



CASA Ref: EC26-000102

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Re: Clarification of Evidence

Dear Senator Sterle

I refer to the appearance of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee at the Additional Budget Estimates 2025-26 on Monday 9 February 2026.

During the hearing, I responded to questions from Senator Roberts (Senate Hansard Pages 114 and 115 refer) about interactions between CASA and Mr Barker including the following exchange:

Senator ROBERTS: I'm advised that the Fair Work Commission found a personal vendetta against Mr Barker from his former employee [a CASA officer].

Ms Spence: I would have to check the transcript, but I do not accept the way you've described the outcomes from the Fair Work Commission.

I have reviewed the transcript and confirm that term "vendetta" was not used by the Fair Work Commissioner.

The Commissioner dismissed the application but did express a preliminary view that the CASA officer (his former employee) had "an axe to grind" with respect to Mr Barker.

While I do not consider the two terms to be interchangeable, I thought it important to draw this to your attention.

I would appreciate it if you could please note this for the information of the committee.

Yours sincerely

Ms Pip Spence PSM

 February 2026