

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Parliament Drive**
Question: **151**
Hansard reference **F&PA p.53, 15 October 2012**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Senator KROGER:... I do not know what we call the ring road—

Ms Mills: Parliament Drive.

Senator KROGER: Is that the immediate road around Parliament House?

Ms Mills: Yes.

Senator KROGER: Is the speed monitored? Are you aware of whether the speed limit is monitored around Parliament Drive?

Ms Mills: The speed limit is 40 kilometres an hour, and I would have to take the second part of that question on notice. I believe it is monitored but by what means I will have to come back to you on.

Senator KROGER: Are you aware if the police have actually had mobile speed cameras in the precinct?

Ms Mills: No, I am not. I know that the ACT police would be ultimately responsible, as they are for car parking breaches in the public car park. So I would presume they have an entitlement to do that, but I have not been briefed on that issue.

Senator KROGER: If ACT police were going to monitor traffic in any way on Parliament Drive, would it be the normal course of action that they would advise the department and you would have some interaction so you would know what was going on?

Ms Mills: No. I think they would treat these roads as they would any other road in the ACT. I think I accidentally said 40 kilometres an hour; I meant to say 50.

Senator KROGER: It is very interesting that you have just corrected yourself on that, because the question of what the speed limit is has been put to me and, depending where you are on Parliament Drive, whether there is any signage and whether people are aware of that. I do not know whether the department has looked into that before. If ACT police are monitoring that then it certainly begs the question of whether there is sufficient signage so that people know what is expected of them. If you could take on notice whether the police have been surveilling the area and, if they have had speed cameras in the area, when that was.

Ms Mills: Yes.

Answer

The speed limit on Parliament Drive is 50 kilometres per hour. Speed limit signs are located on the approaches to Parliament Drive from Commonwealth Avenue, Kings Avenue and Melbourne Avenue.

There is a standing approval for police to perform traffic operations in the Parliamentary Precincts. The speed of vehicles on Parliament Drive is periodically monitored by the Australian Capital Territory Police; at their initiative. Mobile speed cameras are not used; typically police use laser speed detection instruments.

Prior to undertaking speed monitoring operations, police would notify the on-site Australian Federal Police (Uniformed Protection), who would advise the parliamentary departments.