

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 266
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Portfolio wide – disability access
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Please provide a list of all premises owned, leased or otherwise operated by the department / agency which do not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010). For each, please provide:

- a. The year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires).
- b. What plans are in place to make the premises compliant with the Act.
- c. When these plans will commence and when they are expected to be complete.
- d. Has the minister or the minister's office been informed of these plans? Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) between the minister's office and the department regarding this issue.
- e. What is the expected cost of making the premises compliant? Please break down the costs.
- f. Have any plans to make any premises compliant been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail, including the reasons for which they were cancelled, put on hold or delayed and how the decision was reached.
- g. Have any complaints been lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.

Answer:

Department of the Environment

The Department does not hold data on the compliance of its premises with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010). All premises are built to the relevant regulations and legislation including the Building Code of Australia and a certificate of occupancy issued.

The Department has processes in place to ensure if a new accessibility issue is identified then qualified providers are engaged to work with the Department to resolve the issue.

The Department is required to ensure that any new building or fit out works subject to building approval comply with the Premises Standards.

National Water Commission

The Commission currently leases a building at 95 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra which meets most but not all the provisions of the Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010.

- a. Current lease commenced on 16 February 2010 and expired on 30 June 2014. The Commission is currently operating on a month to month lease until the proposed closure of the Commission.
- b. None
- c. Not applicable
- d. Not applicable
- e. Not applicable
- f. No
- g. No

Clean Energy Regulator

The Clean Energy Regulator does not own, lease or otherwise operate any premises that do not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010).

Climate Change Authority

1. Not applicable
 - a. Not applicable
 - b. Not applicable
 - c. Not applicable
 - d. Not applicable
 - e. Not applicable
 - f. Not applicable
 - g. Nil response

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology does not hold data on the compliance of its premises with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010). All premises are built to the relevant regulations and legislation including the Building Code of Australia and a certificate of occupancy issued.

The Bureau has processes in place to ensure if a new accessibility issue is identified then qualified providers are engaged to work with the Bureau to resolve the issue.

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Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Premises	Leased/ Owned	Start date	End Date	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
GBRMPA Office Townsville	Lease	Original lease expired. Currently working on month by month lease.	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Not with GBRMPA Or Landlord
Kelleher Place Townsville	Lease	01/10/2013	30/09/2016	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Not with GBRMPA Or landlord
Townsville Compliance Shed	Lease	01/09/2014	31/01/2017	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Not with GBRMPA
Cairns Office	Lease	01/01/2013	31/12/2017	Unknown		N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Not with GBRMPA
Cairns Compliance Shed	Lease	15/10/2014	14/10/2015	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Not with GBRMPA
Mackay Office	Lease	01/02/2014	31/01/2016	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Not with GBRMPA

Premises	Leased/ Owned	Start date	End Date	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Rockhampton Office	Lease	29/09/2012	31/08/2015	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Not with GBRMPA

Director of National Parks

Area name	1) Number of buildings leased		2) Number of buildings owned ¹		a) year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires)	b-f)	g) Any complaints lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.
ANBG	Abode		Abode	2	1970's (2 buildings)	b) The <i>Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010</i> (Premises Standards) applies to new buildings, together with modifications of existing buildings that require a building approval, with approvals dates after May 2011. Given the age of our buildings, we will ensure	No
	Amenities		Amenities	3	1970's (3 buildings)		
	Office Building		Office Building	9	1980's (9 buildings)		
	Public Building		Public Building	8	1980's (8 buildings)		
Booderee	Amenities		Amenities	12	1980's (6 buildings) 1990's (6 buildings)		
	Office Building	1	Office Building	3	Owned 1990's (3 buildings) Leased 2007 (1 building) Lease expires - 30 June 2022		
	Public Building		Public Building	3	1980's (3 buildings)		
Christmas Island	Abode		Abode	4	1999 (3 buildings) 2010 (1 building)		
	Office Building		Office Building	3	1998 (1 building)		

Area name	1) Number of buildings leased		2) Number of buildings owned ¹		a) year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires)	b-f)	g) Any complaints lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.
					1999 (2 buildings)	we comply with the standards when we undertake any modifications of existing buildings that require a building approval c) – f) Nil response	
Kakadu	Abode		Abode	73	1970's (13 buildings) 1980's (43 buildings) 1990's (9 buildings) 2000's (8 buildings)		
	Amenities		Amenities	37	1980's (6 buildings) 1990's (3 buildings) 2000's (17 buildings) 2010's (11 buildings)		
	Office Building		Office Building	7	1980's (2 buildings) 1990's (4 buildings) 2000's (1 building)		
	Public Building		Public Building	3	1990's (3 buildings)		
Norfolk Island	Amenities		Amenities	3	1997 (1 building) 2004 (1 building) 2011 (1 building)		
	Office Building		Office Building	2	1997 (2 buildings)		
	Public Building		Public Building	1	2011 (1 building)		
Pulu Keeling	Abode		Abode	2	2002 (2 buildings)		
	Office Building	2	Office Building	0	Leased 1984 (1 building) 2008 (1 building). Ongoing annual lease.		
Uluru-Kata Tjuta	Abode	3	Abode	32	Owned 1984 (6 buildings) 1985 (3 buildings) 1988 (2 buildings) 1990 (1 building)		

Area name	1) Number of buildings leased		2) Number of buildings owned ¹		a) year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires)	b-f)	g) Any complaints lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.
					1991 (7 buildings) 1993 (2 buildings) 1994 (1 building) 1995 (3 buildings) 2002 (7 buildings) Leased 2014 (3 buildings) Buildings are under periodic lease so no expiry date		
	Amenities		Amenities	6	1991 (1 building) 2000 (1 building) 2006 (1 building) 2009 (2 buildings) 2011 (1 building)		
	Office Building		Office Building	6	1980 (1 building) 1986 (1 building) 1998 (1 building) 2000 (1 building) 2001 (2 buildings)		
	Public Building		Public Building	1	1996 (1 building)		

¹ It would involve a significant diversion of resources for the Director of National Parks to provide additional detail to the above data on each of our buildings.

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The following portfolio agencies have a nil response:

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

Murry-Darling Basin Authority