



Australian Government
The Treasury

19 February, 2020

Mr Mark Fitt
Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee

By Email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Fitt

INQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS GROWTH FUND BILL 2019

I refer to your letter dated 18 February to Dr Steven Kennedy in relation to the above inquiry. Dr Kennedy has asked that I respond to your letter.

I appreciate that you have provided Treasury with an opportunity to respond to the submission from On-Market BookBuilds Pty Ltd. I have read the evidence and the subsequent answers provided to questions on notice and do not agree with the comments in the submission from On-Market BookBuilds Pty Ltd regarding the evidence provided by Treasury officials.

As set out in the *Government Guidelines for Official Witnesses before Parliamentary Committees and Related Matters* (February 2015), Treasury officials are aware that they must not give any evidence that is false or misleading.

In relation to the matters raised in the submission from On-Market BookBuilds Pty Ltd, the evidence of Treasury officials from the hearing of the Senate Economics Legislation Committee on 13 February 2020 when read in full contain no statements by a Treasury official which are misleading.

In particular, the submission from On-Market BookBuilds Pty Ltd claims that Mr Tease stated the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) had analysed or made recommendations about the Australian Business Growth Fund. At no time did Mr Tease give evidence that the RBA analysed or made recommendations about the Australian Business Growth Fund. Rather, Mr Tease described how the Treasury was informed by work of the RBA and others to form a view around the availability of small business funding in Australia.

However, we will provide further information shortly on the application of the policy of competitive neutrality to the Australian Business Growth Fund.

Treasury would be happy to provide any other information required by the Committee to assist in its consideration of this legislation.

Yours sincerely



Diane Brown
Acting Deputy Secretary
Markets Group

FIND TREASURY ON   