

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Strategic accommodation review**

Question: **124**

Written: **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

With reference to the answer to 2016-17 Additional Estimates question on notice 82, on what basis is a group that comprises three Government members of the House of Representatives (Christensen, Entsch, Marino), three independent members of the House of Representatives (Katter, Wilkie, McGowan), four minor party and independent senators (Leyonhjelm, Lambie, Xenophon, Day) and only one Opposition member of the House of Representatives (Fitzgibbon) and no Government or Opposition senators “representative”, as stated in part 3 of the question?

Who nominated or chose the members of this group?

Why have existing bodies, such as this committee, or the respective house committees of both chambers, not been utilised to provide feedback?

How can such limited consultation be adequate and fulfil the “detailed consultation” that part 4 of the answer identifies was a criteria of the contract?

Answer

The then Director Accommodation Services (who has since left the department) provided approval to engage with the following elected representatives:

- The Hon W Entsch MP – Member for Leichhardt – Liberal Party;
- The Hon J Fitzgibbon MP – Member for Hunter – ALP;
- Ms Nola Marino MP – Chief Government Whip – Liberal Party;
- Mr George Christensen MP – Chief National Whip – National Party;
- Ms Cathy McGowan MP – Member for Indi – Independent;
- Mr Andrew Wilkie MP – Member for Denison – Independent;
- Mr Bob Katter MP – Member for Kennedy – Katters Australia Party;
- Senator David Bushby – Government Whip in the Senate – Liberal Party
- Senator Anne McEwen – Opposition Whip in the Senate – ALP;
- Senator Barry O’Sullivan – National Whip in the Senate – National Party;
- Senator Rachel Siewert – Australian Greens Whip in the Senate – Australian Greens
- Senator Jacquie Lambie – Senator for Tasmania – Jacquie Lambie Network;
- Senator Nick Xenophon – Senator for South Australia – Nick Xenophon Team;
- the then Senator Bob Day – Senator for South Australia – Family First Party; and

- Senator David Leyonhjelm – Senator for New South Wales – Liberal Democratic Party.

As outlined in 2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 33, the final list of stakeholders consulted included only those representatives who had accepted this invitation.

No other information or detail in support of the approval to engage with elected officials is available to the department as the Director involved has since left the department.

This group selected for engagement provided a representative sample of elected representatives, however many of these declined to participate in the process.

The final group of stakeholders who were consulted, however, did provide a representative sample for the building, including Senators and Members, the respective House departments, Department of Finance, the Parliamentary Budget Office and DPS.