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Subject	Statement provided by Mr Laming on 8 July 2022	Information available to IPEA	Analysis	Comment
1. Accommodation bookings	*"June 12, 2019 non-refundable accommodation bookings indicating satisfactory pre-planning of the Parliamentary address to the Hobart Congress- in IPEA possession, removed from final Audit."*	IPEA accepts that on or around June 12 2019 there was an accommodation booking made and that this was information known and considered throughout the audit.	Information already taken into consideration.	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.
2. Flights to Hobart	*"June 12 flights to attend the conference- - in IPEA possession via FCM, omitted from final Audit."*	IPEA accepts that on or around June 12 2019 there were flights booked for Mr Laming to travel to Hobart. This information was known and considered throughout the audit.	Information already taken into consideration.	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.
3. Registration for RANZCO conference	*"June 12 registration for the conference- - in IPEA possession, omitted from final Audit."*	IPEA are aware that registration for the conference occurred. This information was known and considered throughout the audit.	IPEA notes that although these bookings were made, it does not mean they played out as the booking suggested. There is no evidence provided to IPEA that suggests Mr Laming attended any other part of the conference other than the session on Sunday morning. In fact he said on 6 December 2021 *"the invitation was to address delegates, including Q & A, not to attend sessions"*	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.

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4. Registration for the RANZCO Dinner on Saturday 22 June 2019	*"June 12 registration for the Saturday evening event- - in IPEA possession, and confirmed with a single phone call to Conference Partners"*	IPEA has always known, understood, and accepted that these various plans were put in place on or around 12 June 2019.	IPEA has evidence that Mr Laming did not arrive back in Hobart until the evening of 22 June 2019, when the dinner had already commenced. If he did attend the dinner, it was very late. We also have evidence of an individual using Mr Laming's Cabcharge card in a taxi at the time of the dinner.	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.
5. Correspondence between s 47F s 47F and Mr Laming	s 47F *indicated the SMS communications with me arranging the Parliamentary address which I had no access to, were not obtained under IPEA information gathering powers because, De Smet neglected to 'request the sms details.'"*	On 1 December 2021 IPEA issued s 47F with a notice to provide information in relation to Mr Laming's attendance at the conference. s 47F provided a number of emails in relation to the arrangements for Mr Laming to attend. In further correspondence provided by Mr Laming on 14 July 2022 he stated *"Dinner event booking and subsequent refund on June 24 because I was attending 'as* s 47F *guest.'"* This is the first reference to a refund being provided for the dinner.	IPEA's use of the terminology *"at the last minute"* is a direct quote from s 47F He also said*"...we became aware of his plans to attend....quite close to the meeting."* s 47F also advised *"To the best of my knowledge, there was no written invitation made to Mr Laming to attend the combined meeting of the Tasmanian branch of RANZCO and ANZOPS. From memory, (it was a long time ago and there is nothing in our records) ,I think ,a verbal invitation was made a few years earlier."* This information conflicts with the information provided by Mr Laming on 14 July 2022 in relation to the refund for the dinner. The section 53 notice issued to s 47F was deliberately broad to capture any relevant information. In particular it requested information on when	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.

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			arrangements were made for Mr Laming to address the RANZCO Tasmania Branch meeting and by whom were these arrangements initiated. This SMS exchange between Mr Laming and s 47F on or around 12 June 2019 was not provided under the section 53 notice and it was also not provided or referenced by Mr Laming at any point during the audit. To the extent that IPEA followed up and got further information from s 47F about Mr Laming's attendance, he did not talk about or mention this correspondence. Any evidence that the timing of this was on or around 12 June would be consistent with the timing of Mr Laming's other bookings for the trip.	
6. Check in times for accommodation	*"The three unremarkable hotel check-in times forming the remainder of the Audit were completely consistent with my accounts."*		The check in times provided by the accommodation providers were not consistent with Mr Laming's account that he spent 3 nights in Hobart at Amberley House. The relevance of this is that they show he checked in to Amberley house on the evening of the second day, which contradicts his suggestion that he was at the conference throughout. Given conflicting evidence, IPEA provides greater weight to the evidence provided	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.

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			by Amberley House. They provided direct text messages between Mr Laming and themselves, confirming the time of check-in.	
7. Cancellation fees for Launceston to Melbourne flight bookings	*"The four Jetstar Launceston to Melbourne legs cost just $96 each. They were either non-refundable or subject to a $60 cancellation fee. This was a matter for FCM when dealing with my itinerary change, not the Parliamentarian. Value for money was the reason I didn't book four $896 business class fares for this travel."*	Nothing at all in the audit report focuses on or places any significance on the cancellation fees for these flights. The cost of these can be formally met within the framework (regulation 65). IPEA had no concerns and raised no concerns with Mr Laming in relation to these fees. Mr Laming did not provide any information about changes to the school meeting in the meeting with IPEA of 22 June 2021 and these flights were not discussed at that meeting. Therefore there was no reference that Mr Laming "wasted taxpayer funds".		The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.
8. Field visits	*"...the field visits to central Tasmania requiring twice as much driving as initially*	In his email of 8 July 2022 Mr Laming references 'field visits'. In his various early responses about what he was	Mr Laming's position in relation to the purpose of the car hire has been inconsistent and contradictory.	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.

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	planned in order to 'loop back' to Hobart..."	doing in Tasmania over the 3 day period, he made no mention of these field visits. The first mention of the field visits was in Mr Laming's response to IPEA of 8 October 2021. When IPEA subsequently asked him to provide detail about the 'field visits' he failed to answer the questions put to him. The meeting record from 22 June 2021 confirms that when asked about the hire car use Mr Laming made no mention of his 'field visits' and advised IPEA they *"did the loop"*. On 30 June 2021 Mr Laming advised IPEA that the first day of the 3 day car hire was not *"parliamentary"* and should be reimbursed. On 3 August 2021 he again advised he was *"happy to reimburse the first day of car hire"*	The notion of a parliamentary business field trip was not introduced by Mr Laming until 8 October 2021. At that time he had already made offers to reimburse the first portion of the hire.	

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		On 16 August 2021 he said "*in this case the Hobart vehicle rental was for three days in which I attended to the following parliamentary business in Hobart; a late Saturday Congress event, Sunday speaking commitment and transfers, then a Monday appointment and return to airport.*"		
9. Accommodation	*"the first night of the non-refundable accommodation unsuitable."*	Mr Laming advised IPEA that he stayed 3 nights at Amberley House. At some stage he introduced the notion that one of the adults got sick and they booked at another hotel, The Grand Chancellor Hobart.	Mr Laming has been elusive on the matter of accommodation and has not indicated what date the "first night" refers to.	The information provided does not materially change the outcome of the audit.