



The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

**Attorney-General
Federal Member for Greenway**

Reference: MS26-000120

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

I am writing to convey the Government's response to the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee report on *Freedom of the Press*, which predates the 47th Parliament.

The Government notes each recommendation of the report. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to outline some developments relevant to the Committee's report and recommendations. The Attorney-General's Department is currently progressing a comprehensive package of reforms to streamline, simplify and clarify the Commonwealth secrecy framework and improve protections for press freedom, while continuing to appropriately protect against unauthorised disclosures. The Government delivered a first stage of reforms to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* in 2023, which made immediate improvements to the framework to support commencement of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, and has announced it will introduce a second stage of reforms to Parliament to improve the accessibility, operation and administration of the framework.

Please accept this letter as the Government's response to the Committee's report. A copy of this letter has also been provided to Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Chair of the Environment and Communications References Committee.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Rowland MP

12/13/2026

cc. Senator Sarah-Hanson Young, Chair, Senate Environment and Communications References Committee