

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

2007-08 Budget Estimates Hearings

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

QUESTION: PM8

Senator Wong asked:

“ ... could [you] update PM71 and then provide on notice over the period 2005-06 to 2010-11 ... the budgets in respect of maintenance, acquisitions and contracted services?”

Response:

Further to the answer to PM 71 from the 2006-07 Additional Budget hearings for property related capital work costs for the official residences the following additional costs have been incurred for the period 1 March to 30 June 2007 [note WIP means work-in-progress]:

Capital works – Government House Canberra – design and construction costs for extension of cooling/heating to ground floor of main house \$48,189 (WIP); construction costs for Honours precinct works to replace inadequate office accommodation, provide meeting room facilities and additional carparking \$142,978 (WIP); upgrade of electrical distribution boards to meet Australian standards \$4,362 (WIP); upgrade of air-conditioning system in Chancery building to overcome air flow deficiencies \$1,850; upgrade of external lighting throughout the property to improve security and safety \$33,269 (WIP); refurbishment of pergola that has deteriorated through normal wear and tear \$1,340 (WIP); upgrade of electrical transformers to ensure constant and adequate power supply to the property \$2,358 (WIP); stage 1 upgrade of bitumen roadway that has deteriorated through normal wear and tear \$24,491 (WIP); replacement of inefficient lighting in the service wing of the main house to improve environmental rating \$19,138; replacement of external stairs that had become unsafe due to normal wear and tear \$71,590 (WIP). Admiralty House Sydney - reconstruction of collapsing garden wall \$1,965; upgrade of fire protection system to improve safety standards \$2,228 (WIP); refurbishment of ensuite to main bedroom to improve safety and address operational faults \$14,004 (WIP); dining room refurbishment to improve lighting and undertake cyclical upkeep for an area that has not been addressed for 12 years \$2,800 (WIP); refurbishment of toilets and kitchen of Federal Police security guardhouse \$53,567 (note that this includes some 2005/06 expenditure being brought to account as a capital project); cyclical refurbishment of main bedroom and sitting room that has not been addressed in over a decade \$11,202 (note that this includes some 2005/06 expenditure being brought to account as a capital project) (WIP); replacement of unsafe flagstone paving \$3,825 (WIP); installation of heating/cooling system to the main house \$5,095 (WIP); refurbishment of collapsing historic garden gazebo \$2,295 (WIP).

In correction of advice provided in response to PM71 at the February 2007 hearing, there were two costing errors in the project list provided. These were advice that \$32,500 was spent on access road upgrade at Government House, the correct expenditure is \$nil; and \$13,413 was shown as expenditure for pergola and path replacement at Admiralty House, the correct expenditure figure is \$5,932. In

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correction of advice provided in response to PM49 at the November 2006 hearings, there was one costing error in the expenditure attributed to the upgrade of electrical distribution boards at Admiralty House – the expenditure figure is \$69,980.

Further expenditure on maintenance, acquisitions and contract service costs for the official residences for the period 1 March to 30 June 2007 is as follows

Maintenance – buildings \$152,292; grounds \$68,723

Acquisitions – furniture and fittings \$8,112; plant and equipment \$3,442; kitchen equipment \$687; gardening equipment \$2,808

Contracted services – office cleaning \$20,652; sanitary services \$299; waste removal and recycling \$7,686; garden waste removal and recycling \$5,119; pest control \$1,967.

The budgets for maintenance, acquisitions and contract services are established from internal allocations made for these cost centres from the total funds appropriated to the Office as Departmental Expenses appropriation. The budgets for 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years are set out below together with the estimated internal budget allocation for 2007-08. It should be noted that the estimated budget allocation can vary depending on priorities within the Office. Future budgets are yet to be established and typically will be set closer to the start of each of the financial year.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Maintenance	\$553,500	\$536,000	586,000
Acquisitions	\$43,000	\$28,000	32,000
Contract services	\$31,400	\$73,000	107,000