

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

Question No. 231

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

- a) What projects were undertaken during the caretaker period before the November 2004 election?
- b) What were the costs of these projects?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) Please see the list in the attached document "Office of Parliamentary Counsel election period projects".

b) Individual projects were not costed. They were undertaken by OPC staff (predominantly by drafting staff) whose other work had reduced because of the caretaker convention period during which little drafting work is done.

Office of Parliamentary Counsel election period projects

	Project	Progress
1	Incoming Government brief	Completed.
2	Preparation of Bills for re-introduction	Word Note 38 revised and the Reintroduce Bill macro rewritten and issued.
3	Continue to consolidate Drafting Directions	Consolidated and revised Drafting Directions and index issued.
4	Enhance Checker macro	New Editorial and Drafting Checklists for Checker issued.
5	A Bill to change reference from “disallowable instruments” to the appropriate term under the Legislative Instruments Act	Draft provisions prepared for inclusion in Bills introduced in 2005 and 2006.
6	Reviewing and updating material on finding up-to-date text of Acts etc	Revised IT Circular released.
7	Reviewing the system for circulating AGS opinions within OPC	Review completed and new system implemented.
8	Reviewing and updating the Legislation Process Course notes Reviewing the approach to booking places on the Legislation Process Course	Both tasks completed.
9	Updating of Amending Forms Manual	An updated Amending Forms Manual was released.
10	Preparation of an Editorial Manual	An updated Editorial Manual was released.
11	Updating the materials for presentation to first year university students	Material updated.
12	Review of material held in loose-leaf and electronic form	Review completed and implemented.
13	Initial work on some sort of history of OPC	A large amount of material has been collected and indexed using a database.
14	Models for Statutory bodies	Draft Drafting Direction prepared. This has not been finalised as it needs to incorporate the approaches adopted in the light of the Uhrig review.
15	Work on amendments of the Acts Interpretation Act (the AIA)	Initial work done reviewing previous proposals for amendments.

	Project	Progress
16	Work on Studybank conditions etc.	Revised Office Procedural Circular has been issued.
17	Statute Law Bill	Bill was drafted.
18	Review Office Procedural Circular on drafters' financial and private interests	Revised Office Procedural Circular was issued.
19	Review APC 1 selection documentation	Revised APC 1 selection documents completed by election.
20	Preparation of a tax drafting manual	An approach and structure was developed and appropriate headings worked out. Commenced drafting of manual and made substantial progress on some topics.
21	Work on TLIP proposals	Draft Drafting Direction prepared and subsequently issued.
22	Customs amending forms	Customs amending forms manual completed.