



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

Senator Slade Brockman
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Brockman

I am writing to add to the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 3 June 2021.

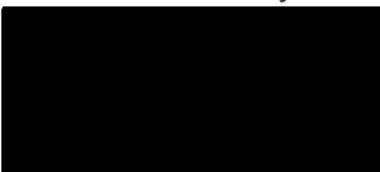
In relation to an exchange between Senator Murray Watt and Mr David Fredericks, Secretary, Mr David Williamson, Deputy Secretary, and Ms Donna Looney, General Manager, Industry Capability and Participation, on the Industry Growth Centres Initiative, we can advise the Committee:

- a) The former Minister's Office was provided an advance copy of the Industry Growth Centres Initiative ACIL Allen Initial Impact Evaluation Report on 4 February 2021. Neither the former Minister, nor her Office, were briefed on the contents of the Report at that time.

- b) The department's discussions with the former Minister Andrews and her office included implementation of the Modern Manufacturing Strategy and the extension of Commonwealth funding for current Industry Growth Centres through to the end June 2022. The former Minister subsequently approved changes to program guidelines aligning growth centre activities to the national manufacturing priorities and requiring Growth Centres to submit a transition plan outlining how they would implement alternative funding models post June 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to add to the testimony. I ask that you bring this information to the attention of other members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely



David Williamson
Deputy Secretary

8 June 2021