

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
9 February 2016

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.3

**Topic:** Housing affordability conditions

**Senator:** Ludlam

**Question reference number:** F35

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 105-106, 9 February 2016

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 1 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** I am not arguing that all of them should have housing affordability conditions attached. Question on notice No. F54 said, 'The 2013 Commonwealth land audit identified 470 properties that may be divested with 351 potentially suitable for residential use.' Let us just stick to the 351. Why has the Commonwealth government not attached any housing affordability conditions to the disposal of any of those properties? If I am wrong and you have been doing that I would be delighted to have that error pointed out.

...

**Senator LUDLAM:** Okay. Does that mean your advisers are checking the register to see if there are any affordability outcomes? This is really the only question I have got. You offered to take the material on notice.

**Senator Cormann:** If that is the only question you have got, let us take on notice what it is that we are doing in that context and we will get back to you on notice.

**Answer:**

Individual Commonwealth agencies have responsibility for the management and disposal of their properties. For additional information about Commonwealth properties potentially suitable for residential use, refer to the response provided to F33, Additional Estimates 2015-16.

The Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy (the Policy) states that Commonwealth property, having no alternative efficient use, is to be sold on the open market at full market value. The Policy also sets out the circumstances where off-market disposals are permitted, including circumstances where the sale to a State or Local Government would optimise broader Government outcomes including economic or social outcomes, such as increasing housing supply.

Separate to this, on 7 January 2016, the Australian Government announced the establishment of an Affordable Housing Working Group (the 'Working Group') following a request from Treasurers at the Council on Federal Financial Relations meeting in October 2015 for further work on housing affordability, particularly social housing and private rental housing for households on low incomes.

Further questions on the Working Group should be directed to the Department of the Treasury.