



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
Chair
Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

2 JUL 2010

Dear Senator Fisher,


Further to my letter of 22 June 2010, I have now had an opportunity to review the 52 briefs that are the subject to your request of 9 June to the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

It is my view that they should not be released. I have come to this view on the following two grounds.

First, as the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency noted in his letter of 1 April 2010 to the Committee, there is a level of ambiguity about whether their release would be in the public interest. In view of the Secretary's opinion, I have decided that it would not be in the public interest to release documents about which there is doubt.

Second, it is my view that the documents are deliberative in nature, and therefore pertain to the deliberative processes involved in the functions of Government. Disclosure would therefore be contrary to the public interest.

I have now had the opportunity to consult with the Hon Peter Garrett, the Minister responsible for the subject matter of the briefs at the time of their original submission. He agrees with my decision that the deliberative nature of the submissions precludes their release to the Committee.

Yours sincerely 

Greg Combet AM MP