



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2018-19
Thursday, 24 May 2018
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am to 6.59pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Finance;
- Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA); and
- Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- recommendations of the ANAO report *Australia Post's Efficiency of Delivering Reserved Letter Services*;
- engagement with foreign public service departments;
- investigation of Plutus Payroll;
- findings of ANAO report *Corporate Planning in the Australian Public Sector 2017–18* in relation to the planning processes for corporate plans;
- recommendations of the ANAO report *Efficiency through Contestability Program*;
- developments on the Snowy Hydro Project;
- statement of risks in relation to the equity of the NBN Co Limited and Moorebank Intermodal;
- decentralisation within the Commonwealth public service;
- discussion of the Government Business Analytical Unit within the Data Integration Partnership for Australia (DIPA);
- expenditure on government campaign advertising and the application of guidelines;
- Government Schools Funding Campaign and involvement of the Independent Communications Committee;
- government procurement in relation to air travel;
- reimbursement of parliamentarian office costs;
- expenses of parliamentarians before the High Court decision in relation to citizenship;
- movement of staff in the office of Minister Keenan in 2017;
- staffing levels within IPEA and update on the number of IPEA enquiries;
- audits undertaken in relation to parliamentarians;
- time taken to implement new mandatory AEC processes relevant to nominations for candidates, including independent candidates, for upcoming by-elections;
- comparative costs associated with domestic air travel and membership of domestic airline clubs or lounges;
- selection of 28 July 2018 as the date for the five by-elections following the resignation of parliamentarians ineligible to sit under section 44 of the Constitution;
- advice given by the AEC to the Speaker concerning the selection of the by-election date; and
- status of associated entities in relation to the Business Council of Australia and Get-Up.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday 25 May 2018, in Senate Committee room 2S1 calling Indigenous Land Corporation, Indigenous Business Australia, Aboriginal Hostels Limited, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Office of Township Leasing, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 2), and the Department of Health.