

## **2024 PRESIDING OFFICERS' STATEMENT REGARDING THE CONDITION OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

This is the Presiding Officers' tenth annual statement on the condition of Parliament House. The Presiding Officers' statement continues as a response to a recommendation by the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee in its 2012 report on the performance of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS).

As one of the most visited and recognisable buildings in Australia the Presiding Officers commissioned a Building Condition Assessment Report (BCAR) in 2014–15. The report was due to the building's age and requirement for infrastructure renewal, to ensure its 200-year aspirational lifespan could be achieved. The BCAR outlined a 10-year program of works to address deterioration in the building fabric and preserve it into the future ensuring it will continue to meet the changing needs of parliament.

This report details capital works and maintenance programs that contribute to maintaining Parliament House and its precincts as befits its status as an iconic building and location of national significance.

The capital works and major building maintenance activities are outlined below.

### **CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM**

#### **Accessible bathrooms upgrade**

The project aims to upgrade 60 bathrooms to ensure compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*. As at 23 September 2024, 39 out of the 60 bathrooms have been completed. The remaining 21 bathrooms will be delivered at a rate of seven per annum over the next three years to minimise inconvenience to the operation of the building.

Baby change tables were added to the scope of the accessible bathroom project in 2023. There are 23 accessible bathrooms equally distributed through Parliament House identified for change table installation. As at 23 September 2024, 19 baby change tables have been installed. The final four will be programmed to be completed by the end of the 2024–25 financial year.

#### **Re-establishment of the Library Reading Room**

The re-establishment of the Library Reading Room is underway and includes designing a space consistent with original design intent. The design process has included liaising with the new Parliamentary Librarian and the expected dates for the design phase is January/February 2025 and the construction phase will run from April/May with project completion in September 2025.

#### **Fire systems and services upgrade**

This program of work focuses on enhancing various aspects of Parliament House's fire detection and suppression systems, and includes the replacement of 30 sliding fire doors within Parliament House. The project commenced in 2020, and the design and testing phase was completed in 2022. In 2023, a head contractor was appointed to commence the replacement program of all 30 sliding fire doors. As of 24 September 2024, 16 of the 30 doors

have been replaced and certified. The final 14 doors are due for replacement by the end of June 2025.

### **Heating and cooling systems (and other in-ceiling services) upgrade**

The heating and cooling infrastructure for Parliament House is a complex system that covers every space in the building and is at end-of-useful-life. Planning has commenced to define the requirements for a multi-disciplinary program of work aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of heating and cooling systems to ensure better control and improved comfort for all building occupants.

If approved, this program will be the largest capital works project since the construction of Parliament House. The program will include upgrades and replacements for heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), hydraulic services (hot and cold-water supply), integration with fire services, lighting, as well as acoustic and seismic treatments for ceilings.

The timing for delivery of this program of work will be dependent on the ability to relocate Parliament House building occupants for periods of time for access to the services above ceilings to undertake the work. Preliminary planning, investigations and early enabling works are underway and will progress in parallel to larger scale master planning activities.

### **Electrical and lighting systems upgrade**

The project to replace and upgrade inefficient light fittings with LED technology through both internal and external areas of the building continues. The scope of the external lights which will be replaced include the following:

- Inground lighting fixtures to the grass curved wall ramps.
  - This portion commenced in September 2024 and will be completed August 2025.
- Main forecourt inground sloped wall lights
  - Currently the lights have an approved design, with the physical replacement works scheduled to commence February 2025 for completion May 2025.
- Federation Mall inground flagpole lights
  - The replacement lights have been selected and the replacement of the lights is programmed to commence in November 2024 and complete December 2024.

The internal lighting project has progressed to the prototype stage where in principle design of LED fixtures have been accepted for site testing and evaluation. Suites have been selected within the Senate, House of Representatives and Ministerial areas of the building to trial the prototypes. The production of luminaires for performance viewing are scheduled for late October 2024.

### **Electric vehicle charging stations**

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Program includes the installation of 58 EV chargers across six car parks.

The program was completed in July 2024 with the following launch dates:

- 10 chargers in the public car park – 13 November 2023.

- 8 chargers in the Ministerial car park – 21 December 2023.
- 10 chargers in the Senators car park – 13 May 2024.
- 10 chargers in the Members car park – 13 May 2024.
- 10 chargers in the House of Representatives staff car park – 15 July 2024.
- 10 chargers in the Senate staff car park – 15 July 2024.

The completion of this program is a crucial step towards reducing global carbon emissions and providing convenient and efficient charging options for zero-emission vehicles. By strategically placing these EV chargers in car parks, the department is taking a significant step towards a greener and more sustainable future.

## **MAJOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

### **Maintenance work**

Throughout the 2023–24 period, various building maintenance tasks were carried out to ensure the optimal condition and functionality of the building infrastructure. These tasks included:

- assisting the ongoing capital works program, which involved supporting and contributing to the larger-scale construction projects taking place
- maintaining and preserving clear finish surfaces, such as timber windowsills, and cleaning and waxing of Class A and B furniture
- upgrading the infrastructure in 8 water supply pits located on Parliament Drive
- upgrading the Logical Operating Network in the central and north areas of the building
- implementing an ongoing interior painting program (approx. 50,55939,185.6m<sup>2</sup>) to maintain the appearance of walls, doors, and trims
- conducting re-sealing and replacement of parquet floors as needed to maintain their quality and safety
- replacing carpets (approx. 2,311.8m<sup>2</sup>) in general circulation areas to address wear and tear, and
- performing pressure cleaning on external windows and building walls in the Front, Senate and Ministerial wings of the building.

### **Commissioned and global furniture**

Furniture refurbishment, repair and reconditioning was completed throughout 2023-2024, to extend the useful life of 148 items. This number is less than the total of 694 in the year prior, due to the completion of rolling programs of work associated with repair of timber visitor chairs and conditioning of leather lounges. The 148 items refurbished, repaired and reconditioned in 2023-2024 include:

- refurbishment of 36 parliamentarian timber visitor chairs
- refurbishment of 27 ministerial tub chairs
- refurbishment and reconditioning of 72 leather lounges
- refurbishment of 3 timber box lounges

- refurbishment of Private Dining Room booth seats
- reconditioning of 4 timber benches in general circulation, and
- repair of 6 timber coffee tables.

In addition to the above, two interim rugs were installed in the Senate Spouses lounges while a project to undertake manufacture of original style replacements, was commenced.

### Ministerial Suite Activities

DPS has made progress in the ongoing program to refurbish ministerial suites to ensure appropriate presentation and function.

Since July 2022, 14 Ministerial suites have been refurbished and an additional suite is due for completion by the end of October 2024 with two more suites planned to be refurbished by the end of the Summer Recess 2024–25. Two ensuite refurbishments were also completed in 2023–24.

### Landscape maintenance

Notable Parliament House landscape activities undertaken in 2023–24 included:

- planted 1000 Callistemons on the Reqs and Senate banks (replacing Grevilleas)
- replaced 3 Chinese Elms in Senate courtyard 28L/M
- replaced a large Oak Tree in courtyard 28C, and
- planted and maintained 2 annual flower displays (over 7000 plants) in the Formal Gardens.

### Overview of principal maintenance works undertaken

The following table outlines a historical overview of maintenance works from 2018-19 to 2023–24:

Nature of works	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Painting (sq mtrs)	65,358	59,067	39,461	33,752	50,559	39,186
Re-seal of parquet flooring (sq mtrs)	14,614	10,047	6,937	14,352	12,600	10,703
All external glazing cleaned* (partial)	No	No	Yes	Yes	*Yes	Yes
All external walls cleaned* (partial)	No	No	Yes	*Yes	*Yes	Yes
No. of bathrooms or ensuites re-tiled	37	2	5	4	11	10
Replacement of carpet (sq mtrs)	3,700	5,235	3,448	722	1,105	2,312
Repair of expansion joints (lineal mtrs)	1,137	1,320	0	0	35	110
No. refurbished Status A & B furniture	739	617	816	481	694	148

The maintenance works undertaken in 2023–24 resulted in:

- 92% satisfaction rating with facilities and building condition, exceeding the target of 85%, and
- 98% satisfaction rating with landscape condition and appearance, exceeding the target of 85%.

*(Source: 2024 Building Occupant Satisfaction Survey)*