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AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Nature
needs us,
now

Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy

Senator Whish-Wilson
Senator Ananda-Rajah

Dear Chair and Deputy Chair

ACF thanks the Committee for this opportunity to place these clarifications on the record.

I am writing regarding evidence and submissions given to the Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy by Rainforest Reserves. ACF is issuing this statement under the Australian Senate's 'right to reply' provisions, as we have been adversely impacted by a submission to the inquiry.

On p. 73 of the Rainforest Reserves submission, they cite a report attributed to ACF titled "Nature on the Line: Impact of Renewables on Critical Habitat (2023)". No such report exists. ACF has never produced a document with that title, nor any publication resembling it. The reference is false.

At the hearing 12 November 2025, Mr Stephen Nowakowski stated that the organisation does not accept funding from the fossil fuel industry. However, he also said:

"We have donations that we've received from signatories that are in that letter and also our wider donor base."

He is referencing a Rainforest Reserves branded [open letter](#) which advertised prominently in News Corp papers during the Federal election of May 2025. Several of the publicly listed signatories to that letter have clear and direct links to fossil fuel companies, including:

- Rob Millner AO – Chair of New Hope Corporation, a coal producer.
- Trevor St Baker AO – former Chair of Delta Electricity, owner of the Vales Point coal-fired power station.
- Keith Orchison AM – described in the *Australian Financial Review* archive as Executive Director of APPEA (the oil and gas exploration and production lobby) for more than a decade.
- Paul Espie AO – Chairman of ASX-listed Empire Energy since 2018, a gas developer and operator.

While it is possible that not all signatories made donations, the evidence given is inconsistent and warrants clarification as to whether funds or in-kind support were received from individuals with substantial fossil fuel industry ties, and how "funding from the fossil fuel industry" is being defined.

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Yours sincerely

Jack Redpath
Nature and Renewables Campaigner
Australian Conservation Foundation