



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Committee Secretary
Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I wish to clarify evidence I gave to the Committee's Review of Auditor-General's Report No 23 (2014-15) in the public hearing on Thursday 28 May 2015.

As recorded in the Proof Committee Hansard on page 12, Dr Hendy asked:
May I then ask the representative from Prime Minister and Cabinet: at what level was a decision made that this was appropriate—which departmental officer level?
I replied: The same level as I am. An assistant secretary provided advice to the responsible department.

It has been brought to my attention that the officer of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet who provided the advice to the responsible department on the Caretaker Conventions in this case was a former Assistant Secretary of the Department then engaged on a short term contract during the 2013 caretaker period as a Special Adviser.

I would be grateful if you would convey to the Committee Chair, Dr Hendy and other Committee members, this clarification and my apologies for the unintended inaccuracy of my evidence regarding the specific title of the officer involved.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Peter Rush.

Peter Rush
Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary and Government Branch
Government Division

19 June 2015