



Australian Government
Clean Energy Regulator

30 November 2022

Committee Secretariat
Senate Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Parliament House
via email ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretariat

I have become aware that part of the responses to questions from Senator Pocock at the Senate Estimates hearing on 28 November 2022 may be open to misinterpretation and I am writing to provide clarification.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Thank you. I'm not in any way knocking your expertise. I guess, where I sit, it's concerning that we set up an independent body to review ACCUs, the carbon market; someone puts in a submission; and then they get a call from someone as senior as you sort of suggesting to them that they maybe withdraw their submission or modify parts of it.

Ms Thompson: Sorry, Senator. At no point did I make any such suggestion. I simply said that I thought there were technical problems and errors with the submission, and the suggestion came from the Wentworth group person that there should be a further conversation about it. I did not suggest it should be changed.

In providing this answer when I said "at no point did I suggest the submission should be changed", I was referring to the initial conversation with the senior Wentworth group person that I flagged in my evidence. My subsequent conversations with the Executive Director covered matters in the submission that were, in my view, technically incorrect. Those subsequent conversations were informed by, and proceeded in line with, the suggestion from the senior Wentworth group person that if there were aspects of the submission that were incorrect, they should be changed.

Furthermore, my professional relationship with the senior Wentworth group member has lasted over three decades not 30 years as I said in my response to questions from Senator Pocock.

I also wish to clarify that the apology referred to in evidence to the Committee was made by me to the Executive Director of the Wentworth Group.

I apologise to the Committee for any inconvenience this may cause but I consider it important to provide clarification on these matters.

Yours sincerely

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