

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

Finance Portfolio  
27-28 May 2015

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.3

**Topic:** Sale of Mount Macedon Property used by the AEMI

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** F104

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. What will the \$0.5 million in funding be used for?
2. When does the Department anticipate that the property will be sold?
3. What further due diligence is required?
4. What is the type of access that local community groups require for the property? Have there been any issues with these local community groups that the Department have come across?
5. Can the Department provide any information on what costs are involved in moving the Institute to Canberra?
6. Can the Department provide an indication of the value of the property?
7. Can the Department provide the committee with information on who conducted the valuation of the property?
8. Can the Department give an indication of who are the likely buyers – developers?

**Answer:**

1. The funding will be used for costs associated with the divestment of the property, including technical due diligence, legal and consultancy costs.
2. The Department is working towards a sale by the end of 2016-17.
3. Due diligence required, as part of the divestment of a property, includes environmental, heritage, contamination, legal, and valuation assessments, as well as consultation with relevant stakeholders.
4. The Commonwealth's Mount Macedon property includes a golf course that is leased by the Mount Macedon Golf Club and also used by the Macedon Ranges Horticultural Society. The sale of the property is subject to arrangements that allow for these community groups to continue to have access to the site for a period of 15 years with the option of a further 15 years. Finance is not aware of any issues with the local community groups.

5. No. The relocation of the Australian Emergency Management Institute is a matter for the Attorney-General's Department.
6. The value of the property is commercially sensitive and its disclosure could adversely affect the market price and disposal outcomes.
7. Valuations of the Department of Finance's properties are conducted on an annual basis. This service is currently performed by Jones Lang LaSalle.
8. Given the location and facilities on the site, it is expected that the property may be of interest to a range of potential buyers.