

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Security upgrade gatehouse

Question: 165

Hansard Reference p 57, 58; 8 February 2016

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

**Senator WONG:** Certainly around Parliament House, you can see a fair bit happening. There are some concrete bunker-like structures in front of the ministerial entrance. What are they meant to be? Are they meant to be gatehouses?

**Mr Yanitsas:** Gatehouses.

**Senator WONG:** How many gatehouses are there going to be?

**Mr Yanitsas:** There are two.

**Senator WONG:** The note I have here is that in this committee's inquiry into the security works, the discussion of the gatehouse was in the singular—one, the proposed 'gatehouse'. When did it go from one to two?

**Mr Yanitsas:** Which submission are you referring to, sorry?

**Senator WONG:** I have got notes here extracted from briefing notes to this committee's inquiry into Parliament House security works—May 2015. Let us work it around the other way. Was there originally going to be one, and now there are two gatehouses?

**Mr Yanitsas:** There was originally a structure proposed that was a single roof structure, that we now have a structure with two ends to it, if you like, to operate gates on the east and the west. Now we have two structures without a single roof.

**Senator WONG:** That is fine, I am just asking when that decision was made because the committee was told something different?

**Mr Yanitsas:** It would have been in the design stage, so it is when—I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.

...

**Senator WONG:** Can I just go back to the gatehouse structure. I know you have taken on notice the time frame, but can you tell me what else has changed in this design stage? You were going to take on notice—let us be clear—that there was a change to the gatehouse structure; is that correct?

**Mr Yanitsas:** There was a change to the roofing.

**Senator WONG:** I would like to know who approved the changes? Are you able to tell me that?

**Mr Yanitsas:** Certainly.

**Senator WONG:** Are you not able to tell me that?

**Mr Yanitsas:** The final designs are signed-off by the Presiding Officers for all of the security works in the precinct.

**Senator WONG:** And you will give me some dates around that then?

**Mr Yanitsas:** Certainly.

## Answer

The Senate Inquiry Report that Senator Wong refers to uses the terms 'a gatehouse' and 'guardhouses' when referring to the security works at the top of the southern slip road in front of the entry to the Ministerial Wing. The Security Upgrade Works Statement tabled in both Houses of Parliament of the 26 March 2015 uses both the terms 'a gate house' and 'a pair of gate houses'.

Concepts that were tabled in both Houses of Parliament clearly showed two structures at the top of the southern slip road in front of the entry to the Ministerial Wing.

The Presiding Officers approved the concept design for the initial package of work on the Security Upgrade in December 2014 which included the gate houses. Final designs for the initial package of works, known as Group One, were approved by the Presiding Officers in February 2015.

There have been no significant changes to the gate houses since the approval of the concept design in December 2014.