

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2009-10**

Department of The Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Department/Agency:** National Archives of Australia

**Outcome/Output Group:** Not applicable

**Topic:** Efficiency Dividend

**Senator:** Senator RONALDSON

**Question reference number:** PM107

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2009

**Number of pages:** [1]

**Answer:**

As part of its business and budget planning cycle, the Archives focuses on confirming its priority activities and core functions and identifying areas of non-discretionary expenditure. Where internal budget reductions are required, these are targeted at non-priority areas, to ensure that the Archives' legislative requirements continue to be met.

The Archives is mandated to have custody of the archival records of the Commonwealth. These records amount to approximately 360 kilometres of shelf metres, stored in thirteen properties Australia-wide. These properties are environmentally controlled to assist with long-term preservation of the records. The Archives has leasing arrangements in all properties and therefore has significant property related operating expenditure. To lessen the impact of the efficiency dividend, when relevant leases become due for renewal, the Archives is negotiating with landlords to move from market rent review lease arrangements to CPI or fixed rate lease arrangements. The Archives is also investigating options for more efficient environmental controlling of the records which may also assist in achieving the efficiency dividend. As a result of the efficiency dividend, the Archives now only undertakes its traveling exhibitions activities when it is successful in obtaining third-party sponsorship to fund the associated expenditure.