



**Gavin Pearce MP**  
Federal Member for Braddon

Statement

10 June 2023

### **Setting the record straight on the delivery of truck-washes and effluent dumps in Braddon**

This week, Senator for Tasmania, Anne Urquhart, issued a media release that included inaccurate information and false claims about the delivery of truck-washes and effluent dumps in Braddon.

As the Federal Member for Braddon, I will not stand by and allow an ill-informed Senator, acting on behalf of the federal government, to lie to the people of the North-West, West Coast and King Island.

It's inconceivable that Senator Urquhart, who has over ten years parliamentary experience, is yet to understand how federal projects are delivered.

In this case, the responsibility of the federal government was to deliver the funds to the Cradle Coast Authority (CCA). It is the CCA who is responsible for delivering the four truck washes or effluent dumps.

With regards to Senator Urquhart's media release, the following statements attributed to her, are either factually inaccurate or represent a false claim:

#### **Statement 1:**

"... four facilities at Smithton, Minna Road at Stowport, Stanley and King Island were promised by the former federal government in 2019."

**FACTUALLY INCORRECT:** The four facilities covered in the original commitment were Smithton, Burnie, King Island and Devonport. It was not until the CCA commenced feasibility studies and engaged with local stakeholders that it was agreed the most beneficial sites for the truck-washes and effluent dumps was Smithton, Stanley, Burnie and King Island.

#### **Statement 2:**

"Despite promising funding on several occasions, the previous government failed to deliver on commitments to develop these truck washes. The Albanese Government will deliver them."

**FACTUALLY INCORRECT AND DECEPTIVE:** The Liberal/National government's commitment to this project has remained unwavering.

The funding commitment originally made by the federal government was \$4 million. Plus, at the request of the CCA, the Liberal/National government subsequently committed a further \$700,000 to address a funding shortfall to ensure the project could proceed.

Following are extracts of written correspondence from the former Coalition Minister for Infrastructure to the CCA confirming each commitment:

**March 2020**

“I am writing to confirm the Australian Government’s commitment to provide up to \$4 million for the Cradle Coast Authority truck washes project (the Project).”

**March 2022:**

“I am writing to confirm the Australian Government’s commitment to provide a further \$700,000 for the Construction of Truck Washes facilities at King Island, Smithton, Devonport, and Burnie (the Project). I note the planning that has already been undertaken as part of our government’s \$4 million investment into this important regional project ...”

Further to this point, the federal government does not release funds until Grant Deeds are signed and benchmarks are reached. In my dealings with CCA, I know they have found this an extremely complex project, with the organisation effectively managing four projects in one. Progress could not be made on any of the sites until an agreement across all four sites was finalised. CCA has been working on the project continually since the announcement of the funding, undertaking feasibility studies, costing, determining sites and reaching agreement between multiple stakeholders.

In April 2023, I was advised that the CCA had submitted the Grant Deed to progress payment of funds for the project. The current federal government was required to honour this commitment.

**Statement 3:**

“These new facilities are part of Labor’s commitment to building a better Braddon.”

**FALSE CLAIM:** The Australian Labor Party has never made a commitment to fund the provision of truck washes in Braddon.

Unlike Labor, only the Liberal/National Party committed to this important bio-security project in 2019 and I have provided my ongoing support and advice to the CCA ever since to ensure that this project remained viable.

These are the facts.

I therefore call on Senator Urquhart to apologise to the people of Braddon for knowingly misleading them. This was directly targeted at me, and for no other reason than an attempt to inflict reputational damage.

Furthermore, she has publicly called in to question the tireless efforts of the Cradle Coast Authority, which has diligently worked through significant challenges to deliver these important biosecurity measures on behalf of the federal government. I would never do that, because I know first-hand how hard organisation’s right across the region have worked to deliver hundreds of projects on behalf of the federal government under enormously trying circumstances over the past four years.

This release was shameful and I ask Senator Urquhart, is this really how you think you go about ‘building a better Braddon’?

**ENDS**

**Quotes attributed to Cradle Coast Authority:**

“CCA acknowledge the commitment that Gavin made and the support he provided to CCA during the process to secure additional funding for both Stanley and Smithton.”