

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 28

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Building Lease Costs

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department?
2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:
 1. Date the lease agreement is active from.
 2. Date the lease agreement ends.
 3. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?
 4. Location of the building (City and state).
 5. Cost of the lease.
 6. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
3. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed during the specified period. Please detail by:
 1. Date from which the lease agreement was active.
 2. Date the lease agreement ended.
 3. Why was the lease not renewed?
 4. Location of the building (City and state).
 5. Cost of the lease.
 6. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
4. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:
 1. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.
 2. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.
 3. Expected location of the building (City and state).
 4. Expected cost of the lease.
 1. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
 5. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
5. For each building owned or leased by the department:
 1. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?
 2. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

Answer:

1. Total building lease expenses for the period 1 May to 31 October 2014 were \$2,796,163.91 (GST excl).

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2.

Lease Address (4)	Lease Start (1)	Lease End (2)	Renewal (3)	Lease Expenses (GST Exc) 1/5/14 to 31/10/14 (5)	Use (6)
38 Sydney Avenue Forrest ACT 2603	22 Nov 12	21 Nov 17	Yes	\$2,337,933.97	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Forrest ACT 2603	1 Aug 14	31 Jul 15	No*	\$ 375,187.50	Office accommodation
Level 18, St Martins Tower 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	1 July 14	30 Jun 17	Yes	\$ 50,715.98	Office accommodation
122-124 Gladstone St Fyshwick ACT	1 May 14	30 Apr 17	Yes	\$ 32,326.46	Warehouse/Storage facility

*The Department will consolidate its operations into one building in Canberra, therefore will not renew the lease at 44 Sydney Avenue

3. Nil. Previously the tenancy at 44 Sydney Avenue Forrest comprised two separate leases, these leases were combined into one new lease on 1 August 2014.
4. Nil.
5. The Department does not record this data in a way that would readily allow for this information to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of Department resources.