

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Question No. 117

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

Please provide a status report on the building maintenance issue and details of costs to repair recent rain damage, maintenance and construction work in the forecourt. Please provide details of this work and its implication for the working of the High Court and public access?

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

The project to rectify water leaks in the High Court building was substantially completed in July 2009. There has been no recent rain damage requiring repair.

The Court has a detailed management plan to rectify public safety and structural issues in the forecourt and building surrounds. The Court has a separate report with options to fix the cascade waterfall's leaks, collect and store non-potable water and upgrade pumps and filters.

Temporary fencing is being used to restrict access to areas in the High Court building forecourt and elsewhere around the building where there are significant public safety risks. These areas do not restrict public access to the Court building itself or affect the working of the Court.