

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Brandis bookshelf**

Question: **162**

Hansard Page No **55**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Ms Mills: Our staff, from both our building area and our heritage area, looked at the bookcase and advised that there were two issues. It would be very difficult, because of its scale and because it had been built in one piece, to relocate it. It would be possible, but it would be relatively expensive. Equally, and perhaps more importantly from our perspective, the timber in the ministerial suite is of a different type to that in the backbench and senator suites, so it would not have been consistent with maintaining the heritage of that space. So on the basis of those discussions, and again I would have to take on notice exactly the timing of when we discussed with both the Department of Finance, who have a level of control in the ministerial wing, and obviously with the Attorney-General's Department as the home department, about an alternative brush box designed, reusable bookcase for the senator.

Senator LUDWIG: So, in dealing with the chronology from that time onwards, could you include emails, and the dates, of the discussions between both—is it yourself and Mr Wilkins? Did you contact Mr Wilkins?

Ms Mills: I did; I had a conversation with Mr Wilkins in, I think, November. I am sorry, I would have to check my records.

Answer

I spoke with Mr Wilkins by telephone on or around 26 November 2013.

I wrote to Mr Wilkins on 27 November and Mr Wilkins replied on 28 November; copies of the letters are attached.

There was email correspondence between our respective offices during December 2013 and January 2014 (copies of emails dated 19 and 20 December 2013 and 3, 9 and 10 January 2014 attached).



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

DPS ref: 11/2434/4

Mr Roger Wilkins AO
Secretary
Attorney-General's Department
3 – 5 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600


Dear Mr Wilkins

Re: Shelving unit at Parliament House

Further to our recent conversation, I can confirm I have received a quote for a shelving unit that meets the design integrity requirements for Parliament House and the current needs in the Ministerial Wing.

The quote for \$11,665.00 (ex GST) comprises a freestanding modular unit constructed in Brush Box timber. Designed in this manner, the shelving unit would be able to be used in individual components or together to provide additional display capacity as needs arose. This would represent good value for money in allowing the unit to be used elsewhere in Ministers' suites at Parliament House, as and when that need arises.

I propose that the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) and the Attorney-General's Department both commit to paying half of the cost, with DPS to be the future asset holder. The lead time for manufacture of the shelving unit is 4 to 6 weeks, with DPS to arrange installation once on site. Subject to your agreement to proceed in this way, DPS will place an order for the unit.

I look forward to your advice confirming this approach.

Yours sincerely



Carol Mills
Secretary

27 November 2013



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Secretary

28 November 2013

Ms Carol Mills
Secretary
Department of Parliamentary Services
Australian Parliament House

Dear Ms Mills *Carol*

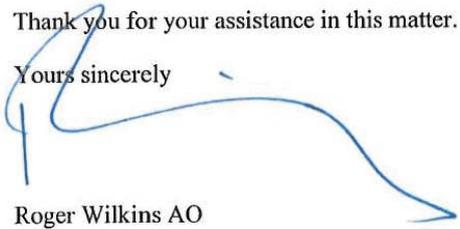
Re: Shelving unit at Parliament House

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2013 confirming the quote of \$11,665.00 for a freestanding modular unit constructed in Brush Box Timber.

I agree to your proposal that the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) and the Attorney-General's Department both commit to paying half of the cost, with DPS to be the future asset holder.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely


Roger Wilkins AO

From: Davies, Siwan (DPS)
Sent: Friday, 10 January 2014 5:53 PM
To: 'Port, David'
Cc: 'Moran, Celeste'
Subject: RE: shelving unit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Many thanks Dave

From: Port, David [<mailto:David.Port@ag.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 10 January 2014 5:08 PM
To: Davies, Siwan (DPS)
Cc: Moran, Celeste
Subject: RE: shelving unit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Siwan,

Following on from our discussion on the phone, I confirm that the Attorney's Office agree to the plans. Thanks again for your help on this.

Kind regards,
Dave

From: Davies, Siwan (DPS) [<mailto:Siwan.Davies@aph.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 9 January 2014 8:26 AM
To: Port, David
Cc: Waugh, Henry (DPS)
Subject: RE: shelving unit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Dave

Before we place the order for the shelving unit, can we check that the Attorney's Office is happy with the design (attached)?

If we place the order this week, we are on track for installation on 17 February.

Regards,

Siwan

Siwan Davies
Senior Adviser to the Secretary
Department of Parliamentary Services
T: 02 6277 2933
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E: siwan.davies@aph.gov.au

From: Port, David [<mailto:David.Port@ag.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 3 January 2014 10:53 AM
To: Davies, Siwan (DPS)
Cc: Waugh, Henry (DPS); Kneipp, Gabrielle; Moran, Celeste
Subject: RE: shelving unit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Siwan and Henry,

Thank you for obtaining the revised quote. I confirm that we agree to the revised cost of \$14,984 (ex GST).



I hope you had a good break!

Kind regards,
Dave

From: Davies, Siwan (DPS) [<mailto:Siwan.Davies@aph.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2013 5:20 PM
To: Port, David
Cc: Waugh, Henry (DPS)
Subject: RE: shelving unit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Dave

As discussed, we have received a revised quote. It is \$14,984 (ex GST).

The delivery date is not confirmed, but likely to be the week commencing 17 February 2014, if we order before the holiday break.

I will be out of the office after today, so please can you cc Henry in your reply.

Regards,

Siwan

From: Port, David [<mailto:David.Port@ag.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 19 December 2013 2:33 PM
To: Davies, Siwan (DPS)
Subject: RE: shelving unit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hey Siwan,

Thanks for this. I tried calling you, but Henry tells me that you'll be in a meeting until 3:30pm.

The Attorney's Office has indicated that the shelving unit should reach the ceiling. Could we please proceed on this basis? Happy to discuss.

Cheers,
Dave

David Port
Executive Adviser
Office of the Secretary
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit Barton ACT 2600
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From: Davies, Siwan (DPS) [<mailto:Siwan.Davies@aph.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 19 December 2013 11:01 AM
To: Port, David
Subject: shelving unit

Hello Dave

My apologies for the delayed email.

The proposed new shelving unit is Brush Box timber, which is in keeping with the design language of APH global furniture. It is in modular form (so that it may be used flexibly elsewhere in the building) with adjustable shelves.

The shelving unit proposed is a similar height to the original bookcase (original was 2950mm high, proposed unit is 3000mm high) and so will have the same look. The original bookcase did not go all the way to the ceiling.

The depth of the proposed unit is 300mm (original was 370mm deep), as it is designed as a standard modular unit.

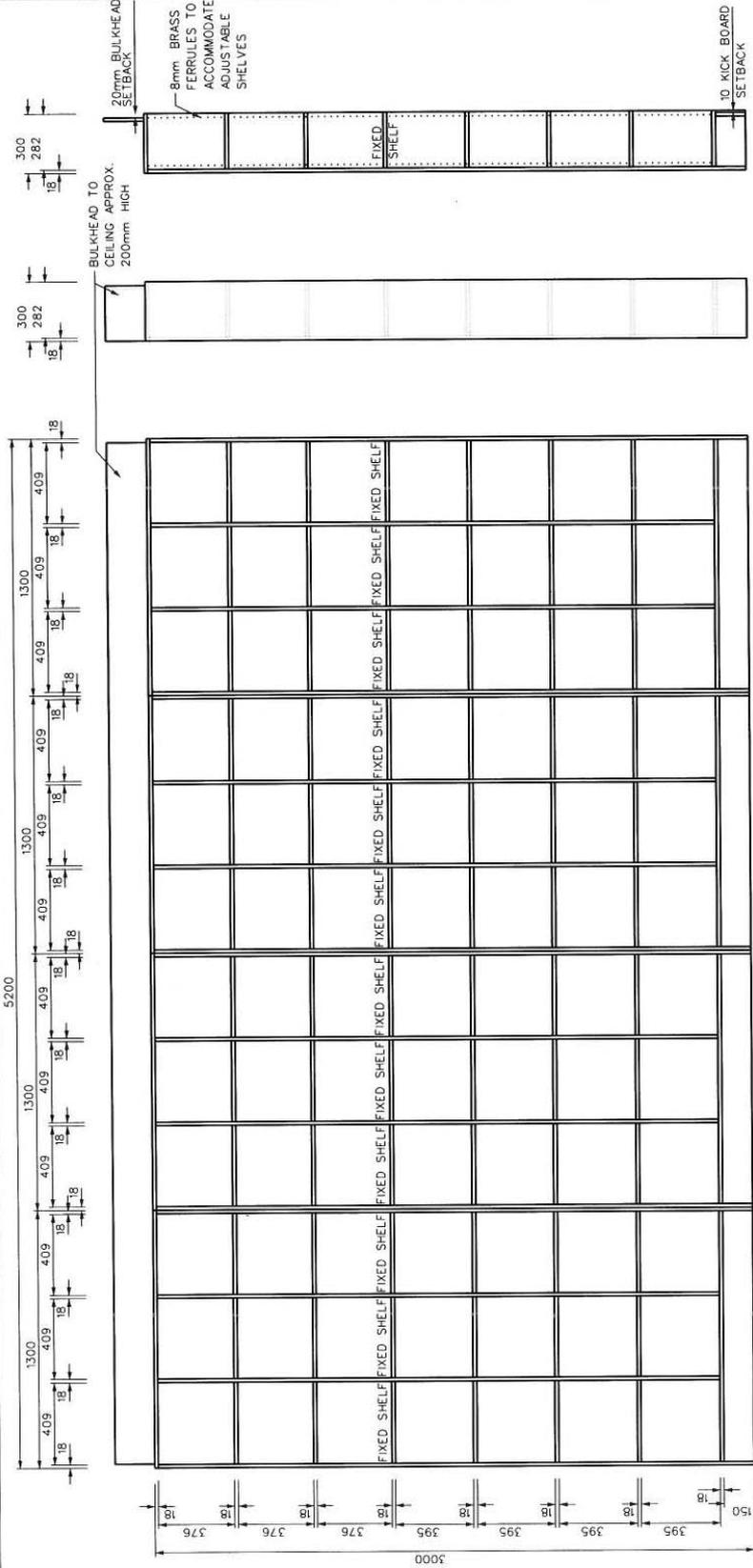
The length of the proposed unit is 4800mm (comprising 3 units). This is shorter than the original unit, which was 6050mm. The length of the wall is 5940mm and we understand that the Minister's Office has asked that the unit run the length of the wall, stopping 800mm from the window. This would make the unit 5140mm long. The length could be increased to 5140mm, within the scope of the current design.

Please advise whether we should proceed with the proposed unit, and the required length.

Regards,

Siwan

Siwan Davies
Senior Adviser to the Secretary
Department of Parliamentary Services
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FRONT ELEVATION

END ELEVATION

SECTION

- NOTES:
- 1) 18mm nom. MDF BRUSHBOX VENEER FOR ALL MEMBERS INCLUDING BACK SIDES, SHELVES, TOP AND KICKPLATE.
 - 2) ALL SHELVES ADJUSTABLE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
 - 3) EDGE STRIPS 2mm FLEXYWOOD (BRUSHBOX)
 - 4) VENEER GOOD BOTH SIDES TO ALL FACES, EXCEPT BACK WHICH REQUIRES VENEER GOOD ONE SIDE ONLY
 - 5) SEAL WITH MIROCAT PC 3242 AND APPLY 3 X COATS OF MIROCAT PC 3220/00 TOPCOATS

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA		Approved	Area 08
PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA		Date	GROUND
Building Information - Department of Parliamentary Services		04/12/2013	Drawing Size
PROPOSED BOOKSHELF		Created	A3
Title		Scale	A3
PROPOSED		Revision	1:20 AT A3
Status		Revision Date	07-01-2014
JR18334 - A01		File Name	JR18334.DGN