

# Senate Standing Committee Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Supplementary Budget Estimates – 23 October 2019

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

**Topic:** SSCFADT - SBE - 23 OCT 2019 - Q95 - 310 St Kilda Road - Kitching

**Question reference number:** 95

**Senator:** Kimberley Kitching

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 6 December 2019

**Question:**

Can the department provide a status update in relation to the Defence property at 310 St Kilda Road, Melbourne?

**Answer:**

The Department of Defence divests property in accordance with the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy (the Policy), which stipulates that Commonwealth property is sold on the open market for full market value. The Policy also allows for off-market sales to a state, territory or local government, if a sale would optimise broader Government outcomes, including economic or social outcomes.

In 2019, the City of Melbourne (the Council) advised of its renewed interest in potentially acquiring 310 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, through an off-market sale process.

The building has not been occupied in over 20 years and would require significant refurbishment works to address building safety hazards and building code compliance to enable occupancy. The building has heritage values that will require ongoing protection and management by any future owner. Defence will ensure that a future owner has a financially viable strategy to maintain the heritage values, and to refurbish the building and reduce the safety risks to an acceptable level for occupation.

Defence is currently working with the Council to explore this opportunity, including interest by the Council in exploring the feasibility of an outcome to support a range of veteran's wellbeing services.