

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 32

Senator Brown asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:

Regarding the new ASIO headquarters being built in the Parliamentary Triangle:

1. What was the initial budgeted cost of the building? Has this figure changed as building has progressed?
2. What has it cost to date?
3. What is the estimated final cost of the building? When is it due to be completed?
4. Are the costs of the building being met from ASIO's operating budget? If not, where is the money coming from?
5. Have any alterations been made to the design since building began? If so, what have the alterations been and why were they made?

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

1. The initial budgeted cost of the building, approved in March 2007, was \$460.0m. The budget was appropriated across the three project sponsors: \$254.5m to Finance for the base building works, \$186.6m to ASIO for its tenancy fit-out and \$17.8 m to ONA for its fit-out.

An additional \$146.2m of funding for the project was identified in the 2008-09 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook process after detailed architectural, engineering, construction and cost planning identified the additional investment would be required to deliver the functional capacity originally intended for the new facility. This brought the total budget for the building and fit-out works to \$606.2m.

The project budget was reduced by \$17.0m to \$589.2m following ONA's withdrawal.

2. As at 31 January 2011, approximately 77 per cent (or the equivalent of \$387m) of the Delivery Phase works by the Managing Contractor, Bovis Lend Lease, has been committed, and 32 per cent of the total budget has been expended.
3. The Project is running within the \$589.2 m budget. The Project is currently on schedule with the expected handover to ASIO on target for mid-2012.
4. The costs of construction and fit out of the building are being met from the appropriated project budget.
5. Minor modifications to the design have occurred as a result of feedback from the National Capital Authority (NCA) Works Approval process and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation ACT 1999 referral process, from issues which emerged during the detailed design, and in response to on site construction issues.