

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/020) - Cost-benefit analysis of new headquarters - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 42) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: And I asked the question: in any cost-benefit analysis surely that would have to be a consideration.

Mr Pezzullo: I am not sure that it mandatorily is undertaken every time, but I will ask the chief operating officer if departments are obligated to check it on each and every occasion. Of course, the counterfactual is that in order to achieve that state you have to borrow those funds and outlay the cash in the year of incurring the debt. So these are larger government questions; they are not really matters for my department.

Senator KIM CARR: Sure. It is reported here that the cost per metre—

Mr Pezzullo: Sorry, Senator. We will take on notice the specific question of whether—not at a whole-of-government level, because that is not us; that is Finance—departments are obligated to have a comparator based around an owned building, which I think is your question.

Answer:

The Department's Headquarters proposal complied with all the requirements of the Commonwealth's Property Management Framework and was endorsed by the Minister for Finance on 3 May 2016. Compliance with the Framework does not require departments to cost a comparator based around an owned building. Any other questions on the Framework should be directed to the Department of Finance.