

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Spraying in the Parliament House gardens**

Question: **134**

Written: **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

With reference to the Department of Parliamentary Services Information Circulars entitled Spraying in the APH gardens next week, such as that of 19 May 2017:

Is the sending of warning emails about spraying something that always occurs?

In general, have emails been sent in the past?

If not, is there a reason for the change in practice?

How many emails have been sent in 2016-17?

Answer

In March 2017, at the request of a Presiding Officer official, the DPS Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Secretary Building Services Branch met with a parliamentarian who had raised concerns about the use of chemicals on Parliament House gardens.

As a result of that meeting, DPS undertook to notify building occupants prior to the use of chemicals and fungicides in and around the Parliament House precinct.

The first notification was issued to building occupants on Friday 31 March. When spraying is scheduled, notifications have been sent each Friday to alert building occupants to activity in the grounds in the following week. As of 21 June 2017, 11 notifications had been issued in 2016-17.

In addition, one notification to building occupants was sent in the period, on 24 May 2017, relating to spraying within areas of APH to control a case-making moth infestation.

Prior to March 2017 the advice regarding spraying in the gardens was provided to internal stakeholders including the Usher of the Black Rod, the Serjeant-at-Arms. Thirty-five emailed notifications of this type were sent between 1 July 2016 and 24 March 2017.