

Inquiry: Budget Estimates 19/20

Date/Time: 8/4/19 10:43am

Witness Name: Mr Robert Stefanic

Organisation: DPS

### Progress with Senate and Reps entrances

At the previous Estimates hearing, the President outlined the challenges the department was experiencing with completion of the Senate and House of Representatives entrances as a result of performance issues and financial difficulties with Steelvision P/L- the sub-contractor engaged by Lendlease Building to complete those works.

I can advise Senators that the replacement subcontractor, which was responsible for the successful and complex skylights replacement project, commenced work in January. The subcontractor has now completed the works on the level one public/private interface near the committee rooms and remains on track for an end of October 2019 completion date for the Senate and House of Representatives entrances presuming no stoppages occur.

### Steelvision

Senators may be aware of recent media articles regarding Steelvision which allege various lifestyle and non-project related business matters against the Managing Director and owner of Steelvision, Mr David Gooley.

Following the publication of the articles, I convened a meeting with senior officials overseeing the project from DPS, our project management contractor RPS and Lendlease Building.

The purpose of the meeting was to ascertain whether any of the parties had any prior knowledge of the allegations detailed in the article in relation to the lifestyle and non-project related matters of Mr Gooley raised in the articles.

All parties have confirmed that they had no knowledge of any of these allegations nor were they asked to provide comment by the journalists on those specific claims made in the article.

Further I can advise the Committee that Mr Gooley's role with the works at Parliament House was primarily offsite. Mr Gooley did not hold an APH Security Pass and when in the building, was required to be escorted by a pass holder at all times. While I don't have exact figures, I understand that Mr Gooley entered into Parliament House on a small number of occasions to meet with Steelvision staff and attend meetings with Lendlease Building.

It is also important to note, that under the terms of its contract with the Commonwealth, Lendlease Building undertake random drug and alcohol testing of

staff and its subcontractors on site and to date has conducted 108 tests all of which returned negative results.

In respect of commentary in the articles about Steelvision's financial difficulties and concerns with payments to its suppliers, as advised in the previous Estimates hearing, DPS was formally advised in June 2018. Lendlease Building became aware of complaints from Steelvision's suppliers about payments in the previous month and had been actively working with Steelvision to address them up until the termination of the contract in January 2019.

### **DPS officials**

Last month I advised the Presiding Officers about my intention to create a Deputy Secretary position for a trial period of 12 months to assist me with the executive management of the Department.

The Department comprises over 1,000 staff across four divisions, 12 branches, 43 sections and many disciplines. Having another officer with a broad oversight over the many functions of DPS will help us to continue to drive the improvement of our services to the Parliament and is an important risk management measure. Senators may be aware that DPS had a Deputy Secretary position until the 2012-13 financial year.

The Deputy Secretary has formal authority as my delegate and, at this point in time, has operational responsibility for the Chief Operating Officer Division and the Building and Security Division. I have made the Deputy Secretary the designated Chief Security Officer, which is a role required under the new Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF). If I decide to permanently establish the Deputy Secretary role, I will be advertising the position some time before 12 months have elapsed.

I have established a Chief of Staff role which will provide executive level project assistance to myself and the Deputy Secretary. The first priority for this new role is to spearhead the PSPF reforms and to continue the work of developing and refining the Parliamentary Security Service rostering model.

The last of the senior positions I have to announce is the establishment of a new branch head dedicated to cyber security in February 2019. This follows from the establishment of the Cyber Security Operations Centre and the increasing sophistication of targeted threats directed at Australia and its institutions. The position reports to the Chief Information Officer.

The DPS division structure and reporting lines otherwise remain the same. No senior executive staff have been displaced as a result of the change. I will be evaluating the current structure, all senior executive position dimensions and reporting lines in the following months.

Having decided on the new roles I looked across the senior executive of the department and made a series of judgments for temporary appointments based on our reform priorities, skills suitability and minimising disruption to the important work already underway in each of our business areas.

For the trial period, I temporarily appointed the Chief Operating Officer, Ms Cate Saunders to the Deputy Secretary role as the most suitable officer. I consequently temporarily appointed the Chief Finance Officer, Mr Nick Creagh to the role of Chief Operating Officer to ensure continuity in that Division.

Mr Ian McKenzie has moved across into the Assistant Secretary, Cyber Security Branch role which was part of his previous responsibility as the Chief Technology Officer. Ian remains the designated Chief Information Security Officer.

On a final note, I advise Senators that after three years with DPS, Mr Paul Cooper, First Assistant Secretary Building & Security Division has retired and completed his service with the Commonwealth on 5 April 2019.

Paul's efforts ignited the capital works program which has seen unprecedented number of security and infrastructure capital projects occur across the parliament since the time it was constructed. At the same time the tempo for maintenance of the building increased exponentially and he commenced the important and overdue reforms in the security branch. On behalf of the Department I wish to formally record my thanks to him and wish him well with the next stage of his life.

For the time being Ms Fiona Knight will be acting First Assistant Secretary role while I consider the shape of this role in the following months.

Mr Michael Healy, the Assistant Secretary, Capital Works Branch is currently on personal leave. Ms Knight will address any question in respect of building services and capital works. Mr Graeme Anderson, Assistant Secretary Security Branch is also on personal leave and Ms Saunders will address questions in respect of security matters.