



THE SENATE

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

8 March 2022

The Hon Keith Pitt MP
Minister for Resources and Water
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Pitt

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 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 document specified in Order for Production No. 1291.

Your letters dated 15 October and 25 November 2021 disregard the committee's request for an unredacted copy of FOI Disclosure Document 68003, as does your non-compliance with the order of the Senate.

The committee reminds you that Standing Order 25(14) empowers the committee to require the production of documents. Further, 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*.

In order to advance this matter, the committee proposes that the unredacted document 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 document has 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 document has 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