

THALES

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23 June 2017

Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to request that a response be entered into the Senate record in relation to adverse reflections on me personally and my employer, Thales Australia, during Senate Estimates Committee hearings of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee on 23 May 2017.

In particular, in questioning of ANAO officials and Airservices Australia officials over the OneSKY Air Traffic Management tender, it was incorrectly stated that a Thales executive was involved in the OneSKY tender evaluation committee and that an independent contractor appointed to evaluate the tender was engaged by Thales. For example:

"...one of the people sitting on that committee is attached to the winning tenderer."

"..these questions would not present if we had not had someone in the spare bedroom over at the winning tenderer's place for a couple of years while the evaluation process was going on."

"Was the Thales executive who was involved in the earlier tender evaluation committee not involved in this phase of adjustment for risk assessment?"

These adverse reflections are damaging to my reputation and the reputation of Thales. They are now on the public Hansard record and I seek the opportunity to place on the Hansard record a correction.

The statement I would seek to enter into the Hansard record is:

There was no involvement by Thales or any Thales executive in the evaluation of the tenders for the OneSKY contract. With regard to the International Centre for Complex Project Management (ICCPM), the Board of ICCPM, of which I was Chairman at the time, through its own governance protocols, put in place an exclusion of any discussion of Airservices Australia matters from Board meetings. Consequently I took no part in any dealings between ICCPM and Airservices Australia in relation to the OneSKY project or the engagement of an independent contractor, Mr Bradford, by Airservices Australia. Any suggestion that I, or any other Thales executive, was involved in the OneSKY tender evaluation committee or the decision by Airservices Australia or ICCPM to engage Mr Bradford to evaluate the tenders is false and damaging to me personally and to Thales. These matters have been thoroughly examined by the Australian National Audit Office which concluded that appropriate probity arrangements were in place during the OneSKY tender process.

The Thales Australia Air Traffic Management (ATM) business is an Australian success story, employing 400 people at our ATM Centre of Excellence in Melbourne and undertaking significant research and development in advanced ATM systems. Long term investment in this business over the past 20 years has resulted in this Melbourne based business becoming a global leader, generating exports of over A\$1 billion and delivering advanced ATM systems to more than 25 countries including Singapore, China, South Africa, Mexico, Philippines and Indonesia.

In the interests of furthering the Committee's understanding of the advanced capability that exists in Australia in Air Traffic Management systems I extend an invitation to all members of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee to visit the Thales ATM Centre of Excellence in Melbourne to see first-hand the great work being done there by a group of highly skilled engineers.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS JENKINS
Chief Executive Officer
Thales Australia & NZ