



Australian Government

**Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority**

Assurance Review 2023/021

Senator Linda White, Senator for Victoria – review of travel
for new parliamentarians

1 April to 30 June 2023

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Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an Assurance Review of travel by Senator Linda White during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023. The Assurance Review forms part of IPEA's 3 Year Assurance Plan. The purpose of the Assurance Review was to determine whether the use of parliamentary business resources for travel was consistent with the legislative framework.

Assurance Review Findings

2. The Assurance Review assessed whether the use of parliamentary business resources was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business. IPEA identified Senator White as having used parliamentary business resources for travel to:
 - a. Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023,
 - b. Vietnam between 11 and 16 April 2023
 - c. Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023
 - d. Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023
3. Having considered the available information, including the detailed response provided by Senator White, IPEA is satisfied her travel to Hobart, Vietnam, Perth, Mount Isa, and Townsville was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was consistent with the legislative framework.

Scope and Purpose

4. The scope of this Assurance Review is all travel undertaken by Senator White during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Engagement with Senator White

5. On 7 September 2023, IPEA wrote to Senator White in relation to her travel. Senator White was asked to confirm the dominant purpose of her travel to Hobart, Perth, Mount Isa, and Townsville and to provide details of the parliamentary business. IPEA noted Senator White's travel to Vietnam as part of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport delegation falls within the period in scope. Having reviewed the available information regarding this travel, IPEA is satisfied it was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was in accordance with the legislative framework.
6. On 4 October 2023, Senator White provided a detailed response to IPEA. Senator White confirmed the dominant purpose of her travel to Perth, Mount Isa and Rockhampton was parliamentary business. Senator White provided details of the parliamentary duties which were the purpose of the travel.
7. In relation to her travel to Hobart, IPEA required additional information from Senator White to confirm the dominant purpose of the travel. On 10 October 2023, IPEA wrote to Senator White seeking confirmation that her travel to Hobart was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business. On 11 October 2023, Senator White provided IPEA with additional information in relation to her travel to Hobart.

Audit and Assurance function

IPEA's statutory audit function

9. IPEA audits parliamentarians' work expenses and the travel expenses of their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act). IPEA conducts Assurance Reviews to assess the use of parliamentary business resources against the legislative framework to determine whether there was misuse.
10. Potential outcomes of an Assurance Review include:
 - a. no further action in circumstances where the review has concluded the use of parliamentary business resources was not inconsistent with the legislative framework, or
 - b. administrative remedial action, including penalty where the review has concluded there is evidence the use of parliamentary business resources was not consistent with the legislative framework, or
 - c. an IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit, where there is evidence of systemic or substantial misuse of parliamentary business resources, or
 - d. referral to the Australian Federal Police where compelling prima facie evidence of fraud or other criminal conduct is identified.

Legislative framework

11. The legislation relevant to this Assurance Review is:
 - a. *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act)
 - b. *Parliamentary Business Resource Regulations 2017* (the Regulations)
 - c. *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (Parliamentary Business Determination)
 - d. *Parliamentary Business Resources (Commonwealth Transport) Determination 2017* (Commonwealth Transport Determination)
12. The PBR Act and the PBR Regulations established a framework for providing resources to parliamentarians in respect of their parliamentary business. Parliamentarians are eligible to claim public resources under the framework in respect of their parliamentary business.
13. Section 6 of the PBR Act provides the meaning of **parliamentary business**:
 - (1) The **parliamentary business** of a member means any of the following:
 - (a) the **parliamentary duties** of a member, being activities of the member that:
 - (i) relate directly the member's role as a member; and
 - (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(a);
 - (b) the **electorate duties** of the member, being activities of the member that:
 - (i) support or serve the member's constituents; and
 - (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b);
 - (c) the **party political duties** of the member, being activities determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c);

- (d) for a member who is an office holder or a Minister of State—the **official duties** of the member being activities that:
- (i) relate to the member’s role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
 - (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).
14. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act provides the Minister must determine activities of a member that are **parliamentary duties** of the member, or **electorate duties** of the member, or **party political duties** of the member, or **official duties** of the member. The Parliamentary Business Determination prescribes the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.
15. Subsection 6(2) of the PBR Act further provides in part:
- However, an activity is not the **parliamentary business** of a member if:
- (a) the member carries it out for the dominant purpose of either or both the following:
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person;...
16. Subsection 9(1) of the PBR Act details expenses that may be incurred for travel:
- For the purposes of this Act, the following are examples of expenses incurred in connection with travel:
- (a) the cost of fares;
 - (b) the cost of taxis and other local transport in connection with travel;
 - (c) the costs of the provision of charter services;
 - (d) the cost of accommodation;
 - (e) the cost of meals;
 - (f) the cost of incidentals.
17. The Commonwealth Transport Determination provides that COMCAR services are to be made available for the purposes of subsection 8(2) of the PBR Regulations. There are limits and conditions on member’s use of COMCAR within Australia. Subsection 9(1) of the Commonwealth Transport Determination provides:
- COMCAR is not available for the purpose of subsection 8(2) of the Regulations if the member could reasonably use the member’s private plated vehicle in the circumstances, assuming the member had a private plated vehicle.
- Note: A member who chooses an allowance instead of a private plated vehicle could reasonably be expected to use the allowance instead of claiming COMCAR transport costs in circumstances where a private plated vehicle could otherwise reasonably be used.
18. As an overarching matter, the public resources prescribed in Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the PBR Regulations are subject to a specific accountability regime established in the PBR Act for that purpose. Parliamentarians’ access to and use of public resources are subject to the following obligations:
- Parliamentarians must be personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources, and to act ethically and in good faith using and accounting for their use of those resources (see section 25)
 - A parliamentarian must not claim or use public resources unless it is for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business (dominant purpose test, see section 26)
 - A parliamentarian must ensure value for money for the Commonwealth in incurring expenses or claiming public resources, taking into account the need to conduct the parliamentary business (value for money test, see section 27), and
 - A parliamentarian must not claim resources or incur expenses if any conditions for accessing the resources have not been met (section 28)

19. In accordance with sections 30 and 31 of the PBR Act, the Commonwealth must pay the travel expenses and travel allowances as prescribed by the Regulations. Division 1 of Part 2 of the PBR Regulations prescribes travel expenses and travel allowances for travel within Australia for the purposes of sections 30 and 31 of the PBR Act.

Assurance Review methodology

Background

20. Review of travel by parliamentarians forms part of IPEA's 3 Year Assurance Plan. On 4 September 2023, in accordance with IPEA's Statutory Audit Function Sheet, IPEA commenced a Preliminary Assessment in relation to travel by Senator White during the period 1 April and 30 June 2023.
21. IPEA Audit and Assurance obtained data on all travel completed by Senator White during the period in scope. The data included travel and travel-related expenses processed via the Parliamentary Expenses Management System (PEMS) and data provided by COMCAR.
22. The Preliminary Assessment found that parliamentary business resources were used by Senator White for travel to:
 - a. Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023,
 - b. Vietnam between 11 and 16 April 2023
 - c. Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023
 - d. Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023
23. On 6 September 2023, it was decided to proceed to an Assurance Review.

Scope of Assurance Review

24. The scope of this Assurance Review is travel undertaken by Senator White between 1 April and 30 June 2023.

Assessment of work expenses

Summary of findings

Analysis

25. IPEA considered the legislative framework and applied the following questions to the travel by Senator White:
 - a. What was Senator White's dominant purpose for the travel?
 - b. What was the nature of Senator White's parliamentary business?
26. Senator White was asked to confirm the dominant purpose of her travel to Hobart, Perth, Mount Isa, and Townsville and to provide details of the parliamentary business.

27. IPEA conducted the Assurance Review by examining and assessing:
- a. Information obtained from the Audit and Assurance Dashboard
 - b. Publicly available information
 - c. Travel bookings and other records contained in PEMS
 - d. IPEA held information on international travel
 - e. Response and additional information provided by Senator White

Travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023

28. Senator White travelled from Melbourne to Hobart on 1 April 2023, departing Melbourne at 10:45 AM, stayed overnight in Hobart and returned to Melbourne, departing Hobart at 10:20 AM. Senator White advised the dominant purpose of this travel was parliamentary business for party political duties to attend the 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball in Hobart.
29. What constitutes party political duties is defined in Schedule 3 of the Parliamentary Business Determination:
- In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives:
- a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee);
 - b) a national, state or territory conference.
30. IPEA does not consider attendance at the Anniversary Ball falls within the definition of party political duties. On 10 October 2023, IPEA wrote to Senator White seeking confirmation that her travel to Hobart was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business.
31. On 11 October 2023, Senator White explained her travel to Hobart was undertaken as a member of the National Executive of the Labor Party and the Anniversary Ball was a dinner and dance at the conclusion of the Tasmanian State Conference. Having considered the available information, including the responses provided by Senator White, IPEA is satisfied the travel to Hobart was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

Travel to Vietnam between 8 and 16 April 2023

32. Senator White travelled from Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City on 8 April 2023 as part of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport delegation to Vietnam and Indonesia. The travel itinerary for this delegation was varied to allow an early to return to Australian on 16 April 2023. IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose of travel to Vietnam was parliamentary business and the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

Travel to Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023

33. Senator White travelled from Melbourne to Perth on 27 April 2023, departing Melbourne at 07:55 PM, staying two nights in Perth before returning to Canberra, departing Perth at 12:25 PM on 29 April 2023.
34. Senator White advised the dominant purpose of her travel to Perth was parliamentary business, parliamentary duties, to attend Voice Inquiry public hearings on 28 April 2023. Senator White attended the public hearing in her capacity as a member of the Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum.

35. Having considered the available information, including the response provided by Senator White, IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose of travel to Perth was parliamentary business and the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

Travel to Mount Isa and Townsville

36. Senator White travelled from Melbourne to Mount Isa on 16 May 2023 departing Melbourne at 11:45 AM and arriving in Mount Isa at 5:35 PM. Senator White stayed overnight in Mount Isa before travelling to Townsville, arriving at 7:35 PM. Senator White use COMCAR for travel within Townsville and for travel from Townsville to Kirwan and return.
37. Senator White advised the dominant purpose of her travel to Mount Isa and Townsville was parliamentary business, parliamentary duties, to attend public hearings in Cloncurry and Ingham as part of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia.
38. Having considered the available information, including the response provided by Senator White, IPEA is satisfied the dominant purpose of travel to Mount Isa and Townsville was parliamentary business and the use of parliamentary business resources was consistent with the legislative framework.
39. Details of correspondence between IPEA and Senator White are at **attachment A**.

Conclusion

40. IPEA has concluded that parliamentary business was the dominant purpose of all travel undertaken by Senator White during the period in scope and no further action is required for this Assurance Review.

[REDACTED]

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 3:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses 01 April to 30 June 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 3000 - IPEA letter to Senator White - 7 September 2023.pdf; Attachment A - Parliamentary Business Determination.pdf

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Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria

Good afternoon Senator

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to an Assurance Review of your travel during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

A/g Assistant Secretary
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

[REDACTED]

Assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

Classification: OFFICIAL
Classified by: assurance@ipea.gov.au on: 7/09/2023 3:52:02 PM

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

REF: IPEA 23/1/13 IDOC/233

7 September 2023

Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria
62 Lygon Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

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's assurance activities include reviewing the use of work expenses to travel to desirable destinations, family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023. Please note IPEA publishes completed Assurance Reviews on the website www.ipea.gov.au.

Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources.

As you would be aware, under the principles-based scheme parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (subsection 25(3) of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act).

'Parliamentary business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination – **Attachment A**).

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Section 6 of the PBR Act also states:

However, an activity is not the parliamentary business of a member if:

- (a) the member carries it out for the dominant purpose of either or both of the following:*
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;*
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person; or*
- (b) the activity is determined under subsection (3) for the purposes of this paragraph.*

IPEA notes your travel to Vietnam as part of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport delegation falls within the period in scope of this Assurance Review. Having reviewed the available information, IPEA is satisfied this travel was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was in accordance with the legislative framework.

Attachment B contains details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within Australia in the relevant period and questions for your response to assist with the Assurance review. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please refer to the Determination and consider the examples outlined and provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL**Attachment B****Senator Linda White – Assurance review of travel and travel related expenses**

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR	Melbourne	01/04/2023	09:09 AM	Melbourne Airport	01/04/2023	09:40 AM	\$128.70
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	01/04/2023	10:45 AM	Hobart	01/04/2023	12:00 PM	\$426.41
COMCAR	Cambridge	01/04/2023	12:05 PM	Sandy Bay	01/04/2023	12:42 PM	\$124.60
Domestic Travel Allowance		01/04/2023		Hobart – 1 night			\$370.00
COMCAR	Sandy Bay	02/04/2023	08:50 AM	Cambridge	02/04/2023	09:40 AM	\$122.40
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Hobart	02/04/2023	10:20 AM	Melbourne	02/04/2023	11:40 AM	\$426.41
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	02/04/2023	11:40 AM	Melbourne	02/04/2023	12:56 PM	\$131.70
COMCAR	Melbourne	27/04/2023	06:08 PM	Melbourne Airport	27/04/2023	06:46 PM	\$81.78
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	27/04/2023	07:55 PM	Perth	27/04/2023	10:05 PM	\$2,574.51
Domestic Travel Allowance		27/04/2023		Perth 2 nights			\$838.00
COMCAR	Perth Airport	27/04/2023	10:05 PM	Perth	27/04/2023	10:40 PM	\$71.40
COMCAR	Perth	29/04/2023	10:20 AM	Perth Airport	27/04/2023	10:47 AM	\$122.40
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Perth	29/04/2023	12:25 PM	Canberra	29/04/2023	06:15 PM	\$1,917.18

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Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR	Melbourne	16/05/2023	09:54 AM	Melbourne Airport	16/05/2023	10:34 AM	\$83.82
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	16/05/2023	11:45 AM	Townsville	16/05/2023	02:50 PM	\$590.49
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Townsville	16/05/2023	03:50 PM	Mount Isa	16/05/2023	05:35 PM	\$569.90
Domestic Travel Allowance		16/05/2023		Mount Isa 1 night			\$342.00
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Mount Isa	17/05/2023	06:00 PM	Townsville	17/05/2023	07:35 PM	\$606.43
COMCAR	Garbutt	17/05/2023	07:25 PM	Townsville	17/05/2023	07:55 PM	\$113.64
Domestic Travel Allowance		17/05/2023		Townsville 2 nights			\$634.00
COMCAR	Townsville	18/05/2023	06:50 AM	Townsville	18/05/2023	07:10 AM	\$113.64
COMCAR	Townsville	18/05/2023	04:10 PM	Kirwan	18/05/2023	04:40 PM	\$113.64
COMCAR	Kirwan	18/05/2023	07:50 PM	Townsville	18/05/2023	08:15 PM	\$109.09
COMCAR	Townsville	19/05/2023	06:10 AM	Garbutt	19/05/2023	06:25 AM	\$113.64
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Townsville	19/05/2023	07:50 AM	Melbourne	19/05/2023	11:05 AM	\$961.95
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	19/05/2023	11:02 AM	Melbourne	19/05/2023	11:33 AM	\$109.26

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- Q1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023?
- Q2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.
- Q3. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023?
- Q4. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.
- Q5. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023?
- Q6. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.

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Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*, and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

5 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the *parliamentary duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the *electorate duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the *party political duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the *official duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Party political duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so;b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity;c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

[REDACTED]

From: White, Linda (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 October 2023 12:27 PM
To: Assurance
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses 01 April to 30 June 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 3000 - IPEA letter to Senator White - 7 September 2023.pdf; Attachment A - Parliamentary Business Determination.pdf; Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses .pdf; ALP Tasmania 120 years Invitation.pdf; ALP Tasmania Email Invite.pdf; Referendum hearing notice 28 April.pdf; Regional Bank Closures - Final Program - Hearing 2 - Cloncurry_QLD_17-05-23.pdf; Regional Bank Closures - Final Program - Hearing 3 - Ingham_QLD_18-05-23.pdf
Categories: [REDACTED]

Please find attached my response to your email and letter dated 7 September 2023 seeking information on travel and travel related expenses

Senator Linda White
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

Ground Floor, 62 Lygon Street, Carlton South VIC 3053
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

(03) 9639 2798 Canberra: (02) 6277 4370



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 3:52 PM
To: White, Linda (Senator Office) [REDACTED]
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses 01 April to 30 June 2023 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria

Good afternoon Senator

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to an Assurance Review of your travel during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
A/g Assistant Secretary
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Assurance@ipea.gov.au

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

REF: IPEA 23/1/13 IDOC/233

7 September 2023

Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria
62 Lygon Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

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's assurance activities include reviewing the use of work expenses to travel to desirable destinations, family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023. Please note IPEA publishes completed Assurance Reviews on the website www.ipea.gov.au.

Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) sets out the principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources.

As you would be aware, under the principles-based scheme parliamentarians have an obligation to be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business (subsection 25(3) of the PBR Act). Parliamentarians also have an obligation to ensure that expenses that are incurred, or allowances or other public resources that are claimed, in relation to the conduct of the member's parliamentary business provide value for money, taking into account the need to conduct the member's parliamentary business (section 27 of the PBR Act).

'Parliamentary business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act. Activities that fall within the four duty streams of parliamentary business are set out in the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination – **Attachment A**).

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Section 6 of the PBR Act also states:

However, an activity is not the parliamentary business of a member if:

- (a) the member carries it out for the dominant purpose of either or both of the following:*
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;*
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person; or*
- (b) the activity is determined under subsection (3) for the purposes of this paragraph.*

IPEA notes your travel to Vietnam as part of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport delegation falls within the period in scope of this Assurance Review. Having reviewed the available information, IPEA is satisfied this travel was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was in accordance with the legislative framework.

Attachment B contains details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within Australia in the relevant period and questions for your response to assist with the Assurance review. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please refer to the Determination and consider the examples outlined and provide copies of documentation to support your response, such as diary notes, invitations, or media reporting.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL**Attachment B****Senator Linda White – Assurance review of travel and travel related expenses**

Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR	Melbourne	01/04/2023	09:09 AM	Melbourne Airport	01/04/2023	09:40 AM	\$128.70
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	01/04/2023	10:45 AM	Hobart	01/04/2023	12:00 PM	\$426.41
COMCAR	Cambridge	01/04/2023	12:05 PM	Sandy Bay	01/04/2023	12:42 PM	\$124.60
Domestic Travel Allowance		01/04/2023		Hobart – 1 night			\$370.00
COMCAR	Sandy Bay	02/04/2023	08:50 AM	Cambridge	02/04/2023	09:40 AM	\$122.40
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Hobart	02/04/2023	10:20 AM	Melbourne	02/04/2023	11:40 AM	\$426.41
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	02/04/2023	11:40 AM	Melbourne	02/04/2023	12:56 PM	\$131.70
COMCAR	Melbourne	27/04/2023	06:08 PM	Melbourne Airport	27/04/2023	06:46 PM	\$81.78
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	27/04/2023	07:55 PM	Perth	27/04/2023	10:05 PM	\$2,574.51
Domestic Travel Allowance		27/04/2023		Perth 2 nights			\$838.00
COMCAR	Perth Airport	27/04/2023	10:05 PM	Perth	27/04/2023	10:40 PM	\$71.40
COMCAR	Perth	29/04/2023	10:20 AM	Perth Airport	27/04/2023	10:47 AM	\$122.40
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Perth	29/04/2023	12:25 PM	Canberra	29/04/2023	06:15 PM	\$1,917.18

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Work Expense	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
COMCAR	Melbourne	16/05/2023	09:54 AM	Melbourne Airport	16/05/2023	10:34 AM	\$83.82
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Melbourne	16/05/2023	11:45 AM	Townsville	16/05/2023	02:50 PM	\$590.49
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Townsville	16/05/2023	03:50 PM	Mount Isa	16/05/2023	05:35 PM	\$569.90
Domestic Travel Allowance		16/05/2023		Mount Isa 1 night			\$342.00
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Mount Isa	17/05/2023	06:00 PM	Townsville	17/05/2023	07:35 PM	\$606.43
COMCAR	Garbutt	17/05/2023	07:25 PM	Townsville	17/05/2023	07:55 PM	\$113.64
Domestic Travel Allowance		17/05/2023		Townsville 2 nights			\$634.00
COMCAR	Townsville	18/05/2023	06:50 AM	Townsville	18/05/2023	07:10 AM	\$113.64
COMCAR	Townsville	18/05/2023	04:10 PM	Kirwan	18/05/2023	04:40 PM	\$113.64
COMCAR	Kirwan	18/05/2023	07:50 PM	Townsville	18/05/2023	08:15 PM	\$109.09
COMCAR	Townsville	19/05/2023	06:10 AM	Garbutt	19/05/2023	06:25 AM	\$113.64
Travel Fares – Qantas Airways	Townsville	19/05/2023	07:50 AM	Melbourne	19/05/2023	11:05 AM	\$961.95
COMCAR	Melbourne Airport	19/05/2023	11:02 AM	Melbourne	19/05/2023	11:33 AM	\$109.26

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- Q1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023?
- Q2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.
- Q3. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023?
- Q4. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.
- Q5. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023?
- Q6. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023? Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.

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Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

Contents

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Schedule 4—Official duties	5

1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*, and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

5 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the *parliamentary duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the *electorate duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the *party political duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the *official duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Party political duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so;b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity;c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

Q1. What was the Dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023?

The dominant purpose of travel was party political duties to attend Party Political Event 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball in Hobart. The invitation was sent by Tasmanian Labor Party State Secretary [REDACTED].

Q2. With reference to the determination at Attachment A, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023?

Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.

The nature of Parliamentary Business in reference to attachment A is Schedule 3 – Party Political Duties for the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act.

Event Invitation was received and attended in the capacity as an elected Senator of the Labor Party.

Official invitation is attached as Reference or supporting document:

ALP Tasmania 120 Years Invitation

ALP Tasmania Email invite

Q3. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023?

The dominant purpose of travel was Parliamentary duties to attend Voice Inquiry public hearing on 28 April 2023. The travel on 27 April and 29 April was in transit to attend the hearing.

Q4. With reference to the determination at Attachment A, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Perth between 27 and 29 April 2023?

Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.

The nature of Parliamentary Business in reference to attachment A is Schedule 1 – Parliamentary duties for the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act,

In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:

a) Preparing for, participating in, and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise.

The Public hearing was attended in the member's capacity as a member/part of Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum.

Notice of meeting documentation is attached as reference or supporting document:

Referendum Hearing Notice 28 April

Q5. What was the Dominant purpose of your travel to Mount ISA and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023?

The dominant purpose of travel was Parliamentary duties to attend Inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia in Cloncurry and Ingham on 17 May 2023 and 18 May 2023.

Q6. With reference to the determination at Attachment A, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Mount Isa and Townsville between 16 and 19 May 2023?

Please provide copies of documentation to support your response.

The nature of Parliamentary Business in reference to attachment A is Schedule 1 – Parliamentary duties for the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act,

In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:

a) Preparing for, participating in, and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise.

The Public hearing was attended in the member's capacity as a member/part of Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport.

Hearing program is attached as reference or supporting document:

Regional Bank Closures- Final Program Cloncurry QLD 17 -05-23

Regional Bank Closures – Final programs – Final Programs – Ingham QLD 18-05-23

1903



2023

120 years

Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball

For 120 years Tasmanian Labor has fought for and won life changing improvements for the lives of working people across Tasmania

Please join a celebration of a life that has passed and a life that is to come at our 120 year Tasmanian Labor anniversary and fundraising dinner

Saturday 1 April 2023

6pm

Tasman Room

Wrest Point Hobart

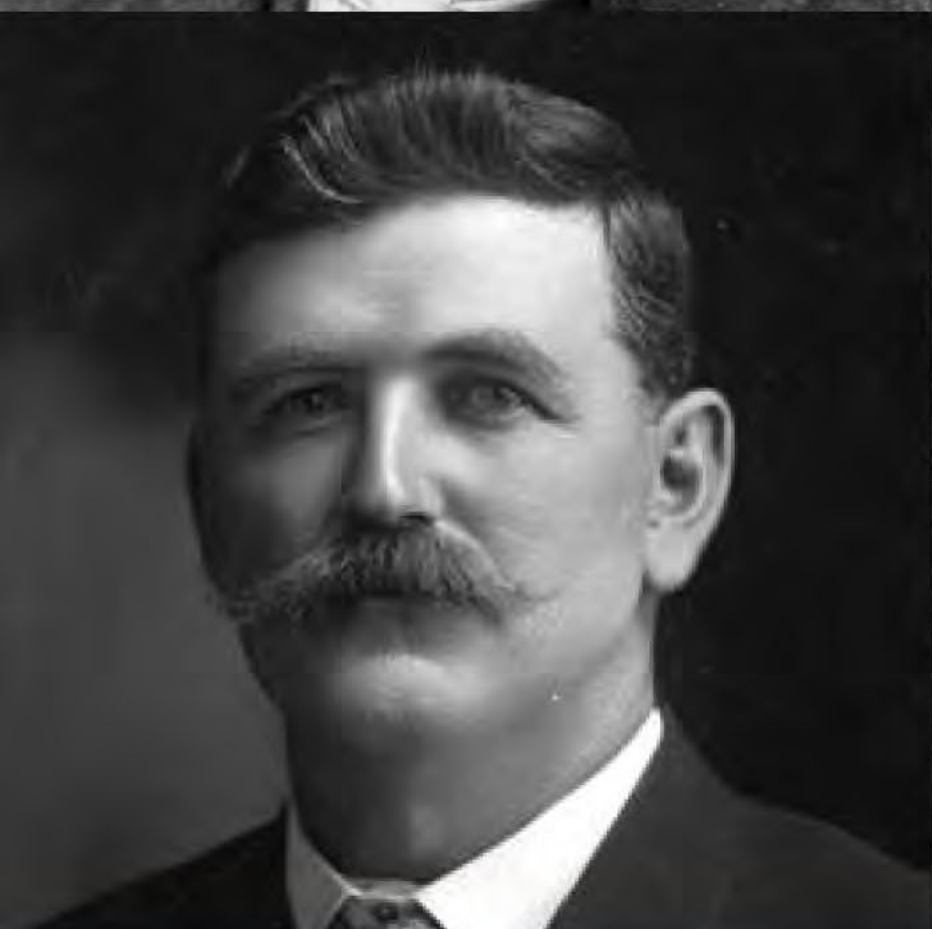
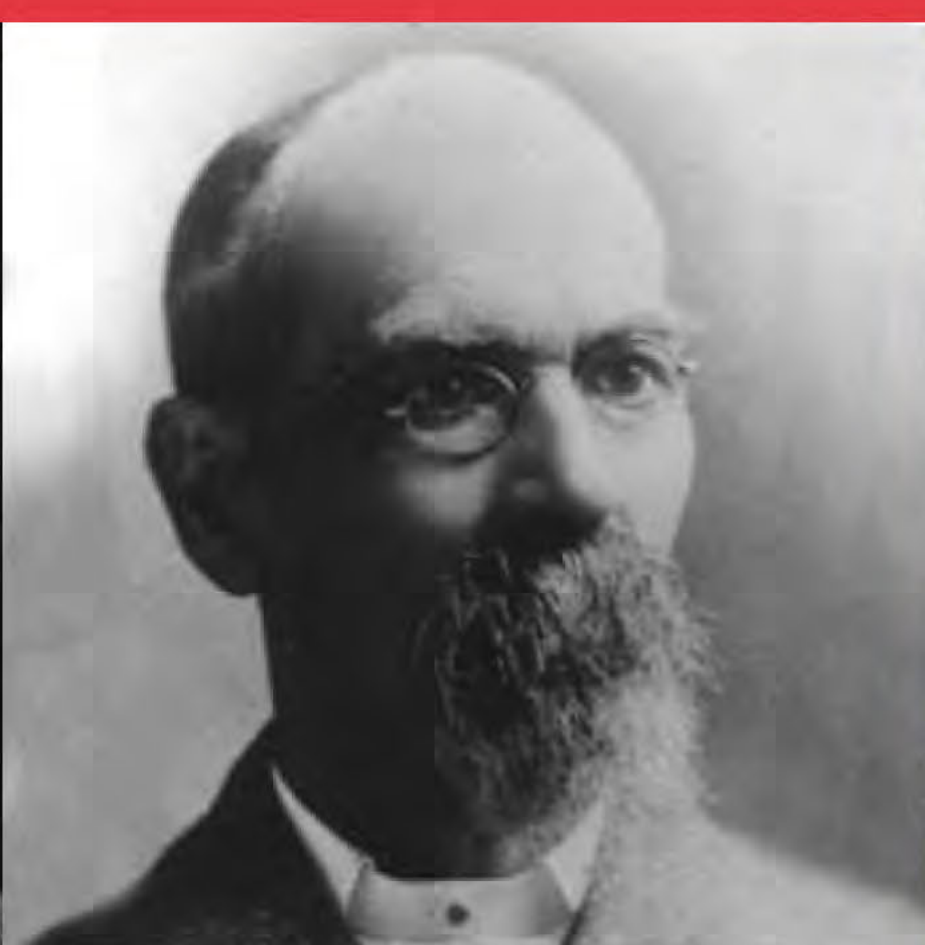
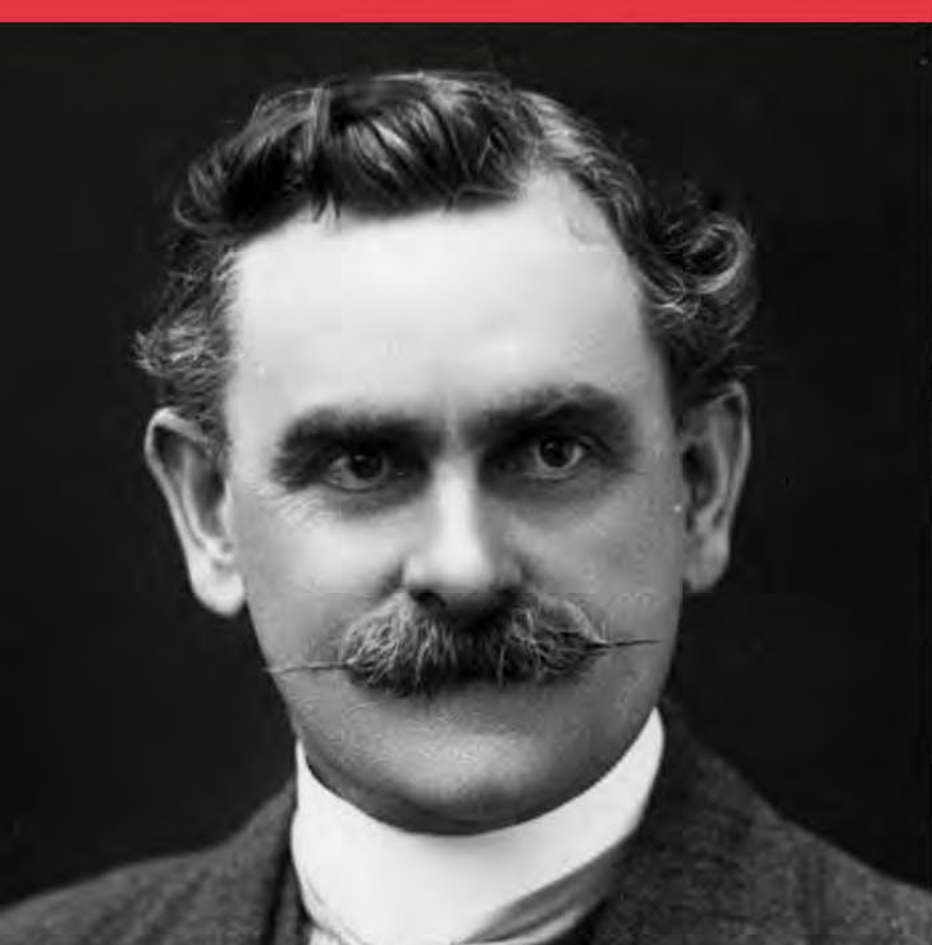
Book here

trybooking.com/CEZSC

Includes 3 course meal complimentary drink and 120 year commemorative lapel badge

On 2 April 1903 the first Tasmanian Labor members walked through the doors of Tasmanian Parliament to represent their communities. Little did they know the history that would follow them.

Tasmanian
Labor 



Left: First Tasmanian Labor MPs George Burns, William Lamerton, James Long and Jens Jensen
Right: Former Tasmanian Labor Leaders Doug Lowe, La'a Giddings, David Battlett, Paul Lennon, Bryan Geen and Michael Field with current Tasmanian Labor leader Rebecca White

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 September 2023 12:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball - Invitation
Attachments: ALP Tasmania 120 years Invitation.pdf

From: White, Linda (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball - Invitation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 3:36 pm
To: White, Linda (Senator) [REDACTED]
Subject: 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball - Invitation

Dear Linda,

For nearly 120 years, Tasmanian Labor has fought for and won life changing improvements for the lives of working people across Tasmania.

In 1903, in an election where women couldn't vote, Tasmanian Labor won our first three seats in the Tasmanian Parliament – Lyell, Queenstown, and Zeehan. Working class seats, with campaign workers who volunteered for Labor despite the very real chance of being sacked for doing so.

Over the past 120 years, Tasmanian Labor has had the privilege of being in Government for over sixty years.

In the work we so proudly do, there is no means to measure the lives that Labor policy and legislative changes has impacted over the last 120 years.

On April 2, 1903, George Burns (*Queenstown*), William Lamerton (*Zeehan*), James Long (*Lyell*) and Jens Jensen (*George Town*) (*who would join the Labor Caucus after the election*) would soon become the first Tasmanian Labor members to walk through the doors of Tasmanian Parliament to represent their communities – little did they know the history that would follow them. The first Labor State Conference would later be held in June 1903 in Hobart.

In celebration of all that has passed and all that is to come, I am inviting you to a 120-year Tasmanian Labor Anniversary and Fundraising Ball on Saturday, 1 April 2023 in Hobart. Please see attached the details.

More details regarding special guests and entertainment will follow in the New Year.

Please reserve your place at this special event by booking through [Try Booking](#).

I hope you can join us for this significant and important event.

In unity,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

State Secretary
Tasmanian Labor Party

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

w: www.taslabor.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Committee, JSCVR (REPS)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 April 2023 5:22 PM
To: Bragg, Andrew (Senator); Claydon, Sharon (MP); Conaghan, Pat (MP); Cox, Dorinda (Senator); Gee, Andrew (MP); [REDACTED] Green, Nita (Senator); Liddle, Kerryne (Senator Office); Murphy, Peta (MP); Neumann, Shayne (MP); Reid, Gordon (MP); [REDACTED] White, Linda (Senator); Wolahan, Keith (MP Office)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] ommittee, JSCVR (REPS)
[SEC=OFFICIAL] JSCVR - Notice of Meeting No. 7 - Public hearing - Perth, 28 April 2023

OFFICIAL

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER VOICE REFERENDUM

Members are advised of the public hearing in Perth on Friday, 28 April 2023. Details are:

Meeting No. 7

DATE: Friday, 28 April 2023
TIME: 12.00pm – 4.45pm (AWST)
PLACE: Caroline Room, Mercure Perth, 10 Irwin Street, Perth WA (teleconference details below)
PURPOSE: Public Hearing

The following documents are available on [CommDocs](#):

 [JSCVR - 28 April 2023 - PH Perth- Agenda and Papers.pdf](#)

For teleconference by Chorus Call:

Please dial 1800 173 224 then enter the passcode: 0889325

Members are reminded that committee documents must not be disclosed unless authorised by the Committee. If you have any queries about matters contained in this email please contact the secretariat via jscvr@aph.gov.au or (02) 6277 2205.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | *Inquiry Secretary*

Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum

Department of the House of Representatives

PO Box 6021, Canberra ACT 2600

Ph. (02) 6277 4628 | https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade

Facebook: [@AusHouseofRepresentatives](#) | **Twitter:** [@AboutTheHouse](#)

OFFICIAL



THE SENATE

RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, 17 May 2023

9.30 am – 3:00 pm

Ernest Henry Mining Function Rooms
Cloncurry Community Precinct
Cloncurry, Queensland

Time AEDT	Witness
9.30 am	Cloncurry Shire Council (<i>Submission 401</i>) and Burke Shire Council (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cr Gregory Campbell, Mayor, Cloncurry Shire Council• Dr Philip Keirle, Chief Executive Officer, Cloncurry Shire Council• Cr Ernest Camp, Mayor, Burke Shire Council
10.15 am	Queensland Farmers' Federation (<i>Submission 361</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Adam Knapp, General Manager, Policy and Projects (<i>via teleconference</i>)
10.45 am	Break
11.00 am	Heritage and People's Choice (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Peter Lock, Chief Executive Officer – (<i>via teleconference</i>)
11.45 am	McDonald's Holdings (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Don McDonald, Chairman, McDonald's Holdings
12.15 pm	Lunch Break
1.00 pm	Local Business Network (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Susan Curley, Chairperson, Local Business Network
1.30 pm	Cloncurry and District Show and Curry Merry Muster Festival (<i>no submissions</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Alistair McDonald, President, Cloncurry and District Show• Ms Janessa Bidgood, President, Curry Merry Muster Festival
2.00 pm	Open session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of the Cloncurry and surrounding community
3.00 pm	Adjournment

Committee Chair: Senator the Hon Matt Canavan

Committee Secretary: [REDACTED]

PO Box 6100, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: +61 2 6277 3511 Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport

Committee Chair: Senator the Hon Matt Canavan
Committee Secretary: [REDACTED]
PO Box 6100, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: +61 2 6277 3511 Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

[www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/Senate/Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport)



THE SENATE

RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia

PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, 18 May 2023

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

TYTO Conference Centre
73-75 Mcilwraith St
Ingham, Queensland

Time AEDT	Witness
9.30 am	Queensland Country Bank and The Capricornian (<i>no submissions</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Aaron Newman, Group Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Country Bank• Mr Andrew McArdle, Executive Manager, Retail Banking, Queensland Country Bank• Mr Shawn Anderson, Interim Chief Transformation Officer, Queensland Country Bank• Mr Dale Grounds, Chief Executive Officer, The Capricornian
10.10 am	Hinchinbrook Shire Council (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cr Ramon Jayo, Mayor
10.40 am	Australia and New Zealand Bank (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Michael Wake, Head of Branch Transformation• Mr Tony Tapsall, Strategic Solutions Director
11.20 am	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group (<i>Submission 554</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Richard Fennell, Chief Customer Officer – Consumer Banking• Mr Tim Rodda, Head of Local Banking Operations
12.00 pm	Suncorp Bank (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Clive van Horen, Chief Executive Officer• Mr Chris Fleming, Executive General Manager, Consumer Distribution
12.40 pm	Lunch Break
1.20 pm	Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre (<i>no submission</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Ross Girgenti, Treasurer• Ms Quinta Lahtinen, Senior Leader – Client Services

Committee Chair: Senator the Hon Matt Canavan

Committee Secretary: [REDACTED]

PO Box 6100, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: +61 2 6277 3511 Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

[www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/Senate/Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport)

1.50 pm	Open session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of the Ingham and surrounding community
2:30 pm	<i>Adjournment</i>

Committee Chair: Senator the Hon Matt Canavan
Committee Secretary: [REDACTED]
PO Box 6100, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: +61 2 6277 3511 Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

[www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/Senate/Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport)

[REDACTED]

From: Assurance
Sent: Tuesday, 10 October 2023 11:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 3010 - IPEA letter to Senator White - October 2023.pdf; Attachment A - Parliamentary Business Determination.pdf

OFFICIAL

Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria

Good morning Senator

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to the Assurance Review of your travel and travel-related expenses.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

A/g Assistant Secretary
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: +61 2 6215 3000
E: Assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

Classification: OFFICIAL
Classified by: assurance@ipea.gov.au on: 10/10/2023 11:29:09 AM

OFFICIAL



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

REF: IPEA 23/1/13 IDOC/235202

10 October 2023

Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria
62 Lygon Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Thank you for your email of 4 October 2023 providing information in relation to the Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Having considered your response, IPEA is satisfied your travel to Perth, Mount Isa and Townsville was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was consistent with the legislative framework.

IPEA requires additional information in relation to your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023. In your response you advised the dominant purpose of this travel was for party political duties to attend the 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball (the Ball) in Hobart.

Schedule 3 of the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 details the **party political duties** of a member for the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*:

In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives:

- a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee);
- b) a national, state or territory conference.

Attendance at the Ball does not fall within the narrow definition of what constitutes party political duties in the Determination, as outlined above. Having regard to the definitions and examples contained in the Determination (**attachment A**), please confirm that the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023 was parliamentary business. Please provide further information on how the nature of your business in Hobart, your attendance at the Ball, constitutes parliamentary business.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on **Friday, 24 October 2023** or advise IPEA prior to the date if you require additional time to provide a response.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Acting Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000



Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the same time as the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*, and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

5 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the *parliamentary duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the *electorate duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the *party political duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the *official duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Party political duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Official duties
All office holders and Ministers of State	In the member's official capacity (being their capacity as a Minister or office holder, as the case may be): <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Exercising the powers or functions, or performing the duties, of the member's office, or activities engaged in for the purposes of doing so;b) Attending an event to which the member has been invited in their official capacity;c) Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing the member's official role.

[REDACTED]

From: White, Linda (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 October 2023 2:49 PM
To: Assurance
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HPE CM: FW: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 3010 - IPEA letter to Senator White - October 2023.pdf; Attachment A - Parliamentary Business Determination.pdf

Categories: [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 10th October 2023 requesting clarification of my attendance at the 120 years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Event on 1 and 2 April 2023.

Also thank you for the opportunity to speak with [REDACTED] which I did today.

As discussed with [REDACTED] – the Ball / dinner on the evening of the 1st April came at the end of the Tasmanian Labor party conference, which I did not attend but I attended the dinner/ ball because I am a member of the ALP national Executive and National Executive committee which took a decision to intervene in the Tasmanian Labor Branch and appoint administrators.

The dinner/ ball was attended by many Tasmanian Labor party figures and gave me an opportunity to speak to a range of those people about the intervention and how Tasmanian Labor was progressing under administration. I also had the opportunity to speak at length with the ALP's state leader. Other members of the national executive committee of the ALP also attended as this gathering provided a significant opportunity to make these connections. The Prime Minister was also the guest of honour as was the National Secretary of the ALP. My prime motivation for attending was because of my party political duties.

I hope the above provides some clarity in relation to my attendance, please let me know if you need further information or clarification.

Senator Linda White

SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

● Ground Floor, 62 Lygon Street, Carlton South VIC 3053
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

● (03) 9639 2798 Canberra: (02) 6277 4370



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:29 AM
To: White, Linda (Senator Office) [REDACTED]
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria

Good morning Senator

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to the Assurance Review of your travel and travel-related expenses.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
A/g Assistant Secretary
Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: +61 2 6215 3000
Assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au

Classification: OFFICIAL
Classified by: assurance@ipea.gov.au on: 10/10/2023 11:29:09 AM

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External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

REF: IPEA 23/1/13 IDOC/235202

10 October 2023

Senator Linda White
Senator for Victoria
62 Lygon Street
CARLTON VIC 3053

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Thank you for your email of 4 October 2023 providing information in relation to the Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred by you during the period 1 April to 30 June 2023.

Having considered your response, IPEA is satisfied your travel to Perth, Mount Isa and Townsville was for the dominant purpose of parliamentary business and was consistent with the legislative framework.

IPEA requires additional information in relation to your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023. In your response you advised the dominant purpose of this travel was for party political duties to attend the 120 Years of Tasmanian Labor Anniversary Ball (the Ball) in Hobart.

Schedule 3 of the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 details the **party political duties** of a member for the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*:

In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives:

- a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee);
- b) a national, state or territory conference.

Attendance at the Ball does not fall within the narrow definition of what constitutes party political duties in the Determination, as outlined above. Having regard to the definitions and examples contained in the Determination (**attachment A**), please confirm that the dominant purpose of your travel to Hobart between 1 and 2 April 2023 was parliamentary business. Please provide further information on how the nature of your business in Hobart, your attendance at the Ball, constitutes parliamentary business.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on **Friday, 24 October 2023** or advise IPEA prior to the date if you require additional time to provide a response.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Acting Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
T: 02 6215 3000



Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

I, Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance, make the following determination.

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

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(1) In this instrument:

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Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in the definitions section of the Act, including the following:

- (a) *constituent*;
- (b) *member*;
- (c) *office holder*, and
- (d) *vice regal function*.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, an activity specified in a Schedule to this determination is specified whether it takes place within Australia or overseas.

5 Parliamentary business of members

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(a) of the Act, the *parliamentary duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 1 for that member.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(b) of the Act, the *electorate duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 2 for that member.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(c) of the Act, the *party political duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 3 for that member.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraph 6(4)(d) of the Act, the *official duties* of a member are the activities specified in Schedule 4 for that member.

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

Column 1 Member (or class)	Column 2 Parliamentary duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	<p>In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise;b) Developing, reviewing or amending legislation or proposed legislation, and activities engaged in for that purpose;c) Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, the member's policy portfolio, or their role as a member;d) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to matters arising from an official government, parliamentary or vice regal meeting, event or function;e) Preparing for, participating in and attending to matters arising from a meeting (including with stakeholders), event or function for the purposes of their role as a member, including in relation to the member's policy portfolio;f) Preparing for, participating in, or attending to business arising from a non-Parliamentary committee, taskforce or other formal group in which the member participates;g) Representing the Parliament, in accordance with an approval of the Parliament or a House of the Parliament, and engaging in associated activities for that purpose;h) Representing a Minister or office holder in their official capacity, at the request of that Minister or office holder, at a meeting, event or function;i) Representing the Government or Australia, with the approval of the Prime Minister. <p><i>Note: For Ministers representing the Government or Australia in their capacity as a Minister, this would be part of the member's official duties (see Schedule 4).</i></p>

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

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(Act s 6(4)(c))

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Member (or class)	Party political duties
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