



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference No: R31950471  
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3 November 2017

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the hearing for the Inquiry into the adequacy of Australia's infrastructure assets and capability in Antarctica held on 19 October 2017. My colleague, Commodore Hatcher, has provided his own corrections separately to the Committee in a letter dated 27 October 2017.

I noted in my evidence on page 5 that 'we do have Operation Southern Discovery, which is a four-year program currently funded under the white paper...' I would correct the record as per below:

*'Operation SOUTHERN DISCOVERY commenced on 1 July 2016 and provides Australian Defence Force support to whole-of-government activities in the Antarctic region. There is no end date for Operation SOUTHRN DISCOVERY. Operation SOUTHERN DISCOVERY occurs annually and is primarily – although not exclusively – for support during each Austral summer period (i.e. November to March).*

In addition, I would note that on page three the Hansard incorrectly transcribed 'inspection regime', as 'special regime'.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

Peter Sawczak  
Assistant Secretary Strategic Policy  
Department of Defence