



THE HON MICHAEL McCORMACK MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance

REF: MC15-000078

Ms Jessica Smith

Email: Jessica@commongrace.org.au

2 March 2015

Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for your email of 18 December 2014, to the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, and the kind offer to supply and install 12 solar panels at Kirribilli House. Your letter has been forwarded to me as I have portfolio responsibility for Commonwealth non-Defence property matters. I apologise for the delay in replying.

While your generosity is commendable, I am unfortunately unable your offer. Kirribilli House is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List and has heritage values that the Government is obliged to protect under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Any works to the building therefore undergo a rigorous and often expensive heritage assessment process.

I am also conscious that the ongoing maintenance of solar panels requires an annual inspection and cleaning. Due to the nature of the building which is double storey with a steeply pitched roof, and the security requirements associated with Kirribilli House being the official residence of the Prime Minister, these costs will be significant.

May I suggest that you offer the solar panels to a community based organisation in your area. Thank you again for your generous offer and I trust that you will find an organisation that will appreciate the installation of the solar panels.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael McCormack".

MICHAEL McCORMACK