

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Bird deterrent**
Question: **61**
Hansard reference **F&PA p.35, 21 May 2012**

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

Senator KROGER: I want to ask about birds—magpies eating people's food. Is that right?... I understand a study into their behaviour has been commissioned. Can you confirm that is the case?

...

Mr Edwards: Presumably, you are talking about the public cafe and the issue of birds coming in through the door when it opens. There is an automatic door opener and the cunning magpies are coming in as the door opens and causing a bit of an issue in the cafe. I understand we are looking at different options and even some type of bird scaring tactics to try to keep those birds out so they do not cause a public health hazard. Beyond that I have no further details.

Senator KROGER: There is a request on the request register, reference CR12-028 specifically in relation to this. I presume there is a costing, although the costing is not listed against this item on the request register.

Mr Edwards: I do not have an answer immediately available. I could take that on notice and get further information.

Senator KROGER: If you could. I am interested to know what the study involves, what the cost is, who is undertaking the study. I understand, as you mentioned, that a bird deterrent unit was an option. If you could furnish me with more information about that, that would be helpful. I also understand that this was commissioned some six months ago. Would that be right?

Mr Edwards: That would be about the time frame, yes, but I am not sure of the details.

Senator KROGER: If you could provide me with that subsequently that would be very helpful.

Mr Edwards: Certainly.

Answer

A request for capital funding (CR-12-028) for a Bird Deterrent System was registered on 16 November 2011. The request was for the purchase and installation of a bird deterrent system for the Staff Dining Room and Queen's Terrace Café outdoor areas, which would cost in the order of \$10,000.

An internal strategic assessment report dated 12 January 2012 noted that the suggested solution had received mixed reviews from users of similar systems.

At this point, the work is not in the approved Capital Works Program.