



COMMISSIONER
FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT

Mr Andrew Wall, Chair
Select Committee on Estimates 2018-19
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Dear Mr Wall,

Statement Correction – Estimates Hearing 28 June 2018

I wish to correct a statement made by Ms Kirilly Dickson, Senior Manager Investigations at Estimates Hearings on 28 June 2018 in relation to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

As recorded in Hansard Transcripts (page 117) Ms Dickson responded to a question by Ms Lee in relation to when the last Commissioner initiated investigation occurred, stating:

“To our knowledge, minister, there has never been an isolated minister-initiated direction. Generally an issue has emerged and that has been discussed with the relevant minister at that time and formalised into a minister-directed investigation.”

This is incorrect. It has since been confirmed that there was in fact one Commissioner initiated investigation (under s12 (1) (c) of the Act) undertaken by this office.

This was initiated in March 1999 by the former Commissioner Dr Joe Baker.

This investigation was on the ACT Government's progress towards no waste by 2010, as captured in the *“A Waste Management Strategy for Canberra - No Waste by 2010”*.

This investigation report was tabled in the Assembly on 15 February 2000.

Since then, there have been no Investigations that have been undertaken by the CSE without Ministerial Direction, not including those that are generated by public complaint.

This is not to say that the Commissioner does not raise issues with the Minister that, in the Commissioner's view, require further investigation.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Professor Kate Auty
Commissioner for Sustainability
and the Environment

JK
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