

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.2

**Topic:** Construction of ASIO building

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** F44

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 6 July 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Provide an update of the construction of the new Central Office for ASIO.

**Answer:**

As at 24 May 2012 the building design is 100 per cent complete and construction is approximately 92 per cent complete. Construction is currently focusing on installation and testing of the building services; installation of office fitout components, which is well advanced; and the hard and soft landscaping works, which are due to be completed in a few months.

The building works were scheduled for completion in mid 2012 and are now due for completion in November 2012. This delay is due to the complex security and commissioning requirements of the building, and the performance of associated sub contractors. This will delay ASIO's occupation of the building, previously scheduled for December 2012, until February or March 2013.

The Project budget was approved by the Government in August 2008 and was subsequently revised down to \$589.2 million in May 2009 to reflect the departure of the Office of National Assessments from the Project. The budget has since been increased by \$41.6 million to \$630.8 million (7 per cent increase). The budget increase is to address forecast additional costs largely attributed to contractors underestimating the extent and cost of their works on this highly complex project.

The Project is currently projected to be completed within seven per cent of its approved budget and within six per cent of the approved program, both of which were approved by the Government in 2008.