



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CLERK OF THE SENATE

D15/14109

10 April 2015

Ms Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

INQUIRY INTO PARLIAMENT HOUSE SECURITY UPGRADE WORKS

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the committee's inquiry.

The Senate department has no particular comment about the proposed security enhancements, other than to say it would expect to be consulted on aspects that would affect its staff and operations, and the operations of the Senate and its committees more broadly.

The legislation committee would have noted that the Senate has recently extended the remit of the re-badged Standing Committee on Appropriations, Staffing and Security. In tabling the report which recommended this extension, the Deputy President and Chair of the Procedure Committee, Senator Marshall, noted:

In the context of recent changes to the security environment in and around Parliament House, the committee is of the view that it would be prudent to strengthen the role of the Appropriations and Staffing Committee in maintaining a capacity to oversee security matters that affect the Senate and senators. While the Appropriations and Staffing Committee already has responsibility to consider the administration and funding of security measures affecting the Senate and to advise the President and the Senate, the committee considered that it would be appropriate for that responsibility to extend to security operations affecting the Senate. [*Senate Debates*, 25 March 2015, p. 43]

The Appropriations and Staffing Committee's 37th report, tabled in November 2002, called on the then President "to take appropriate measures to secure the building adequately, with the advice of the Commonwealth's security agencies and with appropriate consultation with, and notification to, senators." When a major round of security enhancements was undertaken from 2003, the committee was seen as an appropriate forum for ongoing briefings to senators about such works, a practice which may be usefully revived as this new round of works continues.

Let me know if I can provide any further information.

Yours sincerely

(Richard Pye)
Acting Clerk