



Australian Government

11 November, 2020

Senator the Hon James Paterson
Acting Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Paterson

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) at the Senate Estimates hearing on 29 October 2020, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

1. The following exchange occurred between Senator Waters and Dr Paul Hardisty, CEO, AIMS:

Page 28: Dr Hardisty: I think there are a number of reasons that are probably self-evident, but accessing the right kind of expertise to make judgements on whether that science is suitable is exactly what the peer review process already does. It accesses the best available expertise in the world and allows that to comment on, review, criticise and throw back many papers. We publish over 300 peer reviewed science papers in an average year.

Please correct the number of peer reviewed science papers to over ‘200’.

2. The following exchange occurred between Senator Whish-Wilson and Dr Britta Schaffelke, Research Program Director, AIMS:

Page 32. Dr Schaffelke: We are a supporter of the census but to my knowledge we have not provided any funding. We had discussions early on of what methods would be suitable and things like that. But we are not an active participant in this study. My team will be interested in the data once they are collected, to then combine them with other data that we have.

This statement may be misleading regarding AIMS’ role in the Great Reef Census project. To avoid misunderstanding, I request the above testimony be amended with the following: ‘AIMS is a partner in the Great Reef Census project of the charity Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef. AIMS has not provided direct funding to this project, but has provided in-kind contribution through membership of the project’s Science Committee, which allowed AIMS to provide advice on the survey methods and potential use of the data collected by the Census.’

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

Yours sincerely

Dr Paul Hardisty
Chief Executive Officer