

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 36

Senator Brandis asked the following questions at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: If you know what it was, tell us the cost to the AFP of reshooting so as to put Ms Gillard in the frame, as it were.

Mr Wood: I do not know the cost and I did not say—

Senator BRANDIS: Has it been costed?

Mr Wood: I very much doubt it has been costed.

Senator BRANDIS: Can I ask you to take on notice the exercise of working out how much time was involved in reshooting so as to replace Mr Rudd with Ms Gillard, please.

Senator Ludwig: Chair, I think they are able to take on notice what information they have available, but if they are being asked to go away and individually cost it, it may in fact be less than the value of the time that would take. I am not disputing that the senator might want that information, but I question what they are taking on notice. Are they taking on notice to check the records to see whether or not they have that information? Or are they taking on notice to go away and cost it?

Senator BRANDIS: If I may respond, since it is my question, what I want is to know how much it cost. If the information is already extant, then it can be provided. If it is not extant, I would nevertheless still want to know how much it cost. Therefore, necessarily that exercise should be undertaken. If I may say, Senator Ludwig, that was, when the situations were different, the most commonly asked question by your former leader, Senator Faulkner, in these estimates committees. It is completely commonplace. I am sure you know that.

Senator Ludwig: I am not disputing that; I am just making sure it is plain what the officers are being asked to go and do.

Senator BRANDIS: I hope I have clarified it.

Senator Ludwig: Thank you, Senator Brandis.

Mr Wood: Can I be clear: it is the cost to the AFP.

Senator BRANDIS: Just the cost to the AFP of substituting Ms Gillard for Mr Rudd. We know the emotional cost to the Labor Party, but I want to know the economic cost to the AFP.

...

Mr Negus: There is no use, in my view, having something which could quite easily be fixed with a couple of hours of effort at the cost of maybe—I will not speculate on the cost—

Senator BRANDIS: Don't, because you have told us you do not know.

Mr Negus: Because we are going to get that. But for a very moderate cost it made the show contemporary, and that was the production company's request, which we agreed to.

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

One Close Personal Protection (CPP) Officer and one liaison officer from Corporate Communications were required on 25 October 2010 to shoot new footage for the CPP episode as requested by the production company. Total employee costs for the five hour shoot are calculated at approximately \$1035.