



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

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Reynolds

On 8 February 2016 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing Senator Urquhart said in relation to research capacity

*"I guess the issue is: do you think that the department will need to increase its research capacity?"*

In response I said:

*"As the secretary said, we are still working through the precise details. The government obviously continues to make, through the portfolio and other arms, significant investment in climate science. For example, the National Environmental Science Program, which is in our portfolio, has committed just under \$24 million over six years for the Earth Systems and Climate Change Research Hub and through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility. So we are continuing our investment but we are also talking actively with CSIRO about the implications of the shift and change in direction that they have taken and how that might play out for our research capacity."*

I wish to correct this answer:

*For example, the National Environmental Science Program, which is in our portfolio, has committed just under \$24 million over six years for the Earth Systems and Climate Change Research Hub and \$9 million through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.*

The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

I trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Thompson  
Deputy Secretary

10 March 2016