

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliament Portfolio

Department of Parliamentary Services

Estimates 2004-05, May 2004

Question: P9

Topic: Cabinet Room Furniture Replacement and Conservation

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Senator FAULKNER—What furniture was replaced? What was written off and replaced and what stayed and had conservation work done on it?

Mr Smith—I do not know the exact list, from memory, but I certainly could provide that to you on notice.

Answer:

During the Committee hearing, the Committee was provided with a document dated 21 May 2004 which took the form of a minute from Mr Phil Kuczma to Mr Andrew Smith, Executive Leader Operations. This document provided details of the current expenditure to date and the best estimate available at the time of the future costs for the repairs to the Cabinet Room following the flooding incident. This document showed a cost estimate of \$229,652.61 to repair and replace the damaged furniture.

The furniture in the Cabinet Suite was specifically made as a complete and integrated furniture group. The flood-damaged furniture items were assessed by the insurance assessors, DPS staff and conservation experts to evaluate the extent of damage and to initiate a rectification strategy. At the time of presenting the estimate to the Committee the condition assessment was complete but the cost estimates were still being assessed. Estimates have now been finalised at \$300,000.

The original estimate did not allow for the conservation treatment of the Cabinet Room table and the purchase of leather for all conserved items.

The furniture assessment fell into 2 major groups:

Furniture that is to be 'written off' and replaced at a cost estimate of \$200,000 consists of:

28 of the 32 Cabinet Room chairs (the remaining 4 chairs will be replaced using other funds to ensure the set is matched);

5 of the 24 Cabinet Committee Room chairs (the remaining 19 chairs will be replaced using other funds to ensure the set is matched);

3 three-seater fabric Cabinet Anteroom lounges;

6 one-seater fabric Cabinet Anteroom lounges;

4 one-seater Brumby leather Waiting Room lounges;

1 small timber television cabinet; and

1 projector screen.

Furniture to undergo conservation treatment at a cost estimate of \$100,000 consists of:

1 Cabinet Room main table;

4 Cabinet Room attendant desks;

4 timber coat racks;

6 leather waste bins;

1 Cabinet Committee Room main table;

3 Cabinet Committee Room attendant desks;

4 Brumby nubuck leather visitors chairs;

1 Dining table and 16 fabric chairs;

4 three-seater Brumby leather Waiting Room timber-framed lounges;

5 bronze and stone low tables;

5 assorted small timber tables; and

4 ash desks.