

**Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing**  
**Minister for Energy and Renewables**  
**Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

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Ms Tania Rattray  
ESTIMATES 'B'  
Legislative Council Select Committee  
Via email: [julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Rattray

Thank you for your letter of 7 June 2023 regarding statements that I made during the Estimates Hearings on Monday 5 June, and the media release from TasCOSS in response.

Regarding my response to questions relating to customers repaying a debt with their retailers, and the level of that debt, my statements were based on the data that I had available to me and is consistent with data reported by TasCOSS on 1 March 2023 and still available on their website. This showed that from the three-month period, October-December 2021, to the same period in 2022, numbers of customers repaying a debt with Aurora went from 9,678 to 18,806 (94% increase) and the average level of debt went from \$1,278 to \$718 (44% decrease). This was the data that was provided to the Australian Energy Regulator by Aurora Energy.

I have since been made aware that Aurora Energy found an error in its reported figures for the period October to December 2022 and have provided the correct figures to the Regulator. Unfortunately, the updated figures were not provided to my Office and I did not have them at my disposal at the table. Although the updated figures show that the average level of debt has decreased by almost \$200, this is still a matter that we as a Government takes very seriously.

Regarding my reference to Tasmanian concessions in comparison to the rest of the nation, upon reviewing the Hansard, I was not as fulsome in my answer as I could have been. As I have consistently said in my previous media releases and statements on this topic, Tasmania continues to offer one of the most generous energy concessions in the nation, for Tasmania's most vulnerable.

Thank you for writing to me about this matter. I trust this clarification is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Hon Guy Barnett MP  
**Minister for Energy and Renewables**

8 June 2023