



The Hon Mark Butler MP  
Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy  
Federal Member for Hindmarsh

Mr Grant Hehir  
Auditor-General for Australia  
Australian National Audit Office  
GPO Box 707  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: grant.hehir@anao.gov.au

Dear Mr Hehir,

I write to you following media reports regarding the Government's administration of the \$10 million Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program, in particular with respect to support for Shine Energy's proposed Collinsville coal plant project.

As reported today ("Shine Energy invited to apply for Collinsville power station grant two days after securing it", Guardian Australia, 24 July 2020) the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources has stated:

*"On 8 February 2020, the government announced the first three projects to be pursued under the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program, including up to \$4m to support Shine Energy Pty Ltd's feasibility study for a proposed 1GW ... coal plant at Collinsville in Queensland [...] On 10 February 2020, Shine Energy [was] asked to submit an application seeking support from the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources."*

On that basis, it appears a \$4 million expenditure decision regarding the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program was made at least two full days before the recipient of the grant was asked to apply for an already announced grant.

I ask that you review the integrity of the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program, in particular with reference to the grant to Shine Energy.

I thank you in advance for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Mark Butler MP  
26/07/2020.