

**Question on notice no. 826**

**Portfolio question number: 26**

**2025-26 Supplementary Budget estimates**

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio**

**Senator David Shoebridge:** asked the Department of Defence on 9 October 2025—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Just before I forget, when I was asking questions about the Defence Estate Audit and the Victoria Barracks in Melbourne—I'm advised that there's a 2022 business case for the Victoria Barracks in Melbourne. First of all, does that exist? Secondly, if it does exist, will you please produce it to the committee.

Ms Perkins: Could I clarify. Are you referring—could you repeat the question for me?

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I've been advised that there's a 2022 business case study in relation to Victoria Barracks in Melbourne. Is that true?

Ms Perkins: Based on the last line of questioning, Victoria Barracks Melbourne is a big site. There is no 2022 business case for that. If you're talking more specifically about ANVAM's request—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Yes.

Ms Perkins: Yes. I don't have that to hand. What I can say, and what we've absolutely canvassed in a great deal of detail in this committee in years past, is a particular site, adjacent to Victoria Barracks Melbourne, called 310 St Kilda Road—I think that might be what you're referring to.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I think it is adjacent to, and often considered part of, Victoria Barracks.

Ms Perkins: It certainly—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I think that was built in the mid-1930s.

Ms Perkins: I believe that's the place. What we've canvassed in this committee before is work over a range of time. The 310 St Kilda Road site has been listed for divestment for perhaps more than 20 years. Defence ceased using the site in the early 1990s. In this committee we've spoken at length about both failed approaches to market. Defence has attempted to divest that site on a number of occasions both to the Melbourne City Council and to the Victorian state government, and those sales haven't proceeded. A number of years ago in this committee we spoke about some work we had undertaken to consider following failed divestment approaches and adaptive reuse of that site, and we prepared some options around that.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Were those options done in or around 2022?

Ms Perkins: I feel like it was a little bit earlier than that. I could take that on notice.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Can you take that on notice and provide on notice if there was an options paper or papers, and if those could be provided to the committee, and if there is something that could be described as a 2022 business case-maybe the same thing, if that could be provided to the committee.

**Answer —**

Please see attached answer.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
2025-26 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

**Department/Agency:** Department of Defence

**Topic:** Victoria Barracks Site Divestment

**Senator:** David Shoebridge

**Portfolio Question reference number:** 26

**Type of question:** Verbal, 9 October 2025, Hansard Page 50-51

**Question:**

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**Answer:**

In June 2022, Defence engaged the consultant Lovell Chen to provide a feasibility study for the use of 310 St Kilda Road. The study has previously been released by Defence under freedom of information can be accessed at:

<https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20221128050804/https://www.defence.gov.au/about/information-disclosures/freedom-information/disclosure-log>