



Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Minister for Finance
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Senator for South Australia

REF: MS21-000645

Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells
Chair
Senate Standing Committee for the
Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator ~~Fierravanti-Wells~~ *Concetta*

I refer to your letter dated 24 June 2021 seeking information about the amount of government funding for the Tourism Aviation Network Support (TANS) program (table item 475 in Part 4 of Schedule 1AB to the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997*).

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, who has policy responsibility for the TANS program, has provided the following advice in relation to the Committee's request for information.

The TANS program was announced on 11 March 2021. The Government did not disclose the funding commitment to TANS at the time, or subsequently in the Budget papers, pending the outcome of the grant process and subsequent commercial negotiation of program costs with airlines.

The grant agreements executed under the TANS program provide for an Australian Government financial commitment of \$210,740,137.70 (GST inclusive) over 2020-21 and 2021-22. The commitment under the program has been communicated to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee at the appearance of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications on 24 May 2021.

Information about these agreements, including the maximum value of each grant, is published on GrantConnect, as required by Government policy.

I have copied this letter to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development.

Thank you for bringing the Committee's comments to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Simon Birmingham

 July 2021