



Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2018-19
Tuesday, 23 October 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 8.58am to 11.01pm.

The committee called:

- remaining agencies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, including the Digital Transformation Office, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, and the Australian National Audit Office. The committee then examined the department and agencies of the Finance Portfolio, including ASC Pty Ltd, Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd, the Future Fund Management Agency, the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority, and the Australian Electoral Commission.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Digital Transformation Agency

- change in DTA senior management;
- staffing matters;
- performance measures as detailed in the annual report; and
- blockchain technology.

Workplace Gender Equality Agency

- WGEA's activities to address the gender pay gap; and
- differences between the Australian Bureau of Statistics' and the WGEA's statistics on the gender pay gap.

Australian National Audit Office

- implications for an audit should the Attorney-General issue a certificate under section 37 of the *Auditor-General Act 1997*; and
- response to claims made by Thales in court documents about the conduct of the ANAO's performance audit for the procurement of Protected Mobility Vehicles by Defence.

ASC Pty Ltd

- structural separation of ASC Pty Ltd and ASC Shipbuilding; and
- workforce planning issues.

Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd

- construction of the Osborne shipbuilding facility as outlined in the *Naval Shipbuilding Plan*; and
- use of Australian steel in construction of cranes for the Osborne shipbuilding facility.

Future Fund Management Agency

- investment in joint venture funds; and
- process of appointment for a new Chair of the Future Fund.

Department of Finance

- Outcome 1:
 - grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation;
 - timing for release of MYEFO; and
 - impact of various possible federal election dates on Budget preparations.
- Outcome 2:
 - review of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*;
 - effect of the pause of the HFC rollout as part of the National Broadband Network; and
 - details of the Final Budget Outcome 2017–18.
- Outcome 3:
 - staff complaints regarding members of the Commonwealth Parliament;
 - changes in staffing following the recent change in Prime Minister;
 - allocation of staff to political parties;
 - staffing allocations for special envoys;
 - process for dealing with bullying complaints for employees engaged under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*;
 - process for the initiation of investigations on the use of entitlements; and
 - use of office expenses for printing and internet services.

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

- travel expenses for special envoys;
- travel expenses for representatives of rural constituencies; and
- authorisation of parliamentarians' overseas travel.

Australian Electoral Commission

- AEC newspaper publication during the Braddon by-election;
- progress on the examination compliance with obligations of association entities by GetUp;
- progress on the investigation of the use of a plane by Pauline Hanson's One Nation; and
- current state of the count in the Wentworth by-election and triggers for a recount.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Friday, 26 October 2018 in Senate Committee Room 2S1, for the Cross Portfolio hearing on Indigenous Matters, and calling:

- Indigenous agencies within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, commencing with Aboriginal Hostels Limited, followed by Indigenous Business Australia; and
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which will subsequently be joined by the Department of Health to answer questions on indigenous health issues.