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Australian Government
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

**David Fredericks PSM
Secretary**

Our ref: EC24-000414

Senator Karen Grogan
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Grogan

I refer to recent correspondence received 6 February 2024 from the Committee enclosing a letter dated 2 February 2024 from Senator Hollie Hughes, on behalf of Opposition Senators, requesting information be provided to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee no later than 5.00pm on 9 February 2024:

Senator Hughes requested the following:

- 1) an itemised list of each of the expenditure measures in the Environment area of the portfolio that have been introduced since 1 June 2022 and, in each case, the amounts currently allocated to them over every year of the forward estimates;
- 2) an itemised list of every one of the current expenditure measures in the Environment area of the portfolio and, in each case, the amounts presently allocated to them over every year of the forward estimates;
- 3) a detailed breakdown of the number of formal requests, in accordance with Sections 78, 78A and 78B, for reconsiderations of EPBC Act decisions over the past decade. This should include an indication, for each financial year since 2013-14 inclusive, of (a) the total number of such requests; (b) the total number of these requests that have been rejected before proceeding to a formal reconsideration process; and (c) the percentage of such requests that have resulted in a variation and/or revocation of the original decision;
- 4) an outline of the current status of the Department's interactions with the approval holder of the West Belconnen (Ginninderry) Strategic Assessment, and attempts to enforce compliance with the full conditions of their approval; and
- 5) the answers to all overdue Questions on Notice.

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In response to the expenditure measures and the specific matters raised in items 1 and 2, this information is publicly available. Please see:

- 2022-23 March Budget: from DAWE, for environment measures, table 1.2 and related outcome is DAFF Outcome 1 (page 28-34) and expense table (page 57);
- 2022-23 October Budget: DCCEEW is formed, table 1.2, outcome 2 (page 22-27) and expense table (page 51);
- 2023-24 May Budget: DCCEEW, table 1.2, outcome 2 (page 26-28) and expense table (page 53-54); and
- 2023-24 PAES: DCCEEW, table 2.2.1 (page 31-32), no new measure for outcome 2.

In relation to items 3 and 4, given the complexity of these matters and noting the request is for materials over a 10 year period, the department requires additional time to respond to this request. The department will therefore respond to this request in the usual course in accordance with Senate requirements.

I confirm all answers to Questions on Notice from the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings held in October and November 2023 have been tabled.

I trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee.

If you require further information, please contact Ms Dana Sutton, Branch Head, Ministerial Liaison and Governance Branch on .

Yours sincerely

9 February 2024