of the appearance, given the travel requirements. In this correspondence we again confirmed Tamboran would be willing to appear before the Committee. Despite this, Tamboran was advised by the Committee secretariat on Sunday April 8 that we would not be required to attend.

We are concerned that the inference given by the Chair's statement is that Tamboran Resources was not willing to appear in Darwin when this could not be further from the truth. If there were other gas companies that declined an invitation, or asked to appear in Canberra, then the Chair could have made that point while also making clear that Tamboran was willing to appear. It was known that Tamboran had been eager to appear before the Committee in Darwin, and it was the Committee's decision for Tamboran not to appear. In this context, we are concerned that the Chair's public statement was misleading and damaging to Tamboran Resources.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our concerns, including whether a Hansard clarification can be made, or a public correction can be issued.

We look forward to the Committee's response.

Yours sincerely,

Joel Riddle
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Tamboran Resources