

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

1 April 2021

Mr Andrew Laming MP Member for Bowman PO Box 8024 Cleveland, QLD, 4163

Email: Andrew.Laming.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Laming

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

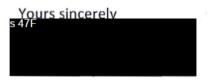
The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 to review work expenses accessed by parliamentarians.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of Commonwealth-funded travel and travel-related expenses, incurred by you and your family in relation to travel between Brisbane, Hobart and Melbourne from 21 to 27 June 2019 (the relevant period).

At Attachment A are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period, organised into three segments. For each segment we have set out questions for your response to assist in our review. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to <u>assurance@ipea.gov.au</u>, by close of business on 7 May 2021, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 02 6215 3000.



A/g Director Audit & Assurance

Attachment A

Andrew Laming, MP Assurance Review

Segment 1: Brisbane to Hobart 21 to 24 June 2019

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Cabcharge	Ormiston (Home base)	21/06/2019		Brisbane Airport	21/06/2019	9:16 AM	\$85.95
Travel Provider – Virgin Australia Andrew Laming	Brisbane	21/06/2019	10:00AM	Hobart	21/06/2019	12:50PM	\$218.71
Travel Provider – Virgin Australia Olesja Laming	Brisbane	21/06/2019	10:00AM	Hobart	21/06/2019	12:50PM	\$218.71
Travel Provider – Virgin Australia Sophie-Claire Laming	Brisbane	21/06/2019	10:00AM	Hobart	21/06/2019	12:50PM	\$218.71
Travel Provider – Virgin Australia Isobel Marrie Laming	Brisbane	21/06/2019	10:00AM	Hobart	21/06/2019	12:50PM	\$218.71
Travel Provider – Avis Rent a Car	Hobart	21/06/2019	12:50 PM	Hobart	24/06/2019	2:05PM	\$362.79
Parliamentarians Travel Allowance – Parliamentary Duties Three nights – Commercial Rate				Hobart	21/06/2019		\$1,071.00
Cabcharge	Sandy Bay	22/06/2019		Glebe	22/06/2019	8:00PM	\$9.09

IPEA notes that on Friday 21 June 2019 you and your family flew from Brisbane to Hobart. You claimed travel allowance for three nights for parliamentary duties at the commercial rate totalling \$1,071 (GST excl).

You provided a credit card statement and a hotel reservation email for three nights at Amberley House in Hobart.

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To assist IPEA in reviewing this matter, please provide answers and any relevant supporting material to the following questions:

- 1. What was your dominant purpose for travelling to Hobart on Friday 21 June 2019?
- 2. The Guardian reports you as indicating that you attended an ophthalmology conference in Hobart. In relation to this statement:
 - a) In what capacity did you attend this event?
 - b) If you attended in your capacity as the Member for Bowman, please explain how this constitutes "parliamentary business" as defined in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*?
 - c) Please provide copies of invitations, programs or documents for this event.
- 3. Please advise whether your family's travel expenses meet the three part test in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*:
 - You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business;
 - Your family was travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - Your family's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.
- 4. The hotel reservation provided with your travel allowance claim was for three nights, from Friday 21 June 2019, for two adults in a "Classic Queen Suite" at Amberley House. Can you please confirm you, your spouse and children stayed at Amberley House whilst in Hobart?

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Segment 2: Hobart to Brisbane 24 June 2019 to 25 June 2019

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Andrew Laming	Hobart	24/06/2019	2:05PM	Melbourne	24/06/2019	3:20PM	\$1,277.27
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Andrew Laming	Melbourne	24/06/2019	4:20PM	Canberra	24/06/2019	5:25PM	-
Parliamentarians Travel Allowance – Parliamentary Duties One night – Canberra Rate				Canberra	24/06/2019		\$288.00
COMCAR	Pialligo	24/06/2019	5:44PM	Acton	24/06/2019	6:32PM	\$110.04
COMCAR	Canberra	24/06/2019	10:55PM	Capital Hill	24/06/2019	11:02PM	\$58.80
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Sophie-Claire Laming	Hobart	24/06/2019	2:05PM	Melbourne	24/06/2019	3:20PM	\$440.52
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Sophie-Claire Laming	Melbourne	24/06/2019	4:10PM	Brisbane	24/06/2019	6:20PM	-
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Isobel Marrie Laming	Hobart	24/06/2019	2:05PM	Melbourne	24/06/2019	3:20PM	\$680.42
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Isobel Marrie Laming	Melbourne	24/06/2019	4:10PM	Brisbane	24/06/2019	6:20PM	-
Cabcharge	Brisbane Airport	24/06/2019		Ormiston (Home base)	24/06/2019	7:26PM	\$79.32

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COMCAR	Capital Hill	25/06/2019	6:15AM	Pialligo	25/06/2019	6:24AM	\$58.80
Travel Provider – Virgin Australia Andrew Laming	Canberra	25/06/2019	7:20AM	Brisbane	25/06/2019	9:00AM	\$582.59
COMCAR	Brisbane Airport	25/06/2019	8:51AM	Ormiston	25/06/2019	9:41AM	\$58.80

IPEA notes that you and your children flew from Hobart to Melbourne on Monday 24 June 2019. Your children then flew from Melbourne to Brisbane that day, whilst you flew to Canberra where you claimed travel allowance for one night at a cost of \$288 (GST excl).

- 1. What was your dominant purpose for travelling to Canberra on Monday 24 June 2019?
- 2. What was the nature of your parliamentary business whilst in Canberra?

IPEA notes that you then flew from Canberra to Brisbane on Tuesday 25 June 2019 returning via COMCAR to your home base in Ormiston.

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Segment 3: Brisbane to Melbourne 26 June 2019 to 27 June 2019

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Cabcharge	Ascot	26/06/2019		Brisbane Airport	26/06/2019	3:40PM	\$26.82
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Andrew Laming	Brisbane	26/06/2019	4:10PM	Melbourne	26/06/2019	6:35PM	\$1,178.91
Cabcharge	Melbourne Airport	26/06/2019		Parkville	26/06/2019	7:27PM	\$71.95
Cabcharge	Parkville	26/06/2019		Southbank	26/06/2019	9:49PM	\$16.27
Parliamentarians Travel Allowance – Parliamentary Duties One night – Commercial Rate				Melbourne	26/06/2019		\$389.00
Cabcharge	City	27/06/2019		Bentleigh	27/06/2019	12:10AM	\$51.45
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Andrew Laming	Melbourne	27/06/2019	10:10AM	Brisbane	27/06/2019	12:20PM	\$1,178.91
Travel Provider – Qantas Airways Olesja Laming	Melbourne	27/06/2019	10:10AM	Brisbane	27/06/2019	12:20PM	\$1,178.91
Cabcharge	Brisbane Airport	27/06/2019		Ascot	27/06/2019	1:03PM	\$27.82
Cabcharge	Alexandra Hills	27/06/2019		Ormiston	27/06/2019	2:11PM	\$20.45

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Cabcharge Repayment*

^{*}IPEA notes that you requested to repay the above cabcharge as a result of an IPEA post payment check.

You flew from Brisbane to Melbourne on Wednesday 26 June 2019 where you claimed travel allowance for one night at a cost of \$389 (GST excl). The following day, Thursday 27 June 2019, you and your spouse flew from Melbourne back to Brisbane.

The Guardian reports you as indicating that you attended the Hort Connections conference in Melbourne on 26 June 2019.

- 1. What was your dominant purpose of your return travel to Melbourne on 26 June 2019 and 27 June 2019?
 - a) What was the purpose of your taxi trip from Melbourne Airport to Parkville arriving at 7:27pm on 26 June 2019?
 - b) What was the purpose of your taxi trip from Parkville to Southbank arriving at 9:49pm on the evening of 26 June 2019?
 - c) What was the purpose of your taxi trip from Melbourne City to Bentleigh arriving at 12:10am on 27 June 2019?
- 2. You provided a booking confirmation with your travel allowance claim for your stay in commercial accommodation in Melbourne on 26 June 2019. Can you please provide a tax invoice from the ibis Budget Melbourne CBD.
- 3. Please advise whether your spouse's travel expenses meet the three part test in section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017*:
 - You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business;
 - Your spouse was travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - Your spouse's travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.