

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.3

Topic: Car park adjacent to the Department of Immigration

Senator: Seselja

Question reference number: F39

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 29, 28 May 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SESELJA: I did not want to focus on Immigration, but obviously that has been canvassed. Maybe this needs to be taken on notice, but it is my understanding that there are the existing large offices in Belconnen and that the car park adjacent to the immigration department—and correct me if I am wrong—is actually Commonwealth land, which is a rare thing. I understand that some of that car park space may actually be Commonwealth—is that correct?

Ms Halton: Yes. I think we will have to give you the precise details of that on notice. I think, from what I am being told, this is quite complex.

Senator SESELJA: Sure. Obviously if that is the case—and thank you for taking that on notice—there are possibly some opportunities that may not have been considered in terms of what model is needed for Immigration there.

Ms Halton: Very possibly.

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection's leased office accommodation in Belconnen is located on Blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4 Section 43 Belconnen which is classified as National (Commonwealth) Land. Block 2 Section 43 is currently used as a car park. An adjacent National Land site (Block 7 Section 50) is also used as a car park. These sites are subject to National Land Crown Leases between the Commonwealth (as represented by the Department of Finance (Finance)) and Benjamin Nominees (ACT) Pty Ltd, in regard to Block 2 Section 43 Belconnen, and Challenger Life Nominees Pty Ltd and Challenger Listed Investments Pty Ltd, in regard to Block 7 Section 50 Belconnen. As Finance is the National Land manager for the sites, it retains ownership of the underlying National Land and is responsible for the administration of the National Land Crown Leases.

At the creation of self-government in 1989, all ACT land became either National Land or Territory Land. The system of land management in the ACT is established under the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (Cth) which specifies that the Commonwealth Government is responsible for National Land and the ACT Government is responsible for Territory Land.