

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Car Parking**

Question: **48**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

In relation to the failure of the Senate Wing car park gate on Friday, 16 October 2015.

1. When were building occupants made aware of this failure, if at all?
2. What steps are being undertaken to compensate pass holders who would usually park in the Senate Wing car park, including staff of Senators, staff of the Department of Parliamentary Services, and Media, where these pass holders were informed to “use another car park” and were required to pay for parking?
3. Will parking charges be waived or reimbursed?
4. What steps has the Department of Parliamentary Services taken to ascertain the cause of this failure?
5. What was the cause of the failure, if known?
6. What would have happened if a similar failure had occurred on the exit gates, trapping pass holder vehicles in the car park?
7. How many failures have occurred in 2015?

Answer

1. Parliamentary Security Service officers advised pass holders as they attempted to enter the car park of the issue with the gates and that for the safety of workers attempting to repair the gates access could not be granted at that time.

Building Occupants were advised at 10.50 via email of the issue and that it had now been resolved and pass holders could relocate their vehicles.

2. There is no compensation provision available for these circumstances. Pass holders who are unable to park in the Senate car park, for any reason (eg park is full or temporarily unavailable) would then seek to park elsewhere.

3. There is currently no provision for the waiving of parking fees.

Vehicles exempt from the pay parking arrangements only include the following:

- a. Emergency services vehicles (including Police, Fire Brigade/Hazmat, Ambulance);
 - b. Parliament House maintenance vehicles;
 - c. Coaches and buses with a seating capacity of over 12 seats;
 - d. Vehicles belonging to customers who spend over \$25.00 or more in the Parliament House Shop (excluding ticketed events and lost tickets) can present their ticket for validation at the time of purchase; and
 - e. Bicycles.
4. This incident (16/10/2015) and all faults or failures are investigated by DPS Maintenance staff to ascertain cause.
 5. The gate was struck by an entering vehicle which hit a safety sensor rendering the gate inoperable. There was no failure of the gate prior to the vehicular impact.

6. If this was to occur, on-site maintenance staff would first attempt to manually open the gate, and PSS officers are stationed to supervise safe egress and ensure the exit is not used as an entrance. If a manual open is not possible, PSS officers, working with the AFP for traffic management will use a system of directing cars to the entrance in batches to ensure safe egress.
7. Our logging system has recorded within the Senate car park 7 calls for faults of the Entry and Exit gates from January 2015 to November 2015, one of which was the incident on 16 October 2015.