

From: David Papps
To: [Thomson, Jane \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Reply from Mr David Papps
Date: Saturday, 21 April 2018 4:32:03 PM

Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Dear Senator O'Sullivan

Thank you for your letter of 28 March 2018 providing me with an opportunity to respond to comments around unsent draft correspondence dated November 2017.

Firstly, I want to re-affirm the obvious point that only the current CEWH is in a position to determine a final position on the matters under consideration.

The letter in question was drafted in the CEWO at my request. It reflected my inchoate concerns over the quality of NSW's draft water resource plans and the potential for a less than optimal opportunity for me to provide feedback on them as part of the MDBA's assessment.

As was my usual practice on such a complex and important matter, it was my intention to provide the MDBA's CEO with an unsigned draft as a basis for discussion. This was also a recognition of the fact that the MDBA was the decision-maker. This discussion would lead me to a final position.

However, as my retirement was imminent and I was dealing with a great many other issues, I did not have that conversation. Instead, I chose to leave the matter for the next CEWH to determine.

Yours sincerely

David Papps