



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

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 4 June 2021, I have found a piece of the information I provided to the Committee would benefit from a correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Chisholm and I:

Senator CHISHOLM: *Strictly in terms of export volumes, there is no noticeable drop-off as a result of what is happening informally in China. I think that is how you described it?*

Mr Karunathna: *I have some numbers. They are very marginal drop-offs. There was 41 million megatonnes of total coal that was going to China that dropped off in the last six months compared to the previous six months. That is almost all being taken up by India, with 16 megatonnes. Japan and South Korea were predominantly the rest. Overall, for 2019-20, we exported 213 megatonnes of thermal coal. In the 2020-21 year, we expect that to drop off marginally to 206 megatonnes before increasing again from 2021-22 and then, indeed, continuing to increase over the five-year outlook period of our last publication. The story is similar with metallurgical coal, with 177 megatonnes exported in 2019-20. We're forecasting 173 megatonnes in 2020-21 and then, again, it increasing from 2021-22 onwards.*

Furthermore, the following exchange occurred between Senator Canavan and I:

Mr Karunathna: *The latest figures in the last six months with the diversification have really changed that number. I don't have the percentage shares, but I have the six-month to date numbers. In terms of total coal, Indian has imported nine billion tonnes. That is up from around two billion.*

Senator CANAVAN: *Are you sure it is nine billion?*

Mr Karunathna: *Nine million megatonnes. It used to be around two. Japan is around 40 and South Korea is around 17.*

In both instances I misspoke and mentioned the term 'million megatonnes', when the unit of measurement should have simply been megatonnes.

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

Yours sincerely



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