



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

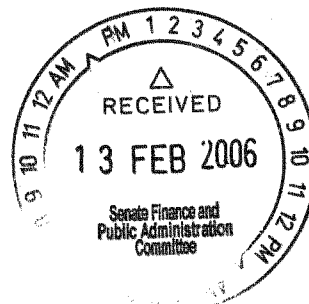
CLERK OF THE SENATE

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13 February 2006

Senator B Mason
Chair
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Senator Mason

Estimates Hearings Answers by Witnesses – Direction by Minister

My advice of today's date to Senator Evans has been seriously misrepresented by the Minister for Finance and Administration, Senator Minchin.

Nowhere in that advice did I say that the direction by government in 1989 about Coronation Hill was justified or valid, contrary to the suggestion of Senator Minchin. The Senate at the time resolved that it was not justified, at least in part. The point of the advice was that that direction was not on the basis that matters relating to Coronation Hill were before a commission of inquiry, and therefore that direction provides no precedent for the current government direction which *is* on that ground.

Please make this note known in the proceedings of the committee.

Yours sincerely

(Harry Evans)