

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Renaming of Parkes Place

Senator: Senator Faulkner

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Question:

Senator FAULKNER: I am not suggesting that it is not appropriate to recognise and celebrate the longevity of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. I just wondered how this issue was dealt with given that Parkes Place is named after, obviously, a very prominent Australian.

Ms Leon: These issues were worked through in some detail with the National Capital Authority, which is charged with the appropriate naming of streets in the Parliamentary Zone. They take into account the significance of names of particular streets given the contribution made by the people after whom they are named.

Senator FAULKNER: I look forward to that further detail on notice and I might follow it through at a later stage. [...]

Answer: The government's recognition of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen was the subject of discussion and consideration over many months. That process included detailed and on-going consultation with the National Capital Authority about options for some physical recognition within the national capital.

The outcome of those consultations was a decision to rename part of "Parkes Place" "Queen Elizabeth Terrace". The consultation process considered a range of potential sensitivities.

Historically, Parkes Place was gazetted in 1928 as the parkland area in front of Old Parliament House. That green lawn area is still officially Parkes Place. Initially there were very few roads in the vicinity, but over time, as roads were developed in the area, they came to also carry the name Parkes Place.

Under the proposal to recognise the Diamond Jubilee, the northern most part of Parkes Place, running east-west near the edge of Lake Burley Griffin, will be renamed

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Queen Elizabeth Terrace. The north-south roads running along the east and west boundaries of the Parkes Place parkland, will continue to be known as Parkes Place, but will officially be renamed Parkes Place East and Parkes Place West.

The renaming of the northern segment of Parkes Place will continue the historical practice of naming east-west roads in the Parliamentary triangle after reigning monarchs since Federation. Starting behind Old Parliament House is Queen Victoria Terrace, then moving north King George Terrace and King Edward Terrace.

Queen Elizabeth Terrace will complete the naming of the four east-west roads in the Parliamentary triangle.