



Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and
Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Senator

I wish to add detail to the record in relation to a question asked by Senator Patrick at the Additional Estimates hearings of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Cross Portfolio Murray-Darling Basin Plan Matters on Friday 25 May 2018. Senator Patrick asked whether the unsigned draft letter to Mr Philip Glyde was part of my induction briefing. I can confirm the following:

The induction briefing provided to me by the Office consisted of a cover brief with three attachments. The cover briefing and attachments A and B did not include any reference to a draft letter. Attachment C was a list of 41 attached resources (in three large folders) including individual reports of over 300 pages. The draft letter was included with this reference material, at tab 12, as item f of j.

As the material in the folders was provided to me as a reference resource I have not systematically viewed all of the material. I was not aware that the draft letter was in the reference section of the induction pack until I returned to the office after the hearing on 25 May 2018, otherwise I would have provided a fuller answer to Senator Patrick during the hearing. There was no advice or instruction related specifically to the draft letter in the reference material – just the draft itself.

I had not had any verbal briefing by the Office or by the former Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (who finished in mid-January) before seeing the letter in the press on my first day as the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder on Monday 12 February 2018.

I trust that you will pass this advice on to Senator Patrick and other members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Jody Swirepik
Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

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