



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA AS A TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL CENTRE

Mawson Infrastructure Group – Questions on Notice from public hearing on 6 August

Response from Mr James Manning

1. At page 28:

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Apologies, I can't remember which witness said this, but the comment was made that the sector desperately needs leadership—and leadership at the political level—on this. Have you had any ministerial engagement or interest from decision-makers in government who could help drive this change?

Mr Manning: That was my comment. We've actively spoken to Senator Bragg and we've spoken to a number of other ministers. I'm happy to take it on notice and get you a list. We've spoken to both sides of parliament, and we've been actively having those conversations around that space. I'm happy to give you those names. There are a couple of people in my office who are actively pursuing that, to make sure there's a good education piece in the space, as well as highlighting any shortcomings that we see and, ultimately, the opportunities in the space.

Senator MARIELLE SMITH: We love Senator Bragg, but he's not a minister! So I'm interested if there's been any engagement at that level of executive government, and if you think that that piece is there in terms of the leadership required. I'm happy for you to take it on notice—

Mr Manning: I'll take that on notice. Someone in our office looks after that, and I will come back to you on that one.

ANSWER

In relation to the question set out by Senator Smith, I meet with Hon. Ed Husic, Shadow Minister for Innovation on 1st April 2021. Post this, I meet with Hon. Christian Porter, Minister for Innovation on 18th June.

2. At page 28:

CHAIR: Can you take one thing on notice, please: given the [inaudible] being made about the benefit that would accrue to Australia if we had more digital asset activity in Australia, what would that benefit, in terms of jobs and investment, be to Australia? You have asserted, I'm sure rightly, that we are losing opportunities. Could you please do some work on that and come back to the committee, so that we have some harder numbers and evidence around that?

Unidentified speaker: Yes, absolutely. We can come back with some more numbers that support that engagement.

Unidentified speaker: Maybe we kick the can around and we engage KPMG or someone to do something very informative in that space. I think that might be beneficial, ultimately, for you to understand the economic loss that's really occurring out of Australia.

CHAIR: I think that would be very useful.

ANSWER

With respect of the question set out by Senator Bragg, I have been engaged with Blockchain Australia and offered to fund some economic study. Once we have the result of this we will share this research.



James Manning

CEO

Mawson Infrastructure Group