

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2011

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Illumination of the Parliament House flag during Earth Hour**

Question: **45**

Hansard reference **F&PA p.40, 23 May 2011**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Senator FIFIELD: Thank you. With the Parliament House flagpole, the protocol is that a flag flown at night should be illuminated. I assume that the illumination of the Parliament House flag was maintained during Earth Hour.

...

Mr Kenny: There is also an issue of—I will not say it is of aircraft safety—rules relating to high objects being lit as distinct from flag being lit.

Senator FIFIELD: True, they tend to be red flashing lights on the top of buildings and things. If you could check and come back to us while we are still in session—

Ms Tahapehi: I will attempt to.

Answer

1 The Civil Aviation Safety Authority advised in March 2008 that floodlighting of the Parliament House flagpole was not to be reduced as the Parliament House flagpole “penetrates the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces of the Canberra Airport”.

2 The lighting of the Parliament House flagpole has not been changed for any of the Earth Hour events.