

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates – October 2015
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Cost of refurbishment

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: 124

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of Pages: 2

With reference to Question on Notice 100 from the previous 2015 Budget Estimates Round.

1. Can the Office provide updated costs in relation to the implementation of the Vice-Regal Heritage Property Master Plan?
2. Is a new Plan being developed? If so, what is the status of this plan and will it be released to the public?

Answer:

1. \$18.967m was spent on the Vice-Regal Heritage Property Master Plan between July 2015 and June 2015.

2. Yes, a new Property Works Plan (PWP) has been developed for the properties which the agency has stewardship – Government House in Canberra and Admiralty House in Sydney. This PWP replaces the previous 10-year Vice-Regal Heritage Property Master Plan (Master Plan) that concluded on 30 June 2015.

Like the Master Plan, the PWP continues to prioritise urgent and essential works as identified by independent expert advice and in accordance with the 2015 Heritage Strategy (available on the Governor-General's website, <http://www.gg.gov.au>). Works will be conducted in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and any expenditure over \$10,000 published on Austender.

The PWP is a live document that identifies the priority works for the four years of the forward estimates at a high level, broadly in line with the 20-year plan prepared in 2014 that identified likely property priorities. When unforeseen works arise, as will happen with heritage properties as aging infrastructure fails unexpectedly or latent conditions are encountered during works, the plan is adjusted and priorities reviewed. Given this, it is not envisaged that the detailed PWP will be released to the public, but rather serve as an internal working document adapted to meet the changing property needs and priorities.

The list below identifies the general works currently planned over the forward estimates.

Property	Planned works FY1516 – FY 1819
Admiralty House	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Work Health and Safety projects, including addressing issues for working at heights across the property. 2. Rectification projects addressing property code and Australian Standards compliance, with a focus on safety issues. 3. Rectification works to continue to improve maintenance burden of the property. 4. Landscape rectifications – addressing retaining wall structures, trip hazards, reduce utility consumption issues. 5. General works eg. ongoing asbestos removal, damp rectification, stone stabilisation, and structural remediation works.
Government House	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Work Health and Safety projects, including addressing issues for working at heights across the property. 2. Rectification projects addressing property code and Australian Standards compliance, with a focus on safety issues, including fire panel replacements. 3. Rectification works to continue to improve maintenance burden of the property and replace aging infrastructure assets. 4. Landscape rectifications – addressing retaining wall structures, road degradation issues, trip hazards, reduce utility consumption issues, and rectifying grounds WHS lighting and wiring issues. 5. General works eg. ongoing asbestos removal, damp rectification, stone stabilisation, and structural remediation works. 6. Replacement of back up diesel generator now at end of life with no replacement parts available.