

# Senator Corey Bernardi

Use of car transport in Sydney for Party purposes

## Issue

Senator Bernardi's access of travel work expenses may have been to enable him to conduct party business in Sydney.

On 1 June 2017, media reports ([Attachment A](#)) claimed that Senator Bernardi, during recent travel in Sydney, had 'begun the process of applying to the (NSW) Electoral Commission to establish a local branch of (his) party'. The NSW Electoral Office is located on level 25 of 201 Kent St, Sydney ([Attachment D](#)).

COMCAR records, at [Attachment B](#), indicate that Senator Bernardi travelled from Sydney Airport to 201 Kent St., Sydney at 12:10pm on Wednesday 31 May 2017. Cabcharge records, at [Attachment C](#), indicate that the Senator travelled by taxi at 14:24 that day from a 'City' location to Gallows Hill, NSW.

## Background

### Senator Bernardi's Parliamentary Positions

Senator Bernardi is an Australian Conservatives Senator from South Australia. He currently does not serve on a Senate Committee and has not done so since February 2017.

### Provision of car transport

Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2012/04 paragraph 3.1 ([Attachment E](#)) details that travel in relation to party business is only permissible at Commonwealth expense for certain proscribed purposes. They include meetings of a parliamentary political party, its executive, committee and its national conference. Party business not included in this exhaustive list is presumed to not be within entitlement.

## Conclusion

There is no provision within the work expenses framework for travel at Commonwealth expense for purposes of registering a state level political party. The information held by COMCAR and Cabcharge, in light of media reports, would seem to indicate that Senator Bernardi may have travelled to the NSW Electoral Commission for party business.

This matter is to be referred to IPEA Director [Section 22](#) for his consideration and possible administrative action.

[Section 22](#)

9 June 2017

Reviewed + agreed,

[Section 22](#)

9 Jun 2017

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JUNE 1 2017

SAVE PRINT LICENSE ARTICLE

# Bernardi seeks to challenge, split the NSW Liberals



James Robertson

Over a banquet of tea-smoked duck and ocean trout sashimi, Senator Cory Bernardi made a sales pitch for a conservative uprising on Thursday.

In attendance were prominent and former Liberal right wingers David Flint, the Howard government communications mandarin and national monarchist campaigner, John Ruddick, a former presidential candidate who recently quit the party but famously maintains a mailing list of ten thousand of its members, Tony Abbott ally and ex-adviser, Walter Villatora and recently suspended commentator and ex-MP Ross Cameron.



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Cory Bernardi was in Sydney to woo Liberals to his new political party. Photo: Jessica Hromas

The day after he applied to register a NSW branch of his new Australian Conservatives, Senator Bernardi made it clear he expects to compete with the Liberals not just for votes but defections.

"NSW is our [party's] largest state," said Senator Bernardi, who resigned from the Liberals last year. "We're already at 40 per cent of the membership of the [NSW] Liberal party."

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Senator Bernardi's party, which merged with Family First in April, claims a paying membership of more than 4000 in NSW. The NSW Liberals say they have more than 10,000 paying members.

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Senator Bernardi, in Sydney this week, was understood to have begun the process of applying to the Electoral Commission to establish a local branch of the party which would allow it to run candidates in state elections.

That will worry NSW Liberals privately fretting about the party's vulnerability to a challenge from the right of politics at the next state election. Internal polling is said to show the party is on track to lose one or more seats to One Nation.



David Flint (left) dined with Bernardi on Thursday. Photo: Jessica Hromas

Thursday's lunch with senior Liberal and ex-Liberal figures will also heighten speculation that Senator Bernardi is seeking to capitalise on dissatisfaction within the Liberal party's conservative right wing by courting defections.

Senator Bernardi's new force is rumoured to have links to some of Australia's most lucrative political donors, including Australia's richest woman, Gina Rinehart.

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Once ascendant in NSW, the party's conservative right faction - known to its detractors as the "Taliban" - now exerts dwindling influence over party affairs in NSW and claims one vote on its ruling 21-member state executive

Right faction members allege the party's moderate wing and "head office", or its administrative apparatus, exerts undue control over who gets to choose who represents the party in Parliament as an MP.

The conservative right advocates instead a "plebiscite" model that has party members vote to choose candidates.

The party will debate its future path on that question at a conference next month. But Senator Bernardi said he would pitch to conservative Liberals the chance to join a party that already offered members participation in party affairs.

"We also have the values and principles that appeal to Liberal voters," Senator Bernardi said.

The NSW Liberal party declined to comment.

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## Booking Record

Job Number 370689  
 Category Alteration  
 Booking Type COMCAR  
 Fleet Pre-Bk  
 NSW

Account Number 10013791  
 Account Name Senator Cory Bernardi

Passenger Name Senator Cory Bernardi  
 Pickup QF1422  
 Pickup Address Airport Drive, Mascot  
 Instructions Sydney Domestic Airport

Dest Pickup  
 Dest Address 201 Kent Street, Sydney  
 Dest Instructions

Telephone 0400155290  
 Extn

Attributes No Attributes  
 M Code  
 Number of Pass. 1  
 Car Type COMCAR Sedan  
 Time Required 12:10  
 Date Required 31/05/17  
 Car Dispatched ZZZ287  
 Driver 0000002111  
 Time Dispatched 10:40  
 Dispatched PBS Assignment  
 Picked up 12:15  
 Dropped 12:35  
 Area  
 Rank  
 Channel 04  
 ETA  
 Operator ID rnorval  
 Time off line 09:34:40  
 Date Off line 01/06/17  
 Comments Caller: Section 22

Pickup and Drop Time Updated

[Section 22] 2017-05-31 12:50]  
 Latitude 0  
 Longitude 0

Printed by: Section 22 @ 14:10:38 09/06/17

Billing Period	Payment Type	Account Number	Name	Date	Time	Pick Up	Drop Off	Fare (inc GST)	Service Fee	Total Amount (inc GST)		GST in Total	Receipt	Taxi	Our Reference
1706	EFTPOS	8034440	CORY BERNARDI	31/05/2017	14:24	CITY	GALLOWS HILL	\$9.80	\$0.49	\$10.29	\$0.89	252	T7273		252T7273

Attachment C



## Contact Us

### New South Wales Electoral Commission

Level 25, 201 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000  
GPO Box 832, Sydney NSW 2001

Office Hours - Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

A.B.N. 94 828 824 124

### General Enquiries About Voting

Telephone 1300 135 736 (local call rate within Australia)

**Contact General Enquiries (including complaints and suggestions)**

### Funding, Disclosure and Compliance Enquiries

Telephone 1300 022 011 (local call rate within Australia)

**Email Funding, Disclosure & Compliance enquiries**

### Election Employment Enquiries

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### SmartRoll Enquiries

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### Lobbyists Register Enquiries

Telephone 02 9290 5999

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Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)  
National Telephone 13 14 50

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- Speak and Listen users - phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 135 736
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## General Enquiries

Telephone 02 9290 5999  
Fax 02 9290 5991



Page Last Updated: 08/05/17





## REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

### Determination 2012/04: Members of Parliament – Entitlements

As amended,

Made under sub-sections 7(1), 7(2) and 7(4) of the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973

Consolidated by the Remuneration Tribunal Secretariat as at 24 February 2017 and incorporates amending determinations up to and including 2017/02 – Members of Parliament – Entitlements

Compilation No. 9

This Determination sets out various entitlements and other related matters for members of parliament.

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#### PART 1 – GENERAL

**1.1 Authority:** This Determination is issued in accordance with subsections 7(1), 7(2) and 7(4) of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973* (the Act).

**1.4 Definitions:** The following definitions apply in this Determination:

**'accompany'** means to travel with a senator or member to the final destination of a trip he or she is undertaking.

**'base salary'** means parliamentary base salary as defined in the Act and refers to the amount determined by the Remuneration Tribunal in Determination 2012/02 or any Determination that supersedes Determination 2012/02.

**PART 3 – TRAVEL ENTITLEMENTS**  
**SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT**

- 3.1** A senator or member when travelling within Australia, excluding the external territories, on parliamentary, electorate or official business but not including party business (other than meetings of a parliamentary political party, or of its executive, or of its committees, and the national conference of a political party, of which he or she is a member), shall be entitled to travel at government expense.
- 3.2** For the purpose of clause 3.1 official business means attendance at:
- (a) properly constituted meetings of a Government advisory committee or task force provided that the senator or member is a member of the committee or task force;
  - (b) functions representing a Minister or a Presiding Officer on official business as a Minister or Presiding Officer, provided that the Minister or Presiding Officer nominates the function in advance in a written request to the senator or member to represent him or her.
- 3.3** Travel in accordance with clause 3.1 above may be on scheduled commercial or commuter air services, mainline rail services or by motor coach and other vehicles operating as regular carriers and may include:
- (a) by charter transport, provided that where charter transport is used the senator or member must pay for any additional cost as between the charter transport and the estimated reimbursement cost of private vehicle allowance at the rate specified in clause 5.1 for the most reasonable and usual route between the departure and destinations points; or
  - (b) the cost of transporting a vehicle on a ferry service that a senator or member is travelling on within his or her electorate (which means, in the case of a senator, the state or territory he/she represents). The service may depart from or return to a place outside the electorate.
- 3.4** The Special Minister of State shall have a discretion to approve the use of charter transport within Australia at government expense in special cases, including such use by the Leader of a recognised party of at least 5 members and circumstances where there are no scheduled commercial services or a senator or member would be unduly delayed by the use of scheduled services. This entitlement does not extend to the use of charter transport for purposes which are covered by the charter entitlement provided under clauses 7.1 to 7.9 of this determination.
- 3.5** Additional travel on scheduled commercial/commuter air services at Commonwealth expense shall be authorised in the following circumstances:
- (a) in the case of a senator for the Northern Territory or the member for Lingiari, travel to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island on electorate business;