



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

USHER OF THE BLACK ROD

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
TEL: (02) 6277 3398  
FAX: (02) 6277 3199  
E-mail: [blackrod.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:blackrod.sen@aph.gov.au)

29 May 2012

Ms Christine McDonald  
Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration Committee  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

**Budget Estimates Hearing 21 May  
Department of the Senate**

**Clarification of Evidence**

At the hearing, Senator Faulkner asked (Hansard page 9) about the membership of the Parliament House Heritage Advisory Board as follows:

**Senator FAULKNER:** How many people on that heritage management board do have any heritage expertise?

**Mr Hallett:** There are two officers from external departments who have expertise in that field.

**Senator FAULKNER:** So how many are on the board?

**Mr Hallett:** It is chaired by the secretary of DPS, or the acting secretary. There is the serjeant, who is the nominee of the Clerk of the House, and me, and the two other officers from external departments who have heritage expertise.

**Senator FAULKNER:** So the heritage non-experts have the numbers.

**Mr Hallett:** That is one way of looking at it.

**Senator FAULKNER:** It would be one way, but is it an accurate statement.

**Mr Hallett:** That is probably an accurate statement. I should also add that there is an officer in DPS who I understand does have heritage qualifications, and he attended the meeting as well.

Since the hearing I have checked the Hansard and should clarify that the Board consists of the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), the

Serjeant-at-Arms as nominee of the Clerk of the Department of the House of Representatives and myself as the nominee of the Clerk of the Senate.

In accordance with the Parliament House Heritage Management Framework, the Board is *assisted* in its deliberations by expert advice from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC), and the National Capital Authority (NCA). Specifically, the Board has requested the Secretary of DSEWPaC and the Chief Executive of the NCA to each nominate an officer to contribute to the deliberations of the Board. The Framework requires that the nominees be provided with all papers considered by the Board and be invited to attend all Board meetings.

Two nominated representatives attended the initial Board meeting on 1 May and will be invited to future meetings.

I apologise that my evidence at the hearing was not as clear as it could have been.

(Brien Hallett)