

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Strategic accommodation review**

Question: **33**

Written: **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

With reference to the strategic accommodation review and evidence at the 2016-17 Budget Estimates from Mr Stefanic that “I understand the consultants are still finalising their consultations. Then, of course, they will be writing a report to us. But as to what stage that is at, I believe they are due to provide the report to us by sometime in July.”

1. Has the report been provided?
 - a. If not, why not and when is it now expected?
2. Who was ultimately consulted?
3. Has it been published?
4. When will senators and members be able to see it, if they have not already?
5. What about building occupants who will be directly affected?
6. Is there an option to extend the ministerial wing as part of the review?

Answer

1. The first draft report was provided to the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services on 31 October 2016. The 2016 election delayed consultation with members and senators which, in turn, delayed progress of the draft report.
2. A number of stakeholders were consulted including:
 - officers of the Department of Parliamentary Services, including the Parliamentary Library
 - officers of the Department of the House of Representatives
 - officers of the Department of the Senate
 - officers of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance
 - officers of the Parliamentary Budget Office
 - external tourism authorities.
 - Senator David Bushby
 - Senator Anne McEwen
 - Senator Rachel Siewert (via email)
 - Mr George Christensen MP
 - Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP
 - Mr Warren Entsch MP
 - Staff from the offices of the Minister for Finance and the Special Minister of State
3. No. Consultation continues with parties including the moral rights representatives.

4. The final report will be delivered to the Presiding Officers for consideration. Any decision to release the plan will be by agreement of the Presiding Officers.
5. The accommodation review is intended to prepare options for dealing with the current space pressures and demands on the capacity and performance of Australian Parliament House (APH), as well as options that would ensure the building is able to accommodate foreseeable needs over the next 25 years.
6. The draft report considers many options for managing an expanding population within APH. Some of the options considered include studies performed previously by Mr Romaldo Giurgola and GMB Architects. One option within the study by Mr Giurgola in 2012 includes an extension of the Ministerial Wing. This option for expansion was contemplated during the original design of APH.