



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Fawcett

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 20 October 2020, I find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Waters and myself.

Senator WATERS: Thank you very much. On what basis is a new coal fired power plant with a life expectancy of 40 to 50 years consistent with keeping global warming below 1½ to two degrees, which requires Australia to be at net zero by 2050?

Mr Fredericks: I think the answer to that question, to pick up on what the minister said, is that this is a grant that came out of the UNGI program. The focus of the UNGI program, to be fair, is to secure the greater firming electricity generation capacity.

To clarify, my reference to the grant coming out of the UNGI program, should have referred to the grant coming out of the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program. One focus of the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure is to supply affordable and reliable energy for commercial and industrial customers.

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

Yours sincerely

David Fredericks PSM

Secretary, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

30 November 2020