



**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Leader of the House

Reference: 02785-2012

Senator Glenn Sterle  
Committee Chair  
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

30 MAY 2012



Dear Senator

*Glenn,*

I refer to your letter of 25 May 2012.

In response to concerns raised at the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (the Committee) by Senator Colbeck, you sought an explanation on his assertions that the evidence given by officials from Infrastructure Australia and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) at the Committee on 23 May 2012, did not accurately provide information contained in a joint media statement that was released on 24 May 2012.

I can confirm that the answers given by officials were correct and Senator Colbeck's assertions about the Committee being 'mislead' are unfounded. In particular, the Infrastructure Coordinator provided his report to me on 24 May 2012 and the funding agreement for the \$20 million assistance package has not yet been finalised. The 24 May 2012 joint media statement to which you refer identified the key components of the assistance that will be included in the funding agreement. These were settled in discussions between myself and the Tasmanian government. The funding agreement will not be finalised until negotiations are completed and it is signed by myself and the Hon David O'Byrne MP, Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure.

I note that you have also written to the Department and Infrastructure Australia on this matter. The Secretary of the Department and the Infrastructure Coordinator will reply to you separately on the specific issues you have raised relevant to their agencies.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

ANTHONY ALBANESE