



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

Senator Kate Lundy  
Chair  
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Lundy

On 28 April 2014 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Hearing. During the hearing you asked, in relation to the departmental responsibilities for the National Waste Policy and the ICT Sustainability Plan:

**CHAIR:** Can you explain the relationship between the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, the National Waste Policy and the ICT sustainability policy?

Mr Edwards: Sorry for the complexity. In relation to the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, there is a commitment to the National Waste Policy for all governments to put guidance in place to guide their own purchasing arrangements. Essentially that document is the Australian government guidance for procurement officers to help them understand—

**CHAIR:** And you are the lead agency for that?

Mr Edwards: That is right. We developed that with the Department of Finance. The ICT Sustainability Plan is related to the National Waste Policy but, as Mr Blake mentioned, had a slightly different genesis.

**CHAIR:** But you are not the lead agency with respect to the ICT sustainability policy, or you are?

Mr Blake: We are, yes, jointly with the Department of Finance.

**CHAIR:** Right. For both of them?

Mr Blake: Yes.

I wish to correct this answer. Whilst the ICT Sustainability Plan was developed in conjunction with the Department of Finance, the Department of the Environment is the sole lead agency.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Al Blake  
Assistant Secretary, Information Technology Branch, 4-May-2014