

## Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Renaming of Parkes place

**Senator:** Senator Milne

**Question reference number:** 37

**Type of Question:** FPA P66 - 67, 21 May 2012

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator MILNE: I want to follow-up some questions Senator Faulkner asked in February this year in relation to the renaming of the east-west road in the Parliamentary Zone from Parkes Place to the Queen Elizabeth Terrace. Given that Parkes Place is named after Sir Henry Parkes, the father of Federation, I find it extraordinary that we should be renaming even part of Parkes Place Queen Elizabeth Terrace. I think most people would find that quite a backward step. Who proposed renaming Parkes Place in the first place? I know in your answers to Senator Faulkner you said that this had been worked through with the National Capital Authority. Who proposed it? Did the government propose that in the first place? Where did this proposition come from that Parkes Place be renamed Queen Elizabeth Terrace?

Ms Leon: I will get back to you about the question of who first proposed it, but perhaps it will help if I just give a little more explanation about the physical geography of Parkes Place and the reason that that portion of Parkes Place is appropriate to be renamed. Parkes Place is actually a quadrangle; Parkes Place is a place, in the English sense, of being a quadrangle surrounded by roads. The roads running along the side of Parkes Place will continue to be called Parkes Place East and Parkes Place West respectively. The part of the road that will be renamed will thus be the fourth in a series of east-west roads in the Parliamentary Triangle that have been successively named after reigning monarchs since Federation?the first of those, of course, Queen Victoria Terrace and then King Edward Terrace. Renaming that part of Parkes Place will complete that series of roads named after reigning monarchs that run east-west in the Parliamentary Triangle. As to whose thought that was initially, I might just have to consult with Mr Leverett, but if we do not have that information with us I will be happy to take it on notice for you.

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Mr Leverett: We will have to take it on notice.

**Answer:** The Department prepared advice for Government that included a range of options to recognise the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. As part of that process, the Department contacted the National Capital Authority (NCA) and sought advice as to whether there was scope for the Diamond Jubilee to be recognised in some way within the parliamentary triangle.

The NCA provided a range of possible options for consideration, all of which were included in the advice that went to Government. The decision by Government to rename the east-west section of Parkes Place Queen Elizabeth Terrace was one of the options proposed by the NCA.

As a result of the Government's decision on this matter, the NCA has advised that it has prepared a comprehensive heritage management plan, compliant with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, to protect the heritage values, including commemorative intent, of the original Parkes Place and National Rose Gardens. The heritage management plan is available to the public via the NCA website.

A copy of the heritage management plan was provided to The Sir Henry Parkes Foundation. Further, the proposal has been discussed by the Chief Executive of the NCA with the Chairman of The Sir Henry Parkes Foundation (himself a descendant of Sir Henry Parkes) and the Foundation has expressed itself as comfortable with the proposed change.