



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

File Number: 16/2224

18 May 2016

Mr David Sullivan
Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sullivan

I write to clarify information I provided to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing on 6 May 2016. I refer to the question asked by Senator Gallacher on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's proposed Fiji Program Support Facility. The discussion is referenced on page 74 of Hansard:

Senator GALLACHER: So, with this Fiji situation, it has gone out for tender, and there will be a selection process shortly?

Mr Sloper: That is right.

My response could be understood as confirmation that a tender has been released and that a selection process would commence shortly. However, my answer was to the second element of the question, that is, confirmation that a selection process would commence shortly. On page 73 of the Hansard, in response to similar questioning earlier in the hearing, I advised the Committee that, 'we are about to go through a tender process in regard to (the) Fiji (Program Support Facility)'. This is accurate evidence as the tender has not yet been released. As such, and in line with my earlier response, my evidence should be clarified as follows:

Mr Sloper: *We are about to go through a tender process* That is right.

I would appreciate if you could pass on to the Committee my clarification.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Sloper
First Assistant Secretary
Pacific Division