

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
—Budget Estimates May 2009**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Stability of trees in Parliamentary Precincts

Question P11, Hansard reference F&PA 42

Senator CAMERON—I am not a horticulturalist either but given that we are going to be facing some more extreme weather conditions, it has been put to me that there are some problems with some of the trees on the driveways and grounds around Parliament House, that they may not be stable in some pretty high winds. I have confidence that the staff are doing everything okay but could you give me some advice on that in case I am asked a question again?

Mr Thompson—We would have to come back to you, Senator.

Answer

1 Many of the trees growing within the Parliamentary landscape have shallow roots. This is due to sandy soil conditions on top of a hard clay pan.

2 Consequently, Landscape Services conducts regular risk assessments on the trees within the landscape.

3 The assessments of the trees take into account OH&S risks, including the risk of branches or an entire tree falling on people and property. DPS employs several staff who are qualified in arboriculture who recommend tree removal or other risk-mitigation work, as appropriate.