

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Car park works – boom gates**

Question: **19**

Hansard Reference **p 53; 25 May 2015**

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

Senator WONG: Did you also make the decision to spend—what was it—\$591,000 on car park works and \$375,000 on boom gates?

Mr Skill: No, that was not my decision.

Senator WONG: Who made that decision?

Mr Skill: I would have to check the briefing paper to see where it went to.

Senator WONG: DPS is here. Presumably, we have someone in DPS who can tell me how that decision was made.

Mr Skill: We will have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Oh, come on! Are you telling me that no one can tell me how nearly \$600,000 was spent?

Mr Skill: At the very least, it was approved by the secretary at the time. I cannot recall, and the reason I would like to take it on notice and confirm is to see whether or not there was a briefing to the Presiding Officers on—

Senator WONG: I appreciate there has been a change in leadership. We ask a lot of questions of a lot of departments. I find DPS's inability to answer questions about money extraordinary.

CHAIR: Senator Wong, as frustrating as you may find it, the officer has taken it on notice.

Answer

On 24 April 2014, the Presiding Officers formally agreed to the introduction of paid parking in the public car park at Parliament House in order to facilitate the availability of parking for members of the public visiting parliamentarians and Parliament House. The submission included detail on infrastructure requirements advising that the required number and style of machines and equipment could be procured and installed for approximately \$300,000 capital. This did not include design and project management costs or building works required to facilitate the installation of the equipment.

The First Assistant Secretary, as delegate, approved the expenditure of \$589,093 (ex GST) for the project. Of this amount, \$318,160 (ex GST) was attributable to the supply, installation and commissioning of the pay parking machines as originally approved by the Presiding Officers. The additional costs covered design, project management and associated building works required to enable the installation of the pay parking equipment.

Please also see the Department's response to Senate Question on Notice No. 2092.