

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Budget Estimates 2013  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

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**Department/Agency:** Department of the Senate

**Topic:** Maintenance/lighting upgrades in certain senators' offices

**Senator:** Senator Kroger

**Question reference number:** 2

**Type of Question:** Oral

**Question**

**Senator Kroger asked about lighting rectification in the Whips' offices and the Usher of the Black Rod undertook to provide further information about this project.**

**Answer**

On 23 November 2012, Senator Kroger's office was asked to suggest a suitable time for work to occur in December in relation to the proposed lighting rectification project in the offices of the Chief Opposition and Deputy Opposition Whips between December 2012 and January 2013.

In discussions with Senator Kroger's office, suitable dates were explored (e.g. at a time when staff would be on leave) and the period 17-21 December 2012 was agreed. Senators' Services were not advised that staff would be flown to electorate offices until after the DPS advice that the work would not go ahead. If this had been known, the project could have taken place on a weekend or temporary accommodation at Parliament House could have been arranged.

On 17 December, Senators' Services sought advice from the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) and was advised that the work would not proceed due to delays on the same project on the House of Representatives side. Prior to this there had been no indication to Senators' Services that the project had fallen behind schedule.

DPS have now proposed that the work will take place on a weekend and Senator Kroger's office has nominated either 23-24 March 2013 or 30-31 March 2013. Discussions have been held with DPS about the need to maintain this schedule.

Discussions are also underway regarding this work taking place in the suites of the President, the Deputy President and some other senators.