



Australian Government Solicitor
4 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600
Locked Bag 35, Kingston ACT 2604
T 02 6253 7000 DX 5678 Canberra
www.ags.gov.au

28 September 2018

Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
Environment and Communications References Committee
Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Canberra
Sydney
Melbourne
Brisbane
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Dear Ms McDonald

Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program

I refer to your letter of 14 August 2018 requesting a copy of advice provided by AGS to the Minister for Environment and Energy or to the Department of the Environment and Energy.

In my letter to you of 6 September 2018 I explained that as the Committee's request related to confidential legal work performed by AGS for the Department of Environment and Energy, we had consulted with the Department with a view to ascertaining whether the Minister for the Environment wished AGS not to provide the requested material to the Committee on public interest grounds.

Following that consultation, the Department has requested that AGS not provide the Committee with a copy of any advice provided by AGS to the Minister or the Department in respect of the grant, save for advice already disclosed to the Committee under cover of a letter from the Department to the Committee dated 20 September 2018. The request not to provide the material was based on the public interest ground identified in a letter from the Department to the Committee dated 10 September 2018.

I have assumed that it would not assist the Committee for AGS to provide an additional copy of the advice already disclosed to the Committee by the Department, but if that is not the case, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Michael Kingston
Australian Government Solicitor