



23 August 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications References Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Inquiry into oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin

You advised on 18 August several additional questions from the Chair of the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee in relation to the above inquiry.

Those questions appear to go well beyond this inquiry's terms of reference, but we are happy to provide responses below.

1. When did you become aware that there was a fundraising event for Minister Taylor to be held the night before the chartered flight was to take Empire Staff and the Minister, his advisers and fundraising team?
 - We were first advised by a telephone call from the Hume Forum on or about 25 September 2020.
2. Did any employees or directors of Empire Energy discuss with the Minister or his staff the design of the grant program, including but not limited to it being designed as a first in, first served program? If so, please outline the details of what was discussed.
 - No.
3. Who informed Empire Staff about the planned fundraising event?
 - Refer answer to question 1.
4. How much did Empire pay to attend the fundraising event?
 - \$4,500.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Underwood
Managing Director