



## Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee Additional Estimates 2019-20 Monday, 2 March 2020 Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.01am to 10.57pm.

The committee called:

### Parliamentary Departments

- Department of the Senate;
- Parliamentary Budget Office; and
- Department of Parliamentary Services.

### Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including the Office for Women);
- National Bushfire Recovery Agency;
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General;
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency;
- National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency;
- Australian National Audit Office;
- Australian Public Service Commission; and
- Office of National Intelligence.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

### Department of the Senate

- Privileges Committee Report No. 168—renegotiation of the MOU between the Presiding-Officers and the Attorney-General, access to data and parliamentary privilege;
- electronic access systems;
- shared services; and
- rollout of MS Office 365 and storage of data.

### Parliamentary Budget Office

- acting arrangements; and
- recruitment and costings.

### Department of Parliamentary Services

- security works;
- APSC survey results;
- incentives for DPS staff to retire;
- internet connectivity in Parliament House; and
- construction and location of the coffee hub and return on investment.

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

- sports grants
  - applications for grants
  - Gaetjen's report and conflicts of interest
  - Auditor-General's report and investigations into breaches of ministerial standards
  - ministerial briefs and discussions between the offices of Minister McKenzie and the Prime Minister;

- update on federal Budget surplus
  - bushfires—bushfire season briefings to the Prime Minister and COAG meeting to discuss disaster preparedness;
- special envoy on drought;
- Prime Minister's leave and acting arrangements;
- impacts and planning for COVID19 (coronavirus);
- Royal Commissions—domestic violence, disability, aged care;
- FOI training;
- phone call between the Prime Minister and President Trump;
- luncheon with the Indonesian President, His Excellency Joko Widodo; and
- election commitment—Government's coal feasibility study.

#### National Bushfire Recovery Agency

- allocation of funding;
- provision of grants;
- impacts of coronavirus on tourism industry and bushfire recovery;
- work being undertaken with state and local governments; and
- actual and expected expenditures.

#### Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- staffing;
- honour system;
- termination of awards/surrendered awards; and
- international visits.

#### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Office for Women)

- domestic violence;
- Fourth Action Plan;
- involvement with the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System;
- COAG meeting;
- retirement income gap;
- valuing unpaid work; and
- supporting women's alliances.

#### Workplace Gender Equality Agency

- closing the gender pay gap;
- superannuation contributions;
- data collection; and
- pilot project to work with other departments and agencies within the public service.

#### National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency

- expanded agency responsibilities;
- funding—drought assistance measures; and
- travel.

#### Australian National Audit Office

- sports grants—discussions between Minister McKenzie and the Prime Minister and distribution of grants.

#### Australian Public Service Commission

- sports grants—record keeping and integrity of public service officials.

#### Office of National Intelligence

- Huawei network and foreign interference; and
- staffing.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday 3 March 2020 in Senate Committee Room 2S1 to examine the Finance portfolio.