

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Question No. 104

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

- a) How many car spaces does the Commonwealth own in the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. Can this also please be broken down, by agency or by location?
- b) How many car spaces does the Commonwealth allocate to staff within the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. Can this also please be broken down, by agency or by location?
- c) Has the Government sought any modelling on the impact of the imposition of paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. If so, can that please be provided?
- d) If paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle were to be imposed, would the Australian Government be liable to pay fringe benefits tax for the car spaces that it owns?
- e) Has there been any correspondence between the Minister and the ACT Government on the issue of paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. If so, what was the date of that correspondence?
 - ii. If so, who was the correspondence with?
 - iii. If so, what was the nature of that correspondence?
 - iv. If so, can that correspondence be provided?

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

a) In November 2009 the National Capital Authority (NCA) on behalf of the Intergovernmental Committee on Parking (IGC) engaged Datacol Research Pty Ltd (Datacol) to undertake parking surveys within the Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Russell. All parking within the Parliamentary Zone is located on land managed by the Australian Government.

There are a total of 7243 car parking spaces within the Parliamentary Zone, of which 6690 were surveyed by Datacol during November-December 2009, and in March 2010. The House of Representatives car park at Parliament House was not surveyed by Datacol as access for survey purposes was denied. The ACT Government Department of Territory and Municipal Services have indicated that this car park contains 553 spaces.

Attachment A provides details of off-street parking supply by location (including maps), along with details of on-street parking. Utilisation rates (or demand for parking) are also included. This attachment includes only those car parking spaces surveyed by Datacol.

- b) Of all parking within the Parliamentary Zone, 351 car parking spaces require a 'B Class' (or Government vehicle) permit to park. Of these:
 - 312 spaces are located off-street and are long-stay parks;
 - 14 spaces are located off-street and are short-stay parks; and
 - 25 are located on-street and are long-stay parks.

Some of these spaces are indicated as 'reserved' (for example by a name plate) however there is no legal mechanism to enforce the reservation of these spaces. There are also a number of other car parks indicated as 'reserved' and no Government permit is required, however again there is no legal mechanism to enforce the reservation of these spaces.

Holders of 'B Class' permits are not guaranteed a parking space in a particular location. Reciprocal agreements between Government agencies (including the ACT Government) mean that any Government employee with a 'B Class' permit may park in any space indicated as requiring the permit to park.

Other car parking spaces do not have the above restrictions, however are within areas with restricted access for use by employees of particular Government agencies or Parliamentarians only. Restricted access parking includes car parking spaces located in areas where a pass (allocated only to a limited number of people) is required to go through some form of physical barrier (such as a boom gate).

The following list provides details of where long-stay off-street Government permit parking is located, and where restricted access parking is located within the Parliamentary Zone:

- John Gorton Building and surrounding car parks – 133 spaces require a Government permit to park; and a further 29 spaces are within a restricted access parking area;
- Questacon – 65 spaces are located within a restricted access parking area;
- National Gallery of Australia – 17 spaces require a Government permit to park; and a further 179 spaces are within restricted access parking areas;
- High Court – 128 spaces are within a restricted access parking area;
- National Portrait Gallery – 38 spaces are within a restricted access parking area;
- Treasury Building and surrounding car parks – 88 spaces require a Government permit to park;
- National Library of Australia – 12 spaces require a Government permit to park;
- West Block – 28 spaces require a Government permit to park;
- East Block – 9 spaces require a Government permit to park; and
- Parliament House – 1488 are within restricted access parking areas. This figure includes those car parks within the House of Representatives car park not surveyed by Datacol. Twenty-five of these spaces (within the Senate and Ministerial car parks) require a Government permit to park.

All off-street short-stay parking spaces are located at Parliament House.

The 25 on-street long-stay parking spaces are located in small numbers (2-7 spaces) around the High Court, on Newlands Street, Parkes Place East, Parkes Place West, Parliament Square East, and Parliament Square West.

c) In April 2009 the NCA on behalf of the Intergovernmental Committee on Parking (IGC) engaged GTA Consultants (GTA), a specialist transport and parking management consultant, to develop car parking management strategies for National Land in Barton, Parkes and Russell. GTA will investigate various car parking management options available, including pay parking, and will provide recommendations to the IGC.

GTA are scheduled to provide draft car parking management options to the NCA by end July 2010. Once the IGC have finalised their recommended approach to parking management, a report on the approach and associated implementation plan will be made public.

d) The implementation of paid parking in the Parliamentary Zone has the potential to affect individual Government agency budgets. Australian Government agencies could attract a Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) liability for each parking space provided to an employee.

An FBT liability will eventuate where the employer provided parking is within one-kilometre of a commercial car parking station that charges more than the car parking threshold (\$7.25 for the 2009-2010 FBT year which ran from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010).

e) On 14 July 2009 the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, wrote to the ACT Chief Minister supporting his suggestion that a joint working party be formed to consider parking options in the Parliamentary Zone and Russell and advising that an Intergovernmental Committee on Parking would be convened to assist in resolving the long standing parking issues in the Parliamentary Zone and adjacent areas. This letter also sought nominees from the ACT Government to participate in the IGC. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Attachment A

List of figures/tables

Figure 1 – identifies the locations of off street parking areas within the Parliamentary Zone (Capital Hill), including utilisation rates (or demand for parking) on Parliamentary sitting and non-sitting days. Where a car park is represented by a number only, the figure should be read in conjunction with **Table 1**. Only those car parks surveyed by Datacol are included.

Figure 2 – identifies the locations of off street parking areas within the Parliamentary Zone (north of Capital Hill), including utilisation rates (or demand for parking) on Parliamentary sitting and non-sitting days. Where a car park is represented by a number only, the figure should be read in conjunction with **Table 1**. Only those car parks surveyed by Datacol are included.

Table 1 – details off-street parking within the Parliamentary Zone by location, including utilisation rates on Parliamentary non-sitting and sitting days. Only those car parks surveyed by Datacol are included.

Table 2 – details on-street parking within the Parliamentary Zone by location, including utilisation rates on Parliamentary non-sitting and sitting days. Only those car parks surveyed by Datacol are included.

Figure 1: Off-street parking within the Parliamentary Zone (Capital Hill)

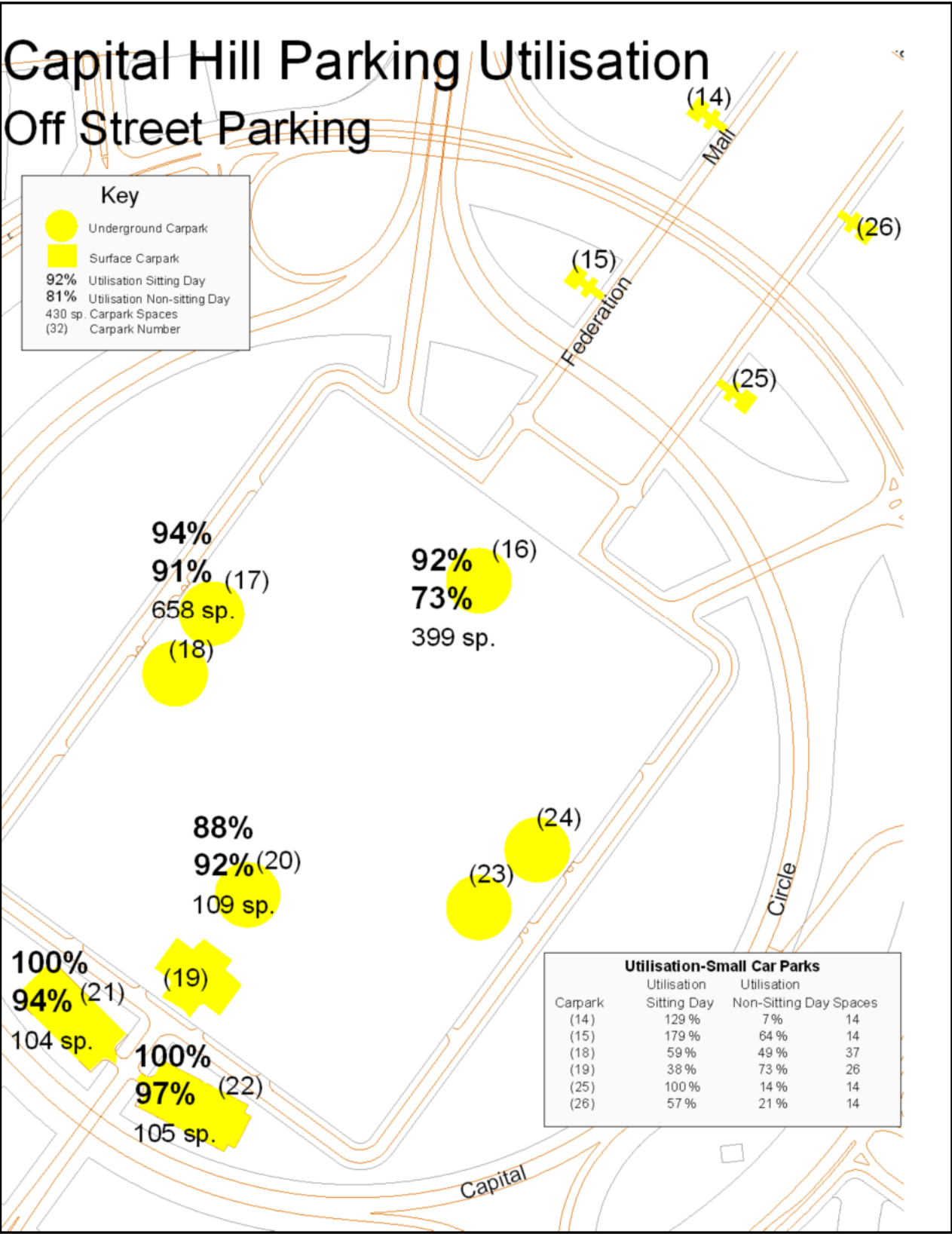


Figure 2: Off-street parking within the Parliamentary Zone (north of Capital Hill)

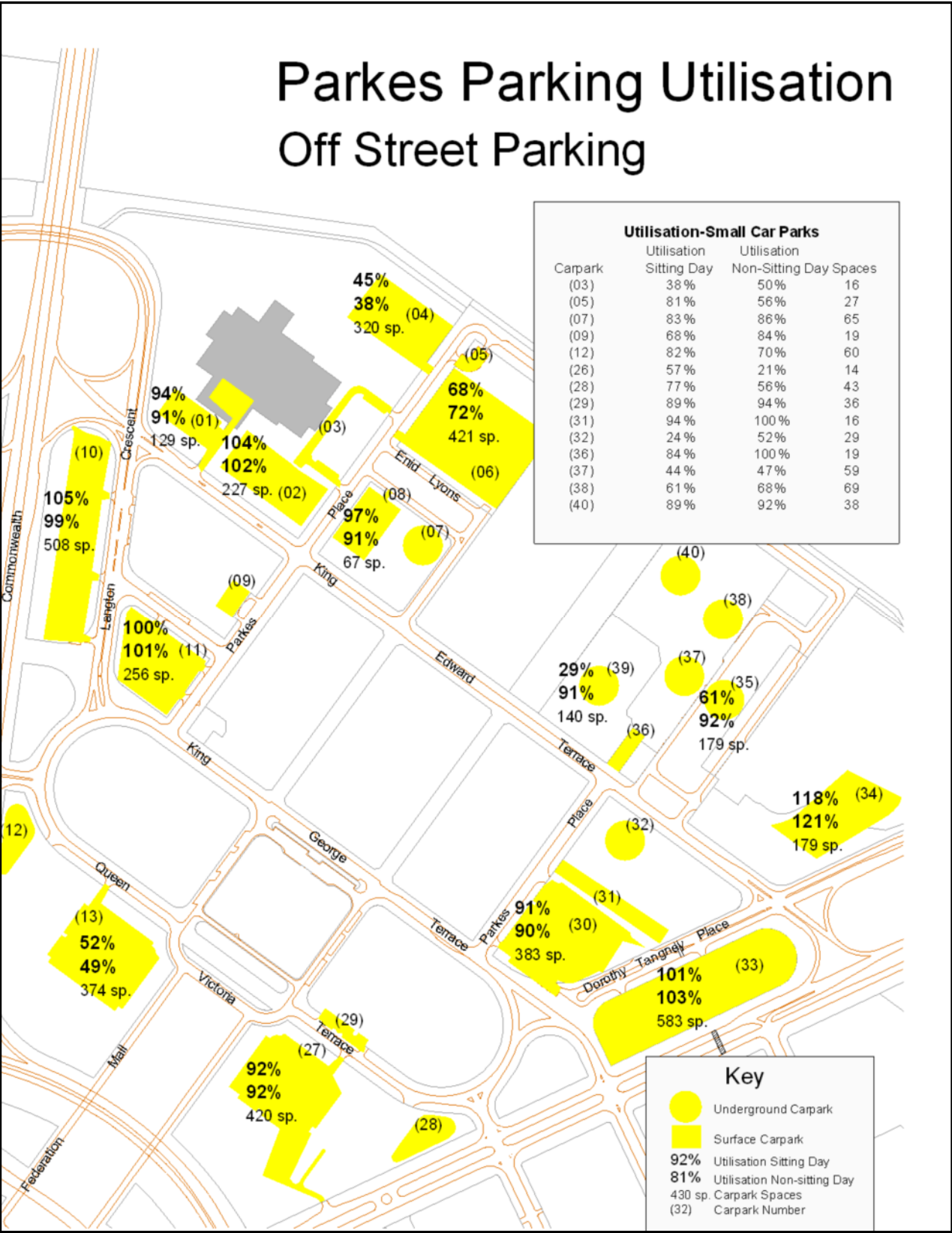


Table 1: Off-street parking within the Parliamentary Zone – by location, including utilisation rates on Parliamentary non-sitting and sitting days

Off Street

Suburb	Location	Spaces	% Utilisation Sitting Day	Vehicles Sitting Day	% Utilisation Non- sitting Day	Vehicles Non- sitting day
Capital Hill	15. Surface car park (off Federation Mall west)	14	179	25	64	9
	16. Parliament House public car park	399	92	366	73	293
	17. Senate car park	658	94	621	91	598
	18. Senator's car park	37	59	22	49	18
	19. Ministerial Entrance upper car park	26	38	10	0	No access
	20. Ministerial underground car park	109	88	96	0	No access
	21. Ministerial Entrance car park (west)	104	100	104	0	Not done
	22. Ministerial Entrance car park (east)	105	100	105	0	Not done
	25. Surface car park (off Federation Mall east)	14	100	14	14	2
Capital Hill Total		1466	93	1363	63	920
Parkes	01. National Library of Australia (south west)	113	101	114	97	110
	02. National Library of Australia (south east)	227	104	235	102	231
	03. National Library of Australia forecourt	16	38	6	50	8
	04. National Library temporary gravel car park	320	45	144	38	122
	05. Surface car park at end of Parkes Place West	27	81	22	56	15
	06. Surface car park north of Questacon	421	68	285	72	303
	07. Questacon underground car park	65	83	54	86	56
	08. Questacon	67	97	65	91	61
	09. Treasury Building forecourts	19	68	13	84	16
	10. Surface car park west of Langton Crescent	508	105	531	99	505

11. Surface car park south of Newlands Street	256	100	257	101	259
12. West Block	60	82	49	70	42
13. Surface car park east of West Block	374	52	194	49	185
14. Surface car park (off Federation Mall West)	14	129	18	7	1
26. Surface car park (off Federation Mall East)	14	57	8	21	3
27. Surface car park west of East Block	420	92	388	92	385
28. East Block	43	77	33	56	24
29. Surface car park south of Gardens East	36	89	32	94	34
30. Surface car park south of John Gorton Building	383	91	347	90	344
31. Access road south of John Gorton Building	16	94	15	100	16
32. John Gorton Building underground car park	29	24	7	52	15
33. Surface car park south of Dorothy Tangney Place	583	101	591	103	602
34. National Gallery of Australia staff car park	179	118	211	121	217
35. National Gallery of Australia visitor car park	179	61	110	92	164
36. Surface car park off High Court of Australia access road	19	84	16	100	19
37. High Court Boomgate staff car park	59	44	26	47	28
38. High Court underground staff car park	69	61	42	68	47
39. National Portrait Gallery	140	29	41	91	128
40. National Portrait Gallery staff underground car park	38	89	34	0	Not done
Parkes Total	4694	83	3888	84	3940
Grand Total	6160	85	5251	79	4860

Table 2: On-street parking within the Parliamentary Zone – by location, including utilisation rates on Parliamentary non-sitting and sitting days

On Street

Suburb	Location	Spaces	% Utilisation Sitting Day	Vehicles Sitting Day	% Utilisation Non- sitting Day	Vehicles Non- sitting day
Parkes	Dorothy Tangney Place	45	100	45	104	47
	Enid Lyons Place	0	0	0	0	1
	Federation Mall East	49	47	23	18	9
	Federation Mall West	49	10	5	2	1
	High court access road	7	29	2	43	3
	King Edward Terrace	15	0	0	7	1
	King George Terrace	28	68	19	79	22
	Mall Road West	14	29	4	36	5
	Newlands Street	40	85	34	80	32
	Parkes Place	18	33	6	89	16
	Parkes Place East	54	91	49	93	50
	Parkes Place West	62	74	46	81	50
	Parliament Square East	38	92	35	95	36
	Parliament Square North	52	98	51	94	49
	Parliament Square South	3	367	11	533	16
	Parliament Square West	35	83	29	77	27
	Queen Victoria Terrace	5	40	2	0	0
Parkes Total		514	70	361	71	365
Grand Total		514	70	361	71	365