



Dr Ian Watt
Secretary

Our Ref: ISEC000391

Mr Alistair Sands
Committee Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

FAXED
- 2 SEP 2003

Dear Mr Sands

Clarification of Hansard from Senate Committee on Finance and Public Administration Hearing on Wednesday 28 May 2003

I am writing to clarify the Hansard record of Wednesday 28 May 2003, relating to my testimony on the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) subcommittee report on *The Commonwealth's Budgeting and Resource Management Framework*.

In my testimony on pages 292-299 of the draft record, I gave an undertaking to get back to the Committee on the timing of the decision by MAC not to release the report on *The Commonwealth's Budgeting and Resource Management Framework*. I can now confirm the following:

- At a meeting of the MAC subcommittee on 6 March 2002, it was agreed that the report should not be finalised until the Budget Estimates and Framework Review was completed.
 - This decision was taken by the subcommittee following consultation between myself and the then Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Max Moore-Wilton, who suggested that whilst the report should wait until the end of the Budget Estimates and Framework Review, the MAC members should have a chance to discuss some of the issues identified in the report.
- At a meeting of MAC on 20 August 2002, it was agreed that the subcommittee report be noted but not published in light of the broader Budget Estimates and Framework Review.

Yours sincerely

I J Watt
2 September 2003