

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE — Additional Estimates Hearing, 4 March 2020
Defence Housing Australia

QoN	Senator	Broad topic	Hansard Page	Hansard Text
1	Lambie	Housing exemptions for discharging members	96-97	Senator LAMBIE: My questions relate to diggers when they are discharged. I know that some of them struggle with mental health issues. They are being removed from housing really quickly. Is there any reason why extensions can't be given in certain circumstances? Are you giving exemptions in circumstances to leave them in there longer than the guidelines permit you to?
2	Ayres	Mount Lofty	98	<p>Senator AYRES: You do understand my point and the questions driving it? Before DHA became committed to the project, there were costs associated with withdrawing from a project of that scale, downsizing the project and resubmitting. Before you become committed, there was a due diligence process, part of which must be understanding what the response is likely to be.</p> <p>Mr Jackson: And there was due diligence done.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: In your view, looking back at what the last three or four years have looked like on this project, are there any conclusions that you've drawn about the appropriateness, sufficiency or quality of the due diligence process?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: I am comfortable with the due diligence process. Obviously, the backlash from the community was significant. Equally, to be quite blunt about it, the current environment, with the bushfires and everything else going on, certainly amplified that degree of community resistance.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: The decision to withdraw was prior to the bushfires, though, wasn't it?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: The decision to amend—we amended the development—was actually taken on 6 February, so it was well into the bushfire season.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Thank you. How much has this process cost?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Take that on notice. How much did DHA spend on consultants lobbying for the project?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: If the need for defence housing in the area hasn't changed very much—you said that you were receiving new projections and that there was some basis in that to reconsider the project itself—how will you meet those needs going forward with a significantly smaller footprint?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: You can't do that for me tonight?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: There are a number of aspects to that. It brings into account the fact that existing stock is there. With some of the existing stock, as you know, we have a sale and leaseback program. We can extend the period and terms of some of those leases so we actually get greater life out of those leases. There is also other development in the Toowoomba area. We could potentially do retail acquisitions rather than be a developer ourselves.</p>
3	Fierravanti-Wells	Inventory of properties	99	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I have one question, Mr Jackson, on notice. Do you have a list of all the property, or at least your inventory of properties, on the public record?</p> <p>Mr Jackson: We provide some detail. We don't advertise in too much detail where some of the properties are for security reasons.</p>

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				<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I don't mean give us—</p> <p>Mr Jackson: We can give a very detailed break-up of where it is.</p>
4	Fierravanti-Wells	Surplus properties	99	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Thank you. When properties do become surplus to requirements for your purposes, what are the disposal processes? Thank you.</p>
5	Waters	Mount Lofty	Written	<p>At Senate estimates on 4 March 2020, Defence Housing Australia confirmed that a decision was made on 6 February 2020 to amend its proposal for residential development on Rifle Range Road, Toowoomba (see EPBC 2018/8198) to be “a far less substantive development”.</p> <p>a) When will details of the amended proposal be made public?</p> <p>b) Has Defence Housing Australia notified the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment regarding the modifications to the proposal? If so, on what date was notice given?</p> <p>c) Does Defence Housing Australia intend to re-advertise the revised proposal and seek public comment?</p>
6	Kitching	Mount Lofty	Written	<p>Can Defence Housing Australia (DHA) provide an update on its decision to amend its development application (DA) with Toowoomba Regional Council for the Mount Lofty project?</p> <p>a) What assessments or approval processes did DHA undertake as part of the DA?</p> <p>b) Can you confirm that DHA submitted an independent ecological assessment with Toowoomba Regional Council in June 2018? If so, what did that assessment find? What was the response from council?</p> <p>c) Had DHA received any other feedback on the DA from council?</p> <p>d) Had DHA referred the development to the Federal Department of Environment and Energy for consideration of impacts on species, including koalas? If so, had DHA received any advice from the department?</p> <p>e) Did DHA undertake any consultation with local residents and the Save Mount Lofty group?</p> <p>f) Did DHA undertake community information sessions? If so, what feedback was received through these sessions?</p> <p>g) The Secretary of the Save Mount Lofty organisation has been quoted saying that the community was not informed over what was happening in recent months, and only became aware the DHA application was withdrawn through the local newspaper. What is DHA's response to this?</p> <p>h) How much has DHA spent on the project so far?</p>

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				<p>i) Is it correct that DHA paid for consultants to lobby for the project?</p> <p>j) The local Federal Member, Member for Groom Dr John McVeigh MP, has been reported as saying the initial decision to withdraw the DA came as DHA was "reviewing its business model". Can you explain what he meant by this? What aspects of DHA's business model are being reviewed?</p> <p>k) How does DHA plan to meet Defence housing needs in the region, including through the amended development?</p>
7	Carr	Paper supplier	Written	<p>From which country does the department and its agencies source A4 photo copy paper?</p> <p>If from multiple countries please provide a breakdown of country of origin in percentage terms.</p>
8	Kitching	Executive Management	Written	<p>1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for financial year 2019-20 to date:</p> <p>a) The total number of executive management positions</p> <p>b) The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p> <p>c) The change in the number of executive manager positions.</p> <p>d) The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>
9	Kitching	Ministerial functions	Written	<p>1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio, can the following information be provided from the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20:</p> <p>a) List of functions.</p> <p>b) List of all attendees.</p> <p>c) Function venue.</p> <p>d) Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>e) Details of any food served.</p> <p>f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</p>

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				g) Any available photographs of the function. h) Details of any entertainment provided.
10	Kitching	Departmental functions	Written	1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio, can the following information be provided from the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20: a) List of functions. b) List of all attendees. c) Function venue. d) Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e) Details of any food served. f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g) Any available photographs of the function. h) Details of any entertainment provided.
11	Kitching	Executive office upgrades	Written	1. Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries been upgraded from the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).
12	Kitching	Facilities upgrades	Written	1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies subsequent to the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment. 2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.
13	Kitching	Staff travel	Written	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for FY 2019-20 to date.

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14	Kitching	Legal costs	Written	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for FY 2019-20 to date.
15	Kitching	Secretarial travel	Written	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department be provided from the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20, including:</p> <p>a) Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b) Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c) Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d) Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e) Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.</p>
16	Kitching	FOI	Written	<p>1. Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the Department for financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>2. For 2019-20 to date, please provide:</p> <p>a) The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full;</p> <p>b) The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part;</p> <p>c) The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and</p> <p>d) The number of FOI requests the Department refused for practical reasons under the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p>3. For 2019-20 to date, please provide:</p> <p>a) The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and</p> <p>b) The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request).</p> <p>4. For 2019-20 to date, please provide:</p>

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				<p>a) The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIC; and</p> <p>b) The number of times has the OAIC overturned – in whole or in part – the Department's decision to refuse access to material.</p> <p>5. Please provide the staffing (both ASL and headcount) of staff at the Department who work exclusively on FOI requests, broken down by APS level (e.g. three EL1s, four APS6s, one SES) for 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>6. Please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department.</p> <p>7. In the past 12 months, has the Department seconded additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level.</p> <p>8. Please provide the number of officers who are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office.</p> <p>9. Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response.</p> <p>10. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so:</p> <p>a) How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; and</p> <p>b) Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister.</p> <p>11. Has the Department consulted or informed another Department or agency about any FOI request in the past twelve months. If so, please provide the legal basis on which that consultation occurred (e.g. third party consultation, transfer of request).</p>
17	Kitching	Briefings	Written	<p>1. Has the Department/agency or the Minister's office provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives since the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20. If so, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a) The subject matter of the briefing.</p> <p>b) The location and date of the briefing.</p>

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				<p>c) Who proposed the briefing.</p> <p>d) Attendees of the briefing by level/position</p>
18	Kitching	Acting Minister arrangements	Written	<p>1. Can the Department provide all leave periods of the portfolio Minister since the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20.</p> <p>2. Can the Department further provide acting Minister arrangements for each leave period.</p>
19	Kitching	Market research	Written	<p>1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies.</p> <p>2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list for financial year 2019-20 to date:</p> <p>a) Subject matter</p> <p>b) Company</p> <p>c) Costs</p> <p>d) Contract date period</p> <p>3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.</p>
20	Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns	Written	<p>1. What is the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>2. What advertising and information campaigns has the Department/agency run in this time.</p> <p>For each campaign, please provide:</p> <p>a) When approval was first sought.</p> <p>b) The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process.</p> <p>c) the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline.</p> <p>3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.</p>
21	Kitching	Promotional merchandise	Written	<p>1. What is the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for the financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be</p>

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				<p>provided.</p> <p>3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.</p>
22	Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel	Written	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio please be provided from the of date the last answer for the Supplementary Estimates 2019-20, including:</p> <p>a) Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b) Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c) Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d) Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e) Any available photographs documenting the Minister’s travel should also be provided.</p>
23	Kitching	Social media influencers	Written	<p>1. What was the Department/agency’s total expenditure on social media influencers for financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.</p> <p>3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>
24	Kitching	Commissioned Reports and Reviews	Written	<p>1. Since the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including:</p> <p>a) Date commissioned.</p>

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				<p>b) Date report handed to Government.</p> <p>c) Date of public release. d) Terms of Reference.</p> <p>e) Committee members and/or Reviewers.</p> <p>2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</p> <p>3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</p> <p>4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel</p> <p>5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</p> <p>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</p>
25	Kitching	Board Appointments	Written	<p>1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members from the date of the last answer for Supplementary Estimates Round 2019-20.</p> <p>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>3. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</p> <p>4. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</p> <p>5. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</p>
26	Kitching	Appointments – briefs prepared	Written	<p>1. How many times has the Department prepared a brief for statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises or any other Commonwealth body which includes a reference to a former Liberal or National member of parliament at a state, territory or federal level, since the answer was provided for Supplementary Estimates 2019-20.</p> <p>2. For each brief prepared, can the Department advise:</p> <p>a) The former member.</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) The board or entity. c) Whether the request originated from the Minister's office. d) Whether the appointment was made.
27	Kitching	Stationery	Written	1. How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in financial year 2019-20 to date.
28	Kitching	Media monitoring	Written	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the each Minister's office for financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Which agency or agencies provided these services. b) Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c) What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2019-20. <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Which agency or agencies provided these services. b) Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c) What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2019-20.
29	Kitching	Communications staff	Written	<p>1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:</p> <p>2. By Department or agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location. b) How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location. c) How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location. d) How many are graphic designers. e) How many are media managers. f) How many organise events. <p>3. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If yes, why. b) When was it established. c) What is the set up cost. d) What is the ongoing cost.

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				e) How many staff work there and what are their classifications.
30	Kitching	Departmental staff in Minister's office	Written	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Duration of secondment. b) APS level.</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>
31	Kitching	CDDA Payments	Written	<p>1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>2. How many claims were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Accepted. b) Rejected. c) Under consideration.</p> <p>3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations b) The date payment was made c) The decision maker.</p>
32	Kitching	Congestion busting	Written	<p>1. Can the Department/agency provide an update on how it is "congestion busting" in relation to bureaucratic bottlenecks and regulatory bottlenecks.</p> <p>2. Have any additional resources been allocated within the Department to achieve "congestion busting" within the department since an answer was provided for the Supplementary Estimates round 2019-20.</p>
33	Kitching	Recruitment	Written	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>
34	Kitching	Staffing	Written	<p>1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at 1 March 2020. How does this differ from the figures presented in Budget Paper 4 in the 2019-20 Budget.</p> <p>2. How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing.</p>

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				<p>3. How many redundancies have occurred in financial year 2019-20 to date. How many were:</p> <p>a) voluntary b) involuntary.</p> <p>4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in financial year 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in financial year 2019-20 to date.</p>
35	Kitching	Comcare	Written	<p>1. For financial year 2019-20 to date, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status.</p> <p>2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the FY2019-20 to date.</p>
36	Kitching	Fair Work Commission	Written	1. For financial year 2019-20 to date, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.
37	Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman	Written	1. For financial year 2019-20 to date, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.
38	Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	Written	1. For financial year 2019-20 to date, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.
39	Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures	Written	1. For financial year 2019-20 to date, how many public interest disclosures have been received.
40	Kitching	Guidelines relating to Official Gifts Received	Written	1. Please provide an itemised account of all payments made to the Collector of Public Monies by Ministers pursuant to the Guidelines relating to Official Gifts Received in financial year 2019-20 to date.