



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Science and Resources**

Senator Jess Walsh  
Chair  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 15 February 2024, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Susan McDonald and Ms Samantha Chard, Head of Division, Business Grants Hub and Integrity:

Senator McDonald: There's apparently an obligation on you to produce an annual audit of this grant to the EDO—is that correct?

Ms Chard: That's correct. An independent audit is a requirement under their grant agreement to be delivered by 30 April to coincide with their next milestone report.

I would like to clarify that the obligation mentioned is for the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) to deliver an independent audit report to the department. The department is not involved in procuring this report and will review it as part of the next milestone assessment process.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Yours sincerely

Sam Chard  
Head of Division, Business Grants Hub and Integrity

25 March 2024