



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Secretary

File Reference:0605

Senator Glenn Sterle
Committee Chair
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator

I refer to your letter of 25 May 2012 seeking an explanation as to why the evidence given by officials from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) at the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (the Committee) on 23 May 2012, did not provide information contained in a media statement that was released on 24 May 2012.

I can confirm that the answers given by the officials from the Department were correct.

You have queried the evidence provided about the timing of negotiations with the Tasmanian Government over the \$20m package; and about the funding announcements being made in conjunction with the release of the Infrastructure Australia report. Taking each of these issues in order:

- Officials from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport were asked questions about the status of negotiations with the Tasmanian Government over the \$20 million funding package. The officials stated that the funding agreement was being negotiated and was not yet finalised. This was accurate at the time of the hearings. The funding agreement will be finalised when it is signed by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Hon David O'Byrne MP, the Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure. The media statement on 24 May 2012 announced the details of the components that will be included in the final funding agreement. Timing of the announcement of these components was a matter for the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; and
- The Infrastructure Australia report was released by means of a web link with the media release on the \$20 million funding package on 24 May 2012. Mr Deegan is replying to you in relation to the timing of the release of his report.

Thank you for raising this matter and my officials and I are available should the Committee require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Mike Mrdak

29 May 2012