

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Senate Economics Reference Committee</b>
Date	Thursday 14 November 2024
Agency	Housing Australia
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## QUESTION

**Could you provide on notice who was a member of that group [HAFF Advisory Group] and how much was the total cost of the group?**

## RESPONSE:

The twelve members of the Housing Australia Future Fund Advisory Group were:

Ms Alison Miriams	Ms Mary Power
Mr Brendan Crotty	Mr Matt Linden
Ms Catharine Bowtell	Mr Michael Lennon
Ms Linda Cunningham	Ms Amanda Hempel
Mr Jeff Mitchell	Mr Richard Wynne
Mr Ivan Power	Mr Stephen Knight

Housing Australia paid \$200,708 in fees to members of the Advisory Group.

There were also additional costs associated with travel and catering, totaling \$3,922.

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## QUESTION

**There has been no other discussion, as far as you're aware, about the commitment of \$500 million by Mr Wayne Swan?**

## RESPONSE:

Housing Australia has no records of any discussions with Mr Wayne Swan around Cbus' potential commitment of \$500 million to the social and affordable housing sector.

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## QUESTION

**Who dealt with the one [FOI application] we got last week about the Cbus issues?**

## RESPONSE:

The Freedom of Information (FOI) decision-maker for the FOI decision issued to Senator Bragg on 5 November 2024 was the Housing Australia Chief of Staff.

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## QUESTION

- **What are the other two documents which haven't been released at all by Housing Australia?**
- **What is the status of those documents that haven't been released yet?**
- **And why are there so many redactions on the presentation to investors?**
- **On notice then, can you explain why the commercial sensitivity outweighs the public interest test here?**

## RESPONSE:

On 21 June 2024 a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was made, with the scope subsequently revised on 16 July 2024 for any correspondence/emails/communications between Cbus Super Fund and Housing Australia regarding disbursements from the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF), between November 2022 and 19 July 2024.

On 20 August 2024, Housing Australia made an access refusal decision under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) with respect to the two documents located by Housing Australia subject to the FOI request.

The two documents in question were:

- an email dated 23 December 2022 containing three attachments: "Advisory Group–Background briefing slides"; "HAFF work program summary" ; and "Budget extract October 2022"; and
- an email dated 27 June 2023, containing one attachment, being a financial modelling spreadsheet also associated with the HAFF.

On 5 November 2024, Housing Australia issued a new FOI decision to give access to parts of the first document.

In its decisions of 20 August and 5 November, Housing Australia determined that both documents were exempt from the operation of the FOI Act pursuant to section 7(2) of the FOI Act because they are documents in respect of Housing Australia's commercial activities for the purposes of Part II of Schedule 2 of the FOI Act.

Additional information from the first document that was considered less sensitive in terms of the exemption was released 5 November 2024.

The consideration of public interest is a separate matter under the FOI Act and not relevant in the application of section 7(2).