



Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Senator for South Australia

Ref: MC16-008926

Senator Barry O'Sullivan
Chair
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Barry
Dear ~~Senator O'Sullivan~~

Public interest immunity claim – production of documents

I refer to the order made by the Senate on 13 September 2016 requiring the tabling of documents relating to the relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) from Canberra.

Decisions in relation to the relocation of the APVMA are matters for deliberation by the Cabinet. A cost-benefit analysis report that investigated the implications of relocation is a document prepared to assist Cabinet's deliberation and will be provided to the Cabinet as part of that process. Maintaining the confidentiality of the Cabinet process is an important and established ground for public interest immunity. I therefore consider there is a public interest in not disclosing this document or related documents.

This is consistent with the letter of 10 October 2016 from Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan responding to the Senate order with reference to the confidentiality of Cabinet deliberations.

Yours sincerely

A
Anne Ruston

17 OCT 2016