



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2019-20  
Monday, 8 April 2019  
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 6.52pm.

The committee called:

Parliamentary Departments

- Department of the Senate;
- Parliamentary Budget Office; and
- Department of Parliamentary Services.

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

- Australian Public Service Commission;
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 1 and including the Office for Women);
- Digital Transformation Agency;
- Australian National Audit Office;
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency; and
- Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the committee amended the program released the following statutory officers and agencies: the Parliamentary Service Commissioner, the Parliamentary Service Merit Protection Commissioner, the Merit Protection Commissioner, the Remuneration Tribunal, the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal, the Office of National Intelligence, and the National Australia Day Council.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Department of the Senate

- prorogation processes;
- matters of parliamentary privilege;
- departmental budget measures, including capital expenditure; and
- procedures for the consideration of committee of the whole amendments.

Parliamentary Budget Office

- pre-election economic and financial outlook; and
- PBO staffing levels during election campaigns.

Department of Parliamentary Services

- Lendlease contract timeline;
- art installations at Parliament House;
- DPS Digital Strategy Plan; and
- Comcare improvement notice in relation to the white powder incident.

#### APSC

- impact of public sector wages on the economy; and
- current status of bargaining negotiations.

#### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Outcome 1)

- election timing;
- government advertising prior to caretaker period;
- approval for water management plan and the Adani mine; and
- government appointments.

#### DTA

- Minister Keenan's trip to the US; and
- blockchain technologies.

#### Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

- implications of the advice by the PM to call an election on the Governor-General's planned travel and official commitments.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Tuesday, 9 April 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, to continue the examination of the Finance portfolio.