

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15**

Finance Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.2

**Topic:** Commonwealth properties

**Senator:** Ludlam

**Question reference number:** F54

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 48, 29 May 2014

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** Without giving up any of those state secrets, can you tell us how many properties in total—if this gets complicated, I am happy to have it taken on notice—and in what categories you consider them?

**Dr Verney:** I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that information here.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I am presuming it is into the hundreds or maybe even the low thousands.

**Dr Verney:** I will come back to you.

**Senator LUDLAM:** If you can. What I am after specifically, again without compromising the issues that you have put to us, is how many there are. Where are they, just to within the nearest postcode, even? And how do you categorise that they are different types of land? So the finance department site currently has a list of 16 surplus reports that are available for housing and community outcomes. That is published at the moment. I am presuming that is a short list off the much larger list. Are you able to provide us with an update—again, on notice, if necessary—of where each of these disposal processes are up to and what affordable housing outcomes will be achieved for each?

**Dr Verney:** We are updating that information at the moment, Senator.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Great.

**Dr Verney:** As we speak. The table will change in the light of that updating.

**Answer:**

The 2013 Commonwealth Land Audit identified some 470 Commonwealth properties that may potentially be divested. Of these, 351 were identified as potentially suitable for residential use, and are located as follows: 189 properties in New South Wales; 73 properties in South Australia; 50 properties in Queensland; 20 properties in the Northern Territory; 12 properties in Western Australia; 5 properties in Victoria; and 2 properties in the Australian Capital Territory.

The status of those 16 properties identified on the Finance website on 29 May 2014 as potentially available for housing and community outcomes is attached. Four of the properties are planned for sale to Defence Housing Australia for residential development which will include housing for Defence personnel and their families. Two properties have been sold to local governments to provide community amenities. One of the three CSIRO properties listed is being sold by tender (tenders closed on 6 June 2014) and will be available for residential development. The second CSIRO property is no longer available for sale. The third property is suitable for housing but CSIRO may be required to subdivide it to provide open recreational area for the local community.