



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

Reference: C10/44761

Senator Mary Jo Fisher
Chair
Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Fisher

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2010 to the Prime Minister inviting him again to give evidence to the Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee's inquiry into the Government's Energy Efficient Homes Package, and the Home Insulation Program in particular. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As indicated in my letter of 10 May 2010, the Prime Minister and other Ministers have answered numerous questions and made statements in the House of Representatives on several occasions about these matters, as has the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Government Service Delivery, Senator the Hon Mark Arbib, in the Senate.

The Prime Minister considers that the appropriate place for him to answer questions about these matters is in the Parliament at question time.

Yours sincerely

Alister Jordan
Chief of Staff

16 JUN 2010



The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts

17 June 2010

Senator Mary Jo Fisher

Chair

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Fisher

I refer to your letter of 10 June 2010 again inviting me to appear and give evidence to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts' inquiry into the Government's former Energy Efficient Home Package.

As I noted in my previous reply, the Senate has no power to require the attendance of a Member of the House of Representatives to appear before a Senate committee. As you would also be aware, this has consistently been the position taken by successive Governments, including the Howard Government – a fact which is clearly reflected in the attachment to your letter. I draw your attention to the requests made of Howard Government Ministers in the House of Representatives, including of then Minister Reith to appear before the Senate Select Committee into a Certain Maritime Incident.

You would also be aware that the matters in respect of which the Committee is seeking further information have been the subject of exhaustive examination both by departmental officials appearing before the committee, as well as the Prime Minister, Minister Combet and myself in the House of Representatives and Senator Arbib in the Senate.

I remain of the view that, should the committee wish to ask further questions of the Government in relation to these matters, then the appropriate forum in which those questions should be asked is to the responsible Ministers in Question Time.

Yours sincerely

Peter Garrett AM MP



THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP

Minister for Defence Materiel and Science
Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Senator Mary Jo Fisher

18 JUN 2010

Chair

Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Fisher,

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2010 in which you invited me once again to appear to give evidence to the Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts References committee's inquiry into the Government's Energy Efficient Homes Package, and in particular the Home Insulation Program.

As I noted when asked previously to appear before the Committee, the Prime Minister and other Ministers have answered numerous questions and made statements in the House of Representatives and the Senate concerning the issues that the Committee is considering.

I refer the Committee in particular to my own Ministerial Statement delivered on 10 March 2010, and my response to the Matter of Public Importance moved in the House of Representatives by the Member for Flinders on Wednesday 15 June 2010.

It is my view that Parliament, and specifically Question time, is the appropriate place for questions relating to the Home Insulation Program.

Yours sincerely

Greg Combet AM MP



OFFICE OF THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

21 JUN 2010

Senator Mary Jo Fisher
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2010 inviting the Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Social Inclusion to appear before the Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee's inquiry into the Energy Efficient Homes Package and the Home Insulation Program. I am responding on behalf of the Minister.

The Minister is available for questions everyday when the House is sitting.

Given this the Minister therefore declines your invitation.

Regards

Amanda Lampe
Chief of Staff