



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024–25  
Tuesday, 5 November 2024  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.25pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General
- Department of Finance
- ASC Pty Ltd
- Australian Naval Infrastructure
- Future Fund Management Agency
- Digital Transformation Agency
- Australian Electoral Commission
- Parliamentary Workplace Support Service
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- Decisions taken by the Council for the Order of Australia regarding the awarding and removal of individuals awards; and
- Implications of adverse legal findings versus reputational damage on honours and awards.

Department of Finance (Outcomes 1 & 2)

- Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook publication processes;
- Investigation of PWC by the Australian Federal Police;
- Decisions taken but not yet announced (DTBNYA) since the 2024-25 budget
- Commonwealth procurement and consequences of breaches to the code including consulting firms;
- NDIS Annual Financial Sustainability Reports;
- Progress of election commitments including Buy Australia Plan and Net Zero;
- Composition of the National Security Investment Subcommittee and its engagement with Defence on the Integrated Investment Program;
- PsiQuantum loan servicing arrangements; and
- Cost of living relief and real wages.

ASC Pty Ltd

- Recruitment of new ASC CEO and end of term for Mr. Stuart Whiley;
- Collins Class Submarine corrosion issues and Life of Type Extension program;
- ASC response to Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and Electrical Trades Union industrial action; and
- Selection of Orbis Sibro Inc as US AUKUS partner, the scope and necessity of an ORBIS gap analysis.

#### Australian Naval Infrastructure

- Timeline of appointment of new Chair; and
- KBR, AECOM, and Aurecon design of new South Australian SSN AUKUS construction yard.

#### Future Fund Management Agency

- Composition of the FFMA's investment portfolio and investment choices; and
- Appointment and meetings with the new Chair.

#### Digital Transformation Agency

- Microsoft Copilot trial program, applications and utility; and
- Procurement processes and whole of government discounts.

#### Department of Finance (Outcome 3)

- PEMS assessment of effectiveness report;
- ASL increase for the Department of the Senate;
- Changes to Senator travel allowance arrangements and electorate support budget as result of the MOPS Act employee bargaining;
- Considerations by the Government Staffing Committee regarding additional staff for independent and crossbench Senators; and
- Use of Special Purpose Aircraft, guidelines and reporting.

#### Australian Electoral Commission

- Preparations for the upcoming Federal Election and processes for ballot counting of 653 000 extra new voters;
- Future electoral legislation reform and specifically the AEC's capability to implement truth in advertising; and
- Voice Referendum auditing, scrutineering, costing, and processes relating to people who failed to vote.

#### Parliamentary Workplace Support Service

- Resourcing of the PWSS and the Independent Parliamentary Services Commission; and
- Communications to and feedback from parliamentary employees.

#### Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

- Reporting of expenses by parliamentarians and preparations for the upcoming federal election; and
- Reporting of expenses related to Special Purpose Aircraft and arrangements with Defence.