



ASSURANCE REVIEW MEMORANDUM – 2021/22 FY

Channel Nine Liberal Fundraiser - 2020/017

Date: 13 October 2022
To: Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

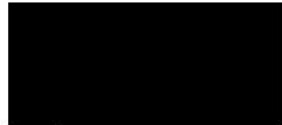
- i. Note the contents of this assurance review, and
- ii. Accept the matter as closed with no further action required.

NOTED & ACCEPTED AS CLOSED / PLEASE DISCUSS

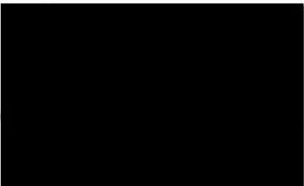


Date: 25 October 2022
Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

Reviewed by:



Date: 13 October 2022
Assistant Director, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch



Date: 13 October 2022
Assurance Officer, Audit & Assurance
Transparency, Assurance & Legal Branch

SCOPE

1. The scope of this assurance review is travel by parliamentarians to Sydney during the period 30 August to 4 September 2019 (the period in scope). This period covers an event held by Channel Nine at their studio in Willoughby NSW. The event had been categorised in the media as a 'corporate fundraiser for the Liberal Party'.

PURPOSE

2. This assurance review aims to assess whether the use of parliamentary business resources by Parliamentarians to travel to Sydney during the period in scope was in accordance with the relevant legislative framework.

BACKGROUND

3. Media monitoring indicated that a number of Liberal Party Ministers attended an event held at the Channel Nine Studios in Willoughby NSW on 2 September 2019 (**Attachment 1**). Media articles indicated the following parliamentarians, who were Ministers at the time, attended the event:
 - Prime Minister Scott Morrison
 - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham – Minister for Finance
 - The Hon Paul Fletcher – Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts
 - The Hon Dan Tehan – Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
 - The Hon Stuart Robert – Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Minister for Government Services
 - Senator the Hon Jane Hume – Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and the Digital Economy
 - The Hon Alan Tudge – Minister for Education and Youth
4. In accordance with IPEA's *Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses* protocol (**Attachment 2**), an Assurance Review into travel to Sydney during the period in scope of the review commenced on 15 December 2020. For ease of reference in this memorandum, parliamentarians have been referred to by their titles at the time of the Channel Nine event.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

5. The relevant legislative framework includes:
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act)
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017* (the Regulations)
 - *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination).

Obligations

6. The principles based legislative Framework imposes a number of obligations on parliamentarians in relation to their use of public resources. In summary, parliamentarians are personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources. They must be prepared to publicly justify their use of public resources for conducting their parliamentary business and must act ethically and in good faith in using, and accounting for the use of, those resources. Specifically, a parliamentarian must not claim public resources unless they are claimed for the dominant purpose of conducting their parliamentary business.

Definitions

7. 'Parliamentary business' has the meaning given by section 6 of the PBR Act:
- (1) The *parliamentary business* of a member means any of the following:
- (a) the *parliamentary duties* of the member, being activities of the member that:
 - (i) relate directly to 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) related to the member's role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
 - (ii) are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).
8. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act relevantly provides that 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. Details of the activities which are parliamentary business of members are set out in the Determination.
9. 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 of the following:
 - (i) providing a personal benefit to the member or another person;
 - (ii) pursuing commercial purposes of the member or another person;...

ANALYSIS

10. IPEA obtained an internal report, created from data held by IPEA, for travel to Sydney undertaken by all parliamentarians between 30 August and 4 September 2019.
11. Analysis of the data in the internal report identified parliamentarians who travelled to Sydney or in and around Sydney between 30 August and 4 September 2019. Due to the nature of the function which is the subject of review, the data was filtered to remove:
- Opposition office holders
 - Shadow Ministers
 - Shadow Parliamentary Secretaries
 - all other non-coalition parliamentarians
 - former prime minister not in parliament
 - Widow of former prime minister
12. Individual analysis of the data identified travel for 16 parliamentarians who accessed parliamentary business resources during the period in scope. IPEA reviewed travel and travel-related resources used by those parliamentarians, using both IPEA-held and publicly available information. IPEA assessed six (6) parliamentarians as not requiring further investigation as not falling within the scope of the review.

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13. Five parliamentarians were assessed as requiring further investigation as they had accessed parliamentary business resources in Sydney and were mentioned in media articles about the Channel Nine event:

- Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham – Minister for Finance
- The Hon Dan Tehan MP – Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
- The Hon Stuart Robert MP – Minister for Employment, Workforce Skills, Small and Family Business
- Senator the Hon Jane Hume – Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and the Digital Economy, Minister for Women’s Economic Security
- The Hon Alan Tudge MP – Minister for Education and Youth

14. Four parliamentarians were assessed as requiring further investigation because they had accessed parliamentary business resources in Sydney at the time of the Channel Nine event:

- The Hon Michael McCormack MP
- The Hon Ben Morton MP – Special Minister of State, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Minister for the Public Service
- Mr James Stevens MP
- Mr Llew O’Brien MP – Deputy Speaker

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

15. Senator Birmingham accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Adelaide to Sydney on 2 September and return to Adelaide on 3 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator Birmingham detailing the Commonwealth funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 3**).

16. On 27 June 2022, Senator Birmingham confirmed that the dominant purpose of the trip to Sydney was for Official duties, including meetings relevant to the Senator’s role as Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (**Attachment 3**).

17. On 28 July 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator Birmingham seeking evidence to support the claim that the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney on 2 and 3 September 2019 was official duties. On 29 July 2022, Senator Birmingham’s office provided a copy of the Senator’s diary and a link to the transcript of a TV interview conducted on 3 September 2019 as evidence in support of his travel for official duties (**Attachment 3**).

18. Based on the information available, including the responses received from Senator Birmingham, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel to Sydney was parliamentary business. Senator Birmingham’s use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

The Hon Dan Tehan MP

19. The Hon Dan Tehan MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Canberra to Sydney on 2 September 2019 and from Sydney to Adelaide on 3 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr Tehan detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 4**).

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20. As no response had been received, on 28 July 2022, IPEA again wrote to Mr Tehan about his travel to Sydney. Mr Tehan responded on 29 July 2022, confirming that the purpose of travel to Sydney on 2 and 3 September 2019 was for a range of official duties as the Minister for Education (**Attachment 4**).
21. Based on the information available, including the response received from Mr Tehan, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr Tehan's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework

The Hon Stuart Robert MP

22. The Hon Stuart Robert MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Coolangatta to Sydney on 2 September, and from Sydney to Canberra on 3 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr Robert detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 5**).
23. On 30 June 2022, Mr Robert responded providing copies of diary entries and details of meetings conducted while in Sydney on 2 September 2019 (**Attachment 5**).
24. Based on the information available, including the response received from Mr Robert, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr Robert's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

Senator the Hon Jane Hume

25. Senator the Hon Jane Hume accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Melbourne to Sydney on 2 September, travel within Sydney on 2 September and travel from Sydney to Melbourne on 3 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator Hume detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 6**).
26. Although the data indicated that Senator Hume had accessed COMCAR to travel to and from Willoughby for the Channel Nine event, it has been confirmed that these amounts have been repaid by Senator Hume.
27. On 24 June 2022, Senator Hume's staff contacted IPEA and advised that Senator Hume was overseas. The office advised they would access the diary and discuss with Senator Hume to provide any evidence on the purpose of the travel. On 27 June 2022, Senator Hume's office responded advising that the dominant purpose for travel to Sydney was for parliamentary business, noting that Senator Hume had several portfolio related meetings (**Attachment 6**).
28. On 28 July 2022, IPEA wrote to Senator Hume seeking evidence to support the claim that the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney on 2 and 3 September 2019 was for parliamentary business. As Senator Hume had not provided a response, on 12 August 2022 IPEA resent the letter of 28 July 2022 seeking evidence to support the claim of travel for the purpose of parliamentary business (**Attachment 6**).

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29. On 17 August 2022, IPEA provided Senator Hume's office with a copy of the original correspondence sent to Senator Hume on 21 June 2022. On 26 August 2022, IPEA staff had a discussion with staff from Senator Hume's office. Previous discussions with the Acting Director of Audit and Assurance had confirmed that IPEA would accept a letter with evidence or similar from Senator Hume outlining the meetings with portfolio stakeholders. Senator Hume's office undertook to provide this evidence as soon as practicable (**Attachment 6**).
30. On 6 September 2022, Senator Hume confirmed the dominant purpose of travel to Sydney was to conduct meetings with portfolio stakeholders and provided details of those meetings (**Attachment 6**).
31. Based on the information available, including the responses received from Senator Hume, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. In relation to the use of COMCAR to and from the Channel Nine event, IPEA is satisfied with the resolution of this aspect by Senator Hume. Senator Hume's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

The Hon Alan Tudge MP

32. The Hon Alan Tudge MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Coolangatta to Sydney on 1 September, travel within Sydney and travel from Sydney to Melbourne on 3 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr Tudge detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 7**).
33. On 28 June 2022, Mr Tudge confirmed that the dominant purpose of the trip to Sydney was to attend two parliamentary events on 2 September and two parliamentary meetings on 3 September 2019 (**Attachment 7**).
34. Based on the information available, including the response received from Mr Tudge, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr Tudge's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

The Hon Michael McCormack MP

35. The Hon Michael McCormack MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Wagga Wagga to Sydney on 2 September, travel within Sydney on 2 and 3 September, and travel from Sydney to Canberra on 3 September 2019. On 2 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr McCormack detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 8**). Following a call from Mr McCormack's office, an extension to 08 July 2022 was granted to provide a response.
36. On 05 July 2022, Mr McCormack confirmed that the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney was parliamentary business. Mr McCormack provided a copy of diary entries for 02 September 2022 and details of meetings conducted (**Attachment 8**).

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37. Based on the information available, including the response received from Mr McCormack, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr McCormack's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

Hon Ben Morton MP

38. The Hon Ben Morton MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Perth to Sydney on 2 September and return to Perth on 3 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr Morton detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 9**).
39. On 30 July 2022, Mr Morton confirmed that the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney was parliamentary business. Mr Morton stated that he did not attend any event at the Channel Nine Studios while he was in Sydney (**Attachment 9**).
40. As Mr Morton did not attend the Channel Nine function at Willoughby, his travel fell outside the scope of this Assurance review. Mr Morton's use of parliamentary business resources is therefore not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

Mr James Stevens MP

41. Mr James Stevens MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Adelaide to Sydney on 1 September 2019. On 21 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr Stevens detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 10**).
42. On 23 June 2022, Mr Stevens confirmed that the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney was parliamentary business to participate in the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program. Mr Stevens provided supporting documentation confirming his accommodation in Sydney on 01 September 2019 and Program attendance from 2 to 6 September 2019 (**Attachment 10**).
43. Based on the information available, including the response received from Mr Stevens, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr Stevens' use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

Mr Llew O'Brien MP

44. Mr Llew O'Brien MP accessed parliamentary business resources to travel from Brisbane to Sydney on 1 September and return to Brisbane on 3 September 2019. On 22 June 2022, IPEA wrote to Mr O'Brien detailing the Commonwealth-funded travel provided and requesting information in relation to the dominant purpose of the travel and the nature of parliamentary business during that time (**Attachment 11**).
45. On 28 June 2022, IPEA provided Mr O'Brien with a copy of the Determination which was referred to in the letter of 21 June 2022. In response, Mr O'Brien confirmed that the dominant purpose of the travel to Sydney was to conduct parliamentary business.

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Mr O'Brien provided a copy of his diary as evidence confirming his meetings with portfolio stakeholders and participation in a road safety forum (**Attachment 11**).

46. Based on the information available, including the response received from Mr O'Brien, IPEA is satisfied that the dominant purpose of travel was parliamentary business. Mr O'Brien's use of parliamentary business resources is not inconsistent with the legislative framework.

CONCLUSION

47. Following a full review of the data and the responses and evidence provided by parliamentarians whose travel to Sydney fell within scope of the review, IPEA is satisfied there was no misuse of parliamentary business resources.

ATTACHMENTS

1. News Article, Australian Financial Review 'Who Attended Nine's Liberal Party Fundraiser?' of 03 September 2019. News Article, The Guardian 'Who Attended Nine's Liberal Party Fundraiser?' of 03 September 2019.
2. IPEA Protocol - Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses of October 2020
3. Correspondence between IPEA and Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham of 21, 27, 28 and 29 June 2022
4. Correspondence between IPEA and the Hon Dan Tehan MP of 21 June 2022 and 28 July 2022
5. Correspondence between IPEA and the Hon Stuart Robert MP of 21 and 30 June 2022
6. Correspondence between IPEA and Senator the Hon Jane Hume of 22 and 27 June 2022, 29 July 2022 and 6 September 2022
7. Correspondence between IPEA and the Hon Alan Tudge MP of 23 and 28 June 2022
8. Correspondence between IPEA and the Hon Michael McCormack MP of 23 and 28 June 2022 and 5 July 2022
9. Correspondence between IPEA and the the Hon Ben Morton MP of 23 and 30 June 2022
10. Correspondence between IPEA and Mr James Stevens MP of 22 and 23 June 2022
11. Correspondence between IPEA and Mr Llew O'Brien MP of 22 and 28 June 2022

Who attended Channel Nine's Liberal Party fundraiser?



Joe Aston *Columnist*

Sep 3, 2019 - 10.37am

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The Liberal Party's \$10,000 per head fundraiser at the Nine Network's Sydney studios on Monday night proceeded without a hitch, despite its public revelation in the early afternoon.

Hosted by Nine chief executive **Hugh Marks** and his in-house lobbyist **Clare Gill**, Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** and a decent chunk of his cabinet (Deputy Senate Leader **Simon Birmingham**, Communications Minister **Paul Fletcher**, Government Services Minister **Stuart Robert**, Education Minister **Dan Tehan** and **Peter Dutton** supporter **Alan Tudge**) broke bread on the set of Nine's breakfast program *Today* with nearly 40 paying donors. The guests included two former members of federal cabinet: Minerals Council of Australia chairman **Helen Coonan** (though how she found the time [is beyond us](#)) and Servcorp director **Mark Vaile**. The former Communications Minister brought along the Minerals Council's CEO **Tania Constable** while the former Deputy Prime Minister attended with his chairman **Alf Moufarrige**, one of **Tony Abbott's** long-suffering benefactors. **Jamie Briggs** never made it past the outer ministry (though in Tudge's Cities portfolio) but the PricewaterhouseCoopers partner was there too, as was Australian Banking Association boss **Anna Bligh**, Liberal powerbroker **Michael Photios**, Jones Lang LaSalle CEO **Stephen Conry** and Meriton billionaire **Harry Triguboff**, who'll no doubt be pleased that Nine's lot will soon enough be razed and reborn as 460 apartments.

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The Guardian



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Nine Entertainment hosts \$10,000 a head fundraiser for Liberal party

CEO Hugh Marks welcomes Scott Morrison and several government ministers at historic Willoughby TV studios

Nine Entertainment used its historic TV studios in the Sydney suburb of Willoughby to host a \$10,000 a head corporate fundraiser for the Liberal party on Monday night.

Hosted by Nine's CEO, Hugh Marks, corporates paid handsomely for the chance to dine with the prime minister, Scott Morrison, and the communications minister, Paul Fletcher, inside Australia's biggest locally owned media company.

Since the merger with Fairfax Media last year, Nine has had control of the Sydney Morning Herald, the Age and the Australian Financial Review, mastheads which have always prided themselves on independent journalism.

That independence was still evident as the venue for the Liberal party fundraiser was revealed by the AFR's gossip columnist Joe Aston.

Nine is emerging as a local rival to News Corp Australia after making a \$113.94m offer to acquire the remaining shares in Macquarie Media, which owns 2GB.

The networking event was organised by the Liberal party's fundraising arm, the Australian Business Network, which asked Nine to host the dinner at Willoughby and carry the cost of the catering.

The TV studio was chosen as a venue because Nine is moving out of the north shore property next year so it has nostalgic value.

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The company has a lease on a \$1.2bn office tower in North Sydney and the journalists from the Nine newspapers will be moving there to join Nine's TV division next year.

All the funds raised - at least \$700,000 - will go into Liberal party coffers.

Nine said the company donated to both the Liberal and Labor parties and executives were attending an Australian Labor party function on Tuesday.

Australian Electoral Commission returns show Nine donated \$27,500 to the Liberal and the Labor party in 2017.

However, Nine sources say they can't remember another time when the media company threw open its doors to raise money for a political party.

"We held the odd boardroom lunch for both leaders but not a party political dinner," a former Nine source said. "It's ludicrous and shocking PR. What does it say about the news brand?"

Other Liberal political guests include the trade minister, Simon Birmingham, the education minister, Dan Tehan, the cities minister, Alan Tudge, and the assistant minister for superannuation, Jane Hume.

The former deputy leader of the Liberal party Peter Costello, who is the chairman of Nine Entertainment, will not attend the dinner.

"The dinner is an opportunity for business leaders to meet and exchange ideas with the Liberal party and we will be doing the same with the ALP tomorrow night at a similar business forum they are holding," a Nine spokeswoman said.

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In these perilous times, an independent, truth-seeking global news organisation like the Guardian is essential. We have no shareholders or billionaire owner, meaning our journalism is free from commercial and political influence - this makes us different. When it's never been more pertinent, our independence allows us to fearlessly investigate, challenge and expose those in power.

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Topics

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Australian Government
**Independent Parliamentary
 Expenses Authority**

Protocol—Dealing with Allegations of Misuse of Parliamentary Work Expenses

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) was established to provide greater accountability and transparency of the Parliamentary Work Expenses Framework (the Framework). IPEA provides assurance that parliamentarians' work resources and *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) employees' travel resources are spent in compliance with the Framework.

IPEA deals with possible misuse of work or travel resources at arm's length from Government. The *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* (IPEA Act) provides legislative powers for the auditing and reporting of parliamentarians' work and travel resources and MOP(S) Act travel resources.

When IPEA becomes aware of information that indicates possible non-compliance with the Framework, IPEA may conduct a preliminary assessment. The assessment scrutinises the use of the work or travel resource and determines if a parliamentary business resource has been used.

Possible misuse

In the event of possible misuse, IPEA decides whether to undertake an assurance review or audit of the matter. IPEA does not undertake assurance reviews or audits at the request of parliamentarians or MOP(S) Act employees.

- Under the IPEA Act, IPEA may audit any parliamentarian's work or travel resource or MOP(S) Act travel resource as it considers appropriate.
- IPEA may conduct an assurance review where a preliminary assessment indicates that a Commonwealth resource was used for a parliamentarian's work expense or MOP(S) Act employee's travel expense.
- IPEA may conduct an audit where there are allegations of systemic or substantial misuse of work expenses or where there is an educative benefit.
- An audit may also be a systematic and comprehensive examination of the use by all parliamentarians and/or MOP(S) Act employees of a specific category of work expense.
- The Members of the Authority or the Chief Executive Officer may issue a notice requiring a person to provide information that is relevant to an audit by IPEA, as provided for under Part 5 of the IPEA Act. Criminal penalties apply for failure to comply with a notice, or for providing false or misleading information.
- In the event of an audit, the parliamentarian or MOP(S) Act employee is accorded procedural fairness to provide comment on any findings.

Members of the Authority decide whether a matter is referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP)

- The Minister responsible for the AFP and the Minister responsible for the Framework are notified of a referral to the AFP.

Publication of audits

- Members of the Authority decide whether, or not, to publish their decision(s).

As approved by the Members of the Authority: October 2020



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2021

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Senator for South Australia
107 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
Hilton, SA, 5033

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was held at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A
Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
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.)
Travel Fares - Virgin Australia	Adelaide	2/09/2019	3:30 PM	Sydney	2/09/2019	5:50 PM	\$451.66
Travel Allowance Official Duties				Sydney	2/09/2019		\$453.00
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	12:33 PM	Mascot	3/09/2019	12:55 PM	\$58.80
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Sydney	3/09/2019	1:25 PM	Adelaide	3/09/2019	3:05 PM	\$1,139.23

1. What was the dominant purpose of your return travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?

From: [Birmingham, Simon \(Senator\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Monday, 27 June 2022 3:50:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Nicole

Thank you for your email.

I can confirm that the dominant purpose of the trip to Sydney was for Official Duties included meetings relevant to my role as Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment with:

- Chairman of Export Finance Australia
- CEO of Sydney Ports
- Austrade
- Proponents of the new Sydney Service Port terminal
- Australian Performing Rights Association regarding music exports
- And media commitments with the International Bloomberg Business Channel

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Simon Birmingham

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 3:38 PM
To: Birmingham, Simon (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator Birmingham

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

28 July 2022

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
107 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
HILTON SA 5033

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Thank you for your response of Monday 27 June 2022, in relation to the Assurance Review of your return travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019 (the relevant period).

Following a review of your response, IPEA seeks additional information to assist in finalising this matter.

In your response, you stated that the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney was official duties and you provided a list of meetings relevant to your role as Minister for Tourism, Trade & Investment. Please provide evidence to support your claims, such as diary notes, invitations or media reporting.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au by close of business on **Thursday 4 July 2022**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency Audit & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 2:53:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[.msg](#)

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: [REDACTED] (Sen S. Birmingham) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2022 2:10 PM
To: Assurance <assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Nicole

Thank you for the follow up letter. I have attached a copy of his diary for the following day, 3 September 2019.

The link to his interview is here <https://www.senatorbirmingham.com.au/interview-on-bloomberg-tv-live-sydney/>

I apologise that we cannot get this to you in a better format. Only the senator can access his diary as it is over 12 months old. He could also not access it on his computer only his phone and then shared it with me by email. We are unsure how we can print out the information.

If you require further information, next week is a sitting week and I won't see the senator until the following week so could you kindly give me the appropriate time to respond ie probably by 12 August 2022 or thereafter.

█

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 July 2022 4:45 PM
To: Birmingham, Simon (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator Birmingham

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
T: 02 6215 3000 [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: Birmingham, Simon (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 27 June 2022 3:51 PM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Dear Nicole

Thank you for your email.

I can confirm that the dominant purpose of the trip to Sydney was for Official Duties included meetings relevant to my role as Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment with:

- Chairman of Export Finance Australia
- CEO of Sydney Ports
- Austrade
- Proponents of the new Sydney Service Port terminal
- Australian Performing Rights Association regarding music exports
- And media commitments with the International Bloomberg Business Channel

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Simon Birmingham

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 3:38 PM
To: Birmingham, Simon (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator Birmingham

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 |



SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

1:10



< 3 Sep

Event Details

Edit

**8:15am: [REDACTED] - EFA
Chairman re EFIC - [REDACTED] to
attend - ctc [REDACTED]**

Level 19 CPO ([REDACTED] office)



[REDACTED]

Call



Tuesday, 3 Sep 2019

from 7:45 am to 8:15 am

from 8:15 am to 8:45 am (AEST)



Calendar

• Calendar

Invitees

12 >

✓ [REDACTED] (optional)

- ① [REDACTED]
- ① [REDACTED]
- ① [REDACTED]
- ① [REDACTED]
- ① [REDACTED]
- ① [REDACTED]

Delete Event

1:11



< Back

Notes



Do I need to request a brief for the 9am meeting?

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 2 September 2019 11:58 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: For clarity: Birmo 0900 - 1000 tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

0900 - 0930: Austrade ([REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] (CEO, Sydney Ports) re Sydney cruise ports

0930 - 1000: [REDACTED] re Sydney cruise ports

Location: CPO Sydney

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1:10



< 3 Sep

Event Details

Edit

9:00am: Austrade [redacted] and [redacted] CEO Sydney Ports re Sydney Cruise Ports [redacted] to attend

CPO [redacted]



[redacted]

Call



Tuesday, 3 Sep 2019
from 8:30 am to 9 am
from 9 am to 9:30 am (AEST)

8 am	8:15am: [redacted] - EFA Chairman re EFIC - Ti...
9 am	9:00am: Austrade [redacted] and [redacted]
	9:30am: [redacted] re Sydney Cruise Port : [redacted]
10 am	10:00am: [redacted] (singer) and [redacted]

Calendar

● Calendar

Invitees

13 >

✓ [redacted]

? [redacted]

? [redacted]

? [redacted]

? [redacted]

? [redacted]

Delete Event

1:09



< Sep 2019



M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Tuesday 3 September 2019

- 7 am ACTING FMO 2-6 September
- 7 am CGM away
- 8 am 8:15am: [redacted] - EFA Chairman re...
- 9 am 9:00am: Austrade [redacted] and Ma...
- 9 am 9:30am: [redacted] re Sydney Cruise...
- 10 am 10:00am: [redacted] (singer) and De...
- 10.40am: Interview Bloomberg Televisi...
- 11 am 11:40am: [redacted] ctc [redacted]
- Noon 12:25pm Comcar Pick up CPO Drop off...
- 1 pm 1:25pm Depart Syd Arrive Adl 3:05pm b...
- 3 pm 3:05pm Comcar Pick up Adl Airport Dro...
- 4 pm [redacted]
- 5 pm [redacted]

Today

Calendars

Inbox (62)



1:10



< Back

Notes



From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 2 September 2019 12:05 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: For clarity: Birmo 0900 - 1000 tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

IN hand

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 2 September 2019 12:01 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: For clarity: Birmo 0900 - 1000 tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Do I need to request a brief for the 9am

1:11



Event Details

Edit

9:30am: [redacted] re
Sydney Cruise Port : [redacted] to
attend

[redacted]



[redacted]

Call



Tuesday, 3 Sep 2019

from 9 am to 9:30 am

from 9:30 am to 10 am (AEST)

8 am	8:15am: [redacted] EFA Chairman re EFIC - Ti...
9 am	9:00am: Austrade [redacted] and [redacted]
	9:30am: [redacted] re Sydney Cruise Port : [redacted]
10 am	10:00am: [redacted] (singer) and [redacted]

Calendar

● Calendar

Invitees

12 >

- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]
- ① [redacted]

Delete Event

1:12



< 3 Sep

Event Details

Edit

10:00am: [redacted]
(singer) and [redacted]
APRA - formally meet the
Minister as the key industry
body engaged by the Prime
Minister to help formulate the
Government's music policy Cct
 [redacted]

- [redacted] to attend

Tuesday, 3 Sep 2019
 from 9:30 am to 10 am
 from 10 am to 10:30 am (AEST)

9 am	9:00am: Austrade [redacted] and [redacted]
	9:30am: [redacted] re Sydney Cruise Port : [redacted]
10 am	10:00am: [redacted] (singer) and [redacted]
	10.40am: Interview Bloomberg Television/China/M...
11 am	[redacted]

Calendar

● Calendar

Invitees

12 >

- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]

Delete Event

10.40am: Interview Bloomberg Television/China/Minister Birmingham

Bloomberg TV - Level 27, 1 Bligh street, Sydney.

Tuesday, 3 Sep 2019

from 10:10 am to 10:40 am

from 10:40 am to 11:10 am (AEST)

10 am | 10:00am: [redacted] (singer) and [redacted]
 | 10.40am: Interview Bloomberg Television/China/M...
 11 am |

Calendar

● Calendar

Invitees

12 >

- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]
- ⊙ [redacted]

Delete Event

1:12



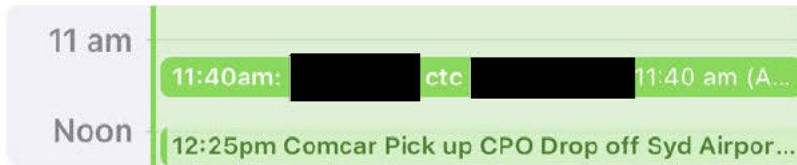
< 3 Sep

Event Details

Edit

11:40am: [redacted] **ctc** [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Tuesday, 3 Sep 2019
from 11:10 am to 11:40 am
from 11:40 am to 12:10 pm (AEST)



Calendar

● Calendar

Invitees

9 >

- ?
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- ?
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- ?

Alert

None >

Notes

Delete Event

1:10



< Back

Notes




UNCLASSIFIED



Further to our discussions, this email confirms your discussion with Minister Birmingham re Export Finance Australia

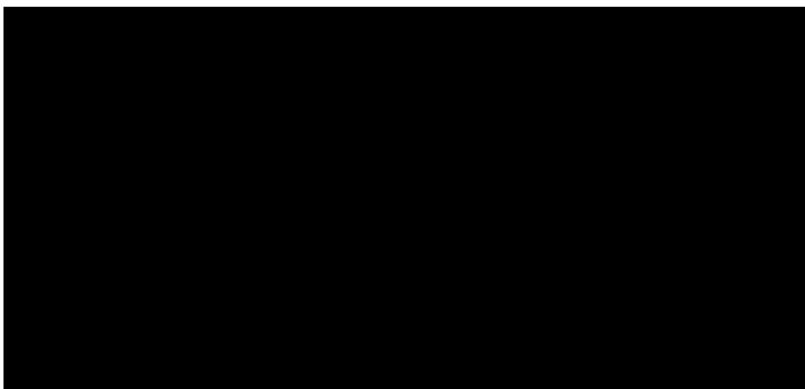
Details are:

- Tuesday 3 September
- 0815 – 0845
- 

Let's meet downstairs and I will take you up to the Minister's suite.

Thanks for your flexibility.

Kind
regards





Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Hon Dan Tehan MP
Member for Wannon
190 Gray Street
Hamilton, VIC, 3300

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Tehan

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, 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.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A
Hon Dan Tehan MP
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.)
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Canberra	2/09/2019	9:50 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	10:45 AM	\$674.64
Travel Allowance Official Duties				Sydney	2/09/2019		\$453.00
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	3:07 PM	Mascot	3/09/2019	3:33 PM	\$64.68
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Sydney	3/09/2019	4:10 PM	Adelaide	3/09/2019	5:50 PM	\$451.66

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

28 July 2022

Hon Dan Tehan MP
190 Gray Street
Hamilton, VIC, 3300

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Tehan

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.

On the 21 June, IPEA wrote to you about an Assurance Review of Commonwealth-funded travel expenses, incurred by you in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019. Your response to that letter is now overdue.

In my original letter, a response was requested from you by **Tuesday 5 July 2022**. There was a provision in that letter for you to request an extension if you required more time to prepare a written response. An extension was not requested.

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **Thursday 4 August 2022**.

If a response is not received, IPEA may consider other options for progressing this matter. Further information about IPEA's Statutory Audit Function is available on our website and at **Attachment A**.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency Audit & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
[REDACTED]

One Canberra Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603 • Telephone 02 6215 3000
Internet www.ipea.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

FACT SHEET – STATUTORY AUDIT FUNCTION

October 2020

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 may make a ruling in relation to travel expenses and allowances under section 37 of the [Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017](#) (PBR Act).

Preliminary Assessment

A Preliminary Assessment is generally confidential and establishes if further review is necessary.

A Preliminary Assessment is conducted where use of work expense(s) (for example, identified through direct contact, third party reporting or media) indicates a matter requires review.

Preliminary Assessments review information held or accessible by IPEA to determine the threshold question of:

- Has a parliamentary business resource been used?

If the answer is YES, an Assurance Review follows.

Potential pathways:

1. No further action
2. Referral to more appropriate agency
3. Assurance Review

Assurance Review

An Assurance Review determines if there has been a misuse of a parliamentary business resource.

IPEA assesses the use of the parliamentary business resource against the legislative framework to determine:

- Was there misuse?

If the answer is YES, IPEA considers if an Audit, referral or administrative action is appropriate.

An Audit is considered when:

- There is evidence for, or allegations of, systemic or substantial misuse
- IPEA's statutory information-gathering powers may be required to obtain all the required information
- There may be an educative benefit in publishing IPEA's findings.

Referral to the AFP is considered when there is evidence of serious fraud or other criminal conduct.

Potential pathways:

1. No further action
2. Administrative remedial action, including penalty
3. An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit
4. Referral to the AFP

Audit

An Audit may commence for two main reasons:

1. As the outcome of an Assurance Review
2. As a systematic and comprehensive examination of the use of a specific category of a parliamentary business resource against the legislative framework, potentially by all parliamentarians and/or MOP(S) Act employees.

Where an Audit results from an Assurance Review, the Macquarie Dictionary definitions of these terms are considered:

- Substantial: "of ample or considerable amount, quantity, size etc."
- Systemic: "affecting an organisation, network ... etc as a whole"

Where an educational purpose or benefit is identified, part or all of the Audit may be published. The decision to publish is made on a case-by-case basis.

Potential pathways:

1. No further action
2. Administrative remedial action, including penalty
3. An IPEA initiated Ruling or Audit
4. Referral to the AFP

Post-Payment Checks

Post-Payment Checks are ongoing systematic testing of expense use through regular sampling of transactions. This covers a range of expenses such as:

- business class travel
- short term self-drive hire cars
- accommodation receipts
- desirable destinations
- accompanying family
- travel adjacent to public/school holidays.

Referring to the Australian Federal Police

IPEA may refer a matter to the AFP at any point during the Assessment, Review or Audit process, where compelling prima facie evidence of fraud or other criminal conduct is identified.

Making a Ruling

Rulings are made and finalised by the Members, including where they are, requested by a parliamentarian, recommended by an Assurance Review or Audit.





The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Member for Wannon

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 4426
Email: [REDACTED]

29 July 2022

Ms Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager
Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Ave
FORREST ACT 2603

Dear Ms Pearson

Thank you for your letters of 21 June and 28 July 2022 concerning a review of travel and travel - related expenses for my travel on 2 September 2019.

At that time, I was Minister for Education and was in Sydney on 2 and 3 September 2019 for a range of activities in my role as Minister undertaking Official duties. The engagements I had in Sydney over those two days are:

Monday 2 September 2019

- Visit to Western Sydney University, Werrington South Campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington
- Visit to Samuel Terry Public School, Grays Lane, Cranebrook
- Attend the Jobs of the Future Forum, Office of the Member for Lindsay, High Street, Penrith.

Tuesday 3 September 2019

- Meeting with the Australian Council for Educational Leaders, Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Sydney
- Meeting with the Australian Parents Council, Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Sydney
- Meeting with the National Catholic Education Commission, Sydney
- Travel to Adelaide.

Please let me know if any additional information is required.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

DAN TEHAN



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Hon Stuart Robert MP
Member for Fadden
Unit 1, 110 Brisbane Road
Labrador, QLD, 4215

Email [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Robert

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Attachment A

Hon Stuart Robert MP

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.)
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Coolangatta	2/09/2019	7:00 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	8:30 AM	\$374.18
COMCAR	Sydney	2/09/2019	12:38 PM	Surry Hills	2/09/2019	12:47 PM	\$58.80
COMCAR	Surry Hills	2/09/2019	3:33 PM	Sydney	2/09/2019	3:47 PM	\$92.12
Travel Allowance Official Duties				Sydney	2/09/2019		\$453.00
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	5:34 AM	Mascot	3/09/2019	5:56 AM	\$58.80
Travel Fares - Virgin Australia	Sydney	3/09/2019	7:05 AM	Canberra	3/09/2019	8:05 AM	\$125.02

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?

From: [Robert, Stuart \(MP\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Hon Stuart Robert MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2022 3:37:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Attached is my diary for the day in question and the copies of the three major entries with a final meeting with the Prime Minister. The dominant purpose was Ministerial. I arrived early into Sydney on the Monday and caught the train to the CPO. I chose not to pre-position the night before so I could spend time with my family as I would be away the whole week.

The first meeting was to finalise the six week design sprint by McInseys and KPMG with the Department of Human Services to ultimately create Services Australia as the nation's largest service delivery organisation. The final report, dated 23 August 2019 (10 days earlier) provided a range of options that had to be chosen from. This final meeting decided on a course of action that was ultimately briefed to the Prime Minister that evening.

The next appointment was at the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Sydney HQ to spend three hours deep diving into the use of functional assessments as the basis for entry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The entire executive of the NDIA was present.

The third meeting, at the expressed request of the Prime Minister was to understand the basis of a distributed ledger (block chain) for the expressed use in combating welfare fraud.

The final meeting, of which I had to wait, was to brief the Prime Minister on the outcomes of the Services Australia six week design sprint and my decision on Agency design and build, prior to briefing the Secretary. I also back briefed on why a distributed ledger was not going to be appropriate in welfare public policy and the outcomes of the NDIA discussion as the PM and I were doing a disability round table that Thursday in Adelaide.

I then caught the first flight to Canberra the next day to brief the Secretary on the outcomes and prepare for COAG, GovX and Cyber War Games.

Thanks

Hon Stuart Robert MP

Federal Member for Fadden
Shadow Minister for Financial Services
Shadow Assistant Treasurer

From: Assurance
Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2022 11:21 AM
To: Robert, Stuart (MP)
Cc: Assurance
Subject: Assurance Review - Hon Stuart Robert MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Mr Robert

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 |



SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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

2 September 2019

Monday

September 2019

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MONDAY		Notes
	2	
	(1715) Accommodation [REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED] on Leave	
7 AM	(0700) Flight VA504 OOL SYD	
8	(0830) Train to CPO; SYD	
9		
10	(1030) Wrap up for Services Australia CPO Sydney Robert, Stuart (MP)	
11		
12 PM	(1230) Comcar 028616; CPO SYD NDIA	
1	(1300-1500) Deep dive NDIA and DSS NDIA 300 Elizabeth Street Sydney Robert, Stuart (MP)	
2		
3	(1500) Comcar 028617; NDIA CPO SYD	
4	(1600) Meeting [REDACTED] Distribution of wealth using block chain technology CONFIRMED CPO 1 Bligh Street Sydney Robert, Stuart (MP)	
5		
6	Meet with the PM; CPO	
	5:45am - 6:20am (0545) Comcar 28526(Nerang OOL)	

Robert, Stuart (MP)

Subject: (1300-1500) Deep dive | NDIA and DSS
Location: NDIA | 300 Elizabeth Street Sydney

Start: Mon 2/09/2019 1:00 PM
End: Mon 2/09/2019 3:30 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Robert, Stuart (MP)

Required Attendees: Robert, Stuart (MP); [REDACTED]

Optional Attendees: [REDACTED]

Categories: Portfolio meetings

Hi [REDACTED]

As previously discussed the Minister would like to do a deep dive on functional assessments.

We have currently pencilled in time to undertake this from 1pm-3pm next Monday. Could I please confirm this time and that it be held at the NDIA's office at 300 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills?

I note that you had a briefing progressing on this issue. Can I ask this is provided for the Minister background prior to the meeting.

If required any necessary materials/slide pack can then be provided for the deep dive on the day.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | SENIOR ADVISER

Office of the Hon. Stuart Robert MP
Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Minister for Government Services

[REDACTED] Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
[REDACTED]

<http://robert.com.au/> | <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/stuart-robert>

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Robert, Stuart (MP)

Subject: (1030) Wrap up for Services Australia
Location: CPO Sydney

Start: Mon 2/09/2019 10:30 AM
End: Mon 2/09/2019 12:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Robert, Stuart (MP)

Required Attendees: Robert, Stuart (MP); [REDACTED]

Optional Attendees: [REDACTED]

Categories: Portfolio meetings

Debrief the end of the Services Australia 6 week sprint, receive the final strategic plan for the creation of Services Australia (dated 23 August 2019) and action the Agency creation.

Robert, Stuart (MP)

Subject: (1600) Meeting [REDACTED] | Distribution of wealth using block chain technology | CONFIRMED
Location: CPO | 1 Bligh Street Sydney
Start: Mon 2/09/2019 4:00 PM
End: Mon 2/09/2019 6:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Meeting organizer
Organizer: Robert, Stuart (MP)
Required Attendees: [REDACTED]
Optional Attendees: [REDACTED]
Categories: Portfolio meetings

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FAO: [REDACTED] Diary Manager
Date: 19 August 2019 at 2:08:23 pm AEST
To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

Further to my conversation with you a moment ago, I am writing following a request I received from Scott Morrison last week asking me to arrange a meeting with Minister Robert to discuss the distribution of welfare using blockchain technology.

I am based in Sydney so I can be available to meet with the Minister in Sydney, Canberra or his QLD electorate office, at his earliest convenience.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Senator the Hon Jane Hume
Senator for Victoria
223 Bridge Road
Richmond, VIC, 3121

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A
 Senator the Hon Jane Hume
 Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Expense Type	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Amount (GST excl.)
Travel Fares - Virgin Australia	Melbourne	2/09/2019	9:00 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	10:25 AM	\$150.58
COMCAR	Mascot	2/09/2019	10:27 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	11:00 AM	\$107.24
COMCAR	Sydney	2/09/2019	3:18 PM	Sydney	2/09/2019	3:26 PM	\$58.80
COMCAR	Sydney	2/09/2019	4:43 PM	Mascot	2/09/2019	5:09 PM	\$76.44
COMCAR	Mascot	2/09/2019	6:24 PM	Willoughby	2/09/2019	6:48 PM	\$58.80
Repayment - COMCAR							-\$58.80
COMCAR	Willoughby	2/09/2019	10:05 PM	Mascot	2/09/2019	10:27 PM	\$58.80
Repayment - COMCAR							-\$58.80
Travel Allowance Parliamentary Duties				Sydney	2/09/2019		\$453.00
Travel Fares - Virgin Australia	Sydney	3/09/2019	6:00 AM	Melbourne	3/09/2019	7:35 AM	\$150.58
Cabcharge	MELBOURNE ARPT	3/09/2019		RICHMOND	3/09/2019	9:07 AM	\$78.32

1. What was the dominant purpose of your return travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?

From: [REDACTED] ([Sen J. Hume](#))
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Monday, 27 June 2022 12:36:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

I can confirm that the dominant purpose for the trip was for parliamentary business.

The Senator had several portfolio related meetings in Sydney then a fundraiser event at Willoughby in the evening.

All travel arrangements had been made in advance so on the evening the Senator realised that it was not appropriate to be using a Comcar to attend the last event. The following morning, she phoned IPEA and arranged a reimbursement for the cost of the Comcars.

The balance of the trip was for parliamentary business.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant
Office of Senator the Hon Jane Hume
Shadow Minister for Finance

From: Assurance
Sent: Friday, 24 June 2022 11:09 AM
To: [REDACTED] (Sen J. Hume)
Cc: Assurance
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (details below).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
[REDACTED] | [E: assurance@ipea.gov.au](mailto:assurance@ipea.gov.au)

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: [REDACTED] (Sen J. Hume) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2022 9:48 AM
To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good morning Nicole,

Could you please give me a call when you are free?

Mobile [REDACTED]

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant

Office of Senator the Hon Jane Hume
Shadow Minister for Finance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 3:37 PM

To: Hume, Jane (Senator) [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator Hume

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

28 July 2022

Senator the Hon Jane Hume
PO Box 224
RICHMOND VIC 3121

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses

Thank you for the response provided by your staff member, on Thursday 6 July 2022, in relation to the Assurance Review of your return travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019 (the relevant period).

IPEA has reviewed the response provided but seeks additional information to assist in finalising this matter.

The *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the Act) imposes obligations on members in relation to their use of public resources, including the requirement to use those resources for the dominant purpose of conducting 'parliamentary business'.

Section 6(4) of the Act, and the *Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017* (the Determination) both list four streams of parliamentary business (**Attachment A**). They are:

- parliamentary duties
- electorate duties
- party political duties
- official duties

The response stated that the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney for the relevant period was '*parliamentary business*', described as '*several portfolio related meetings in Sydney then a fundraiser event at Willoughby in the evening*'.

Please provide further information on the meetings in Sydney and advise how those activities satisfy the definition of parliamentary business in the Determination. Any claims should be supported by evidence, such as notes or memos, related documentation, invitations or media reporting.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

The Act makes members personally responsible and accountable for their use of public resources. I would be grateful if you could provide a personally signed response to this correspondence.

Please provide your response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on **Thursday 4 August 2022**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency Audit & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
[REDACTED]

From: [Assurance](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 12 August 2022 4:01:46 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I have called and left a message with your office in relation to this assurance review. I was calling to discuss the below email sent on 29 July 2022, as we have not received a response.

If you could please contact me to discuss.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Director (A/g)

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

Acknowledgement of Country email signature block banner - October 2021



SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: Assurance
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2022 9:32 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (Sen J. Hume)' ; Assurance
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator Hume

Please find **attached** further correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: [REDACTED] (Sen J. Hume) [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 27 June 2022 12:37 PM

To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good afternoon,

I can confirm that the dominant purpose for the trip was for parliamentary business.

The Senator had several portfolio related meetings in Sydney then a fundraiser event at Willoughby in the evening.

All travel arrangements had been made in advance so on the evening the Senator realised that it was not appropriate to be using a Comcar to attend the last event. The following morning, she phoned IPEA and arranged a reimbursement for the cost of the Comcars.

The balance of the trip was for parliamentary business.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant

Office of Senator the Hon Jane Hume

Shadow Minister for Finance

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 24 June 2022 11:09 AM

To: [REDACTED] (Sen J. Hume) [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good morning Joanne

Thank you for contacting us.

If you have any further questions , please don't hesitate to contact me (details below).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

[REDACTED] | E: assurance@ipea.gov.au

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: [REDACTED] (Sen J. Hume) [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2022 9:48 AM

To: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good morning Nicole,

Could you please give me a call when you are free?

Mobile [REDACTED]

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant

Office of Senator the Hon Jane Hume

Shadow Minister for Finance

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 3:37 PM

To: Hume, Jane (Senator) [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: Assurance Review - Senator the Hon Jane Hume [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Senator Hume

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

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Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch –

File Note

Date:

Friday, 26 August 2022

Participants:

██████████

██████████ (from Senator Hume's Office)

Subject: Post Payment Check – Hire Car Staff
Assurance review – Channel 9

██████████ from Senator Hume's office rang seeking advice in relation to two ongoing assurance matters – an open post payment check, and **Channel 9 Assurance Review**:

Assistant Director and ██████████ discussed car hire by a former staff member ██████████ – ref 1698141, and made plans for a follow-up call on the matter for Monday 29 August 2022.

Assistant Director and ██████████ then discussed the Channel 9 Assurance Review.

██████████ then asked about Channel 9, where the Senator travelled to Sydney. Previous discussions with ██████████ indicated that we would accept a letter with evidence or similar from the Senator outlining the times they met with portfolio stakeholders. ██████████ then read out what he had drafted indicating that Senator Hume had met with a number of portfolio stakeholders between 1100 and 1630 in an official capacity as Assistant Minister. In particular, ██████████ said they had evidence that Senator Hume met with ██████████ and the Comcar receipts confirm the timing of pick up and drop off. I indicated that it sounded reasonable evidence ██████████ said he would get Senator Hume to sign the letter and send it in as soon as it is signed.



SENATOR THE HON JANE HUME
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FINANCE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
SHADOW SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE

Ms Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue
FORREST ACT 2603

Dear Ms Pearson

I write to you further to your correspondence of 21 June and 28 July 2022, and further to discussions between my office and [REDACTED] relating to travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019.

In your correspondence you have sought additional information relating to the meetings undertaken during this travel and the relevant application of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the Act).

I can confirm that the dominant purpose of my travel to Sydney was to conduct meetings with relevant portfolio stakeholders. My meetings were conducted in the Sydney CBD between 11:00 and 16:30, and covered issues relating to my portfolio responsibilities as the then-Assistant Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and Financial Technology.

This included a visit to [REDACTED] a company that operates in the financial technology sector. Records of my visit are reflected in the relevant extract of my COMCAR travel, which I have attached.

Noting this, the application of the Act would fall under 'official duties' and as 'parliamentary duties' as they related to matters conducted in my role as an office holder or Minister of State and as a senator, either as:

1. Undertaking research, communication (including with stakeholders) or administration connected with the business of the Parliament, my policy portfolio, or my role as a senator;
2. Attending an event to which I was invited in my official capacity; or
3. Other activities directly related to, and engaged in for the purposes of, performing my official role.

I trust this information is of assistance. Please contact my office should you require anything further in your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Senator the Hon Jane Hume
Senator for Victoria

06 SEP 2022

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Account	Account Name	Date	From Suburb	To Suburb	Start Time	End Time	Passenger	Charge	Reference
10014793	CLOSED - Senator the Hon Jane Hume	02/09/2019	ANZ Branch 242 Pitt St, 242 Pitt St, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia	[REDACTED] NSW 2000, Australia	15:00	15:26	Senator the Hon Jane Hume	58.8	028509
10014793	CLOSED - Senator the Hon Jane Hume	02/09/2019	[REDACTED] NSW 2000, Australia	[REDACTED] Airport, Sydney Airport (SYD), 3 Ross Smith Ave, Mascot NSW 2020, Australia	16:30	17:09	Senator the Hon Jane Hume	76.44	028511



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Hon Alan Tudge MP
Member for Aston
Suite 4 Level 1, 420 Burwood Highway
Wantirna South, VIC, 3152

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Tudge

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.


At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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


'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 

Yours sincerely




Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Attachment A
 Hon Alan Tudge MP
 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.)
Travel Fares – Virgin Australia	Coolangatta	1/09/2019	3:05 PM	Sydney	1/09/2019	4:35 PM	\$584.80
COMCAR	Mascot	1/09/2019	4:59 PM	Sydney	1/09/2019	5:21 PM	\$128.80
Travel Allowance Official Duties				Sydney	1/09/2019		\$906.00
COMCAR	Sydney	2/09/2019	10:26 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	12:44 PM	\$566.38
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	8:34 AM	Sydney	3/09/2019	8:42 AM	\$58.80
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	5:34 AM	Mascot	3/09/2019	5:56 AM	\$58.80
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Sydney	3/09/2019	12:30 PM	Melbourne	3/09/2019	2:05 PM	\$869.13

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 1 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 1 to 3 September 2019?

From: [Tudge, Alan \(MP\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Hon Alan Tudge MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 10:44:36 AM
Attachments: 

Dear Ms Pearson,

I write in relation to your letter of 21 June 2022 concerning my expenses on 1 September 2019. I have examined my diary and travel records from that period of time and can confirm the following in answer to your two questions.

Question 1.


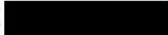
The predominant purpose of my travel to Sydney on 1 September 2019 was to attend two important parliamentary events on the 2 September and two parliamentary meetings on the 3 September. (See details under Question 2).


The reason I was travelling to Sydney from Coolangatta airport was that I was attending and speaking at the Centre for Independent Studies Conference in Bryon Bay over the weekend (Thursday evening 29 August to Sunday 1 September). They provided accommodation for me and hence I did not claim any Travel Allowance for the three nights that I was there. This is a conference of about 200 guests — predominantly policy and business leaders from Sydney.

Question 2.

On 2 September 2019, I attended two important Ministerial events. The first was the opening of the Western Sydney Airport Visitors Centre which I was attending with the Prime Minister. I was the responsible Minister at the time for this opening and the overall development of the massive new Western Sydney Airport. This was a significant milestone with a full press pack. The event was at the Western Sydney Airport site.

In the afternoon, I was Chairing the Planning Ministers Forum which was held in the ASIC offices at 100 Market Street Sydney. It went from 12:30 until 4pm.

On Tuesday 3 September 2019, I had a meeting with  in relation to the development of the Government's population policy. From memory,  had done some population policy work for the NSW Government and I was consulting him in relation to the development of our inaugural Population Policy.

Also noted in my diary is my regular catch up meeting with my then Chief of Staff, . She was based in Sydney.

The record for the Comcar travel in Sydney on 3 September 2019 shows an incorrect time. It states a pick up at 5:34am to take me to the airport (whereas my diary has a pick up at 11am.) Both my diary and your record show a 12:30pm flight which aligns with the 11am pickup. I also note that my monthly management report (Reference 28439) shows a pickup at 11:30am to Mascot.

Many thanks,
Alan Tudge



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: Assurance

Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2022 11:28 AM

To: Tudge, Alan (MP)

Cc: Assurance

Subject: Assurance Review - Hon Alan Tudge MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Mr Tudge

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Hon Michael McCormack MP
Member for Riverina
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street
Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr McCormack

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.


At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 

Yours sincerely



Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Attachment A

Hon Michael McCormack MP

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.)
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Wagga Wagga	2/09/2019	6:30 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	7:35 AM	\$254.46
COMCAR	Mascot	2/09/2019	8:46 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	12:58 PM	\$513.18
Travel allowance Official Duties				Sydney	2/09/2019		\$453.00
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	3:53 PM	Mascot	3/09/2019	4:25 PM	\$107.80
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Sydney	3/09/2019	5:35 PM	Canberra	3/09/2019	6:30 PM	\$126.99

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?

From: Assurance
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance; "McCormack, Michael (MP)"
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Hon Michael McCormack MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2022 11:49:10 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, I have called and left a message with the office for you.
In the original correspondence of **Tuesday 22 June 2022**, Mr McCormack was granted two weeks to respond, that is by **Tuesday 5 July 2022**. In light of your request, Assurance can offer a short time extension and amend that date to **Friday 8 July 2022**.

If you or Mr McCormack have any questions during this process, please do not hesitate to contact Assurance by email or telephone (details below).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, Assurance
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 & www.ipea.gov.au/ed

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: [REDACTED] (M. McCormack, MP) **On Behalf Of** McCormack, Michael (MP)
Sent: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 3:51 PM
To: Assurance
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Hon Michael McCormack MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good afternoon Nicole

Thank you for your email to Mr McCormack.

I am endeavouring to provide the details you seek, but at this time am having some difficulties in obtaining diary information for September 2019.

I was wondering if there was the possibility of a short time extension to reply to the request?

Happy to discuss if you would like to call at your convenience.

Many thanks and kind regards

[REDACTED]
cid:image001.jpg@01D88B06.E3F92410



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2022 11:25 AM

To: McCormack, Michael (MP) [REDACTED]

Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Assurance Review - Hon Michael McCormack MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Mr McCormack

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Be careful with this message

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

From: [McCormack, Michael \(MP\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expensed - Michael McCormack 2 September 2019
Date: Tuesday, 5 July 2022 10:46:16 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good morning

I write in relation to correspondence I received via email on 23 June 2022 signed by Nicole Pearson, Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal, Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority, in relation to my travel on 2 September 2019.

Please find attached a copy of my diary for that date.

In answer to the questions in the correspondence:

1. ***What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?*** The dominant purpose of travel was two-fold: To attend the official opening of the Western Sydney International Experience Centre, Eaton Road, Luddenham; and to attend a Road Safety Deep Dive and then a Road Safety Stakeholder Forum, both at 1 Bligh Street, Sydney.
2. ***What was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?*** To officiate and speak, in the role of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, at the unveiling of an experience centre at the Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird-Walton) Airport and; to host, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, a road safety roundtable and deep dive with Assistant Minister Buchholz and Mr Llew O'Brien MP.

I can confirm I **did not** attend any event hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby on 2 September 2019.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCormack



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2 September 2019

Monday

September 2019							October 2019						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

MONDAY

2

Middleton Public School (APH)

Sturt Public School (APH)

7^{AM}

6:30am QF2220 Wagga Wagga to Sydney
 Booking #: 13923124 ; MCCORMACK Michael

Phone dial-in details redacted per.

7.35am Pre-brief with TS & SC
 Chairmans Lounge Airport
 MCCORMACK Michael

8

8.00am PM Leadership Call Dial in: [REDACTED]

9

8.45am Comcar #: 28267 (1hr 10mins/50.5kms)

Sydney Airport to Western Sydney International Airport Experience Centre, 100 Eaton Rd, Luddenham
 MCCORMACK Michael

10

10am for 10:30am Official Opening: Western Sydney International Experience Centre (DPM to speak for 2 minutes) + SC/TS
 Western Sydney International Experience Centre, 100 Eaton Road, Luddenham
 MCCORMACK Michael

11

12pm Comcar #: 28267 (1hr 15mins/77.3kms)

Western Sydney International Airport Experience Centre to Sydney CPO
 MCCORMACK Michael

12^{PM}

1

1.00pm Road Safety Deep Dive (organise catering for 15 department to pay / guest list) - TA
 Sydney CPO, Level 21, Meeting Room 1, 1 Bligh Street., Sydney
 MCCORMACK Michael

2

2pm Road Safety Stakeholder Forum with Mr Llew O'Brien MP & Assistant Minister Buchholz + TA
 Sydney CPO, Level 21, Meeting Room 1, 1 Bligh Street., Sydney
 MCCORMACK Michael

3

4

5

6

5:30am - 6:00am 5.30am Taxi booked from home to Wagga airport

10:00pm - 10:30pm [REDACTED]



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Hon Ben Morton

Dear Mr Morton

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

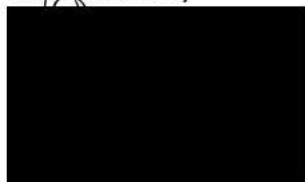
OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 12 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

To assist with engagement on this matter, and future communication with IPEA, please include your current email address and phone number in your response.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on 

Yours sincerely



Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A
Hon Ben Morton
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.)
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Perth	2/09/2019	5:15 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	11:20 AM	\$753.11
COMCAR	Mascot	2/09/2019	11:35 AM	Sydney	2/09/2019	11:53 AM	\$70.00
Travel Allowance Official Duties				Sydney	2/09/2019		\$453.00
COMCAR	Sydney	3/09/2019	5:08 AM	Mascot	3/09/2019	5:23 AM	\$58.80
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Sydney	3/09/2019	6:20 AM	Perth	3/09/2019	9:25 AM	\$753.11

1. What was the dominant purpose of your return travel to Sydney on 2 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 2 to 3 September 2019?

From: [Ben Morton](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: Assurance
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2022 3:05:15 PM

Hi Nicole,

Thank you for your letter regarding my travel in Sydney in September 2019.

You refer to an event at Nine Studios, I did not attend any event at Nine Studios.

What relevance is such an event?

I was in Sydney on Parliamentary Business.

Why would such a review be conducted so long after the travel?

Regards

Ben

Sent from my iPhone

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Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Mr James Stevens MP
Member for Sturt
Level 1, 85 The Parade
Norwood, SA, 5067

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Stevens

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A

Mr James Stevens MP

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.)
Travel Fares - Qantas Airways	Adelaide	1/09/2019	10:35 AM	Sydney	1/09/2019	12:55 PM	\$927.64
Cabcharge	SYD DOM ARPT	1/09/2019		POTTS POINT	1/09/2019	1:33 PM	\$51.68
Travel Allowance Parliamentary Duties				Sydney	1/09/2019		\$415.00

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 1 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 1 September 2019?

From: [Stevens, James \(MP\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Mr James Stevens MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 9:47:54 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Nicole

Thank you for your email regarding my travel to Sydney, my Cabcharge and TA claims for 1 September 2019.

The dominant purpose of my travel was to participate in the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program, Option Navy Surface Combatant between Monday 2 September and Friday 6 September. The program commenced in Sydney at 7:00am on Monday 2 September 2019, hence the need to travel the day before and spend the night in Sydney.

The rest of the week was spent at sea aboard the HMAS Stuart, an ANZAC Class Frigate.

I consider my participation in this program to have been parliamentary business.

I have attached supporting documents from [REDACTED], Executive Officer of the ADF Program as well as my receipt for my accommodation in Sydney on 1 September 2019.

Please let me know if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

James Stevens



[08 8431 2277](tel:0884312277) | [Level 1, 85 The Parade Norwood SA 5067](#)



From: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 2:54 PM
To: Stevens, James (MP) [REDACTED]
Cc: Assurance <Assurance@ipea.gov.au>
Subject: Assurance Review - Mr James Stevens MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Mr Stevens

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 |



SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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[REDACTED] (J. Stevens, MP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 11:19 AM
To: Stevens, James (MP)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ADF Parliamentary Program Navy Option [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Morning Mr Steven,

As discussed on the phone Monday 22 July, I have finally confirmed the dates for the ADF Parliamentary Program Option Navy Surface Combatant is between Mon 2 – Fri 6 September. This option will commence in Sydney and you will go to sea aboard HMAS Stuart an ANZAC Class Frigate Helicopter (FFH) a long-range frigate capable of air defence, surface and undersea warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction.

Could you please confirm your availability to participate in this activity as soon as practical, as I will need to arrange for you to be issued with Navy uniforms during next week's sitting as this is the last before the option commences.

Thank you for your support of the ADF Parliamentary Program

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Executive Officer, ADF Parliamentary Program
[REDACTED] Russell Offices
PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

[REDACTED]
Group Email: [REDACTED]
Webpage: www.defence.gov.au/adfpp

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence and is subject to the jurisdiction of section 70 of the Crimes Act 1914. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email.

(J. Stevens, MP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2019 11:28 AM
To: [REDACTED] (L. Howarth, MP); [REDACTED] (J. Stevens, MP)
Cc: Howarth, Luke (MP); Stevens, James (MP)
Subject: ADFPP HMAS Stuart Visit [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: BN8530352.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning

Please find attached an information booklet for your upcoming ADFPP visit to HMAS Stuart.

Key Timings

Arrival Time	07:00 Monday 2 September 2019
Location	Garden Island Main Gate Pass Office - Cnr Cowper Wharf Rd and Wylde St, Woolloomooloo
Point of Contact	[REDACTED]
Estimated Departure Time	12:00 Friday 6 September 2019

The activity will be completed by 12:00 on Friday, however with all Military activities will commence early 07:00 Monday.

Please Note

1. To facilitate your access to HMAS Kuttabul (Garden Island) can I ask that you complete the online induction training <http://www.defence.gov.au/bases/nsw/hmas-kuttabul/>
2. You will need to bring evidence (paper print out) of completed online induction training.
3. Valid Photo ID (Drivers Licence) will be required for presentation.

Maps and a suggested packing list are contained in the information booklet.

If there are any questions regarding your visit please contact me by email or mobile

Regards

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

[REDACTED] (J. Stevens, MP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 August 2019 11:52 AM
To: [REDACTED] J. Stevens, MP
Cc: Stevens, James (MP)
Subject: FW: ADFPP Visit to HMAS Stuart [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I'm sure you have James organised for his trip to Sydney to join HMAS Stuart on Monday, As per the last email if he could arrive by 07:00 at Garden Island Main Gate Pass Office - Cnr Cowper Wharf Rd and Wylde St, Woolloomooloo. He will be met by [REDACTED]

The main entrance can be quite busy on a Monday morning due to contractors trying to gain access as well so to facilitate a speedy entrance to the base can you please ensure [REDACTED] has completed the online induction training <http://www.defence.gov.au/bases/nsw/hmas-kuttabal/> and have a print off the completion or a screen shot on his phone.

He will also need some photo ID (Drivers Licence) as well.

If you have any questions please give me a call [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Executive Officer, ADF Parliamentary Program
[REDACTED] Russell Offices
PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

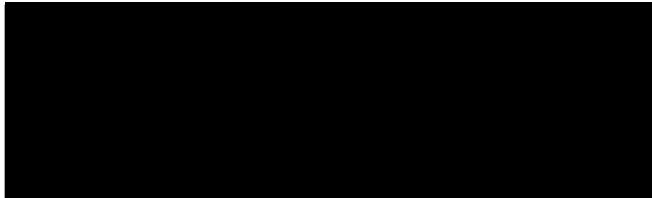
[REDACTED]
Group Email: [REDACTED]
Webpage: www.defence.gov.au/adfpp

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.



Booked: Online - Friday, August 30, 2019 11:59:34 am GMT+10:00



CHECK-IN
1/9/19
CHECK-OUT
2/9/19
NUMBER OF NIGHTS
1

Hotels.com Confirmation Number: [Redacted]
Number of rooms: 1

Billing Address

Billing Name James Stevens
Company details James Stevens MP

Booking Details



James Stevens

Cancellation Policy

Non-refundable booking

- If you change or cancel your booking you will not get a refund or credit to use for a future stay. This policy will apply regardless of COVID-19, subject to any local consumer laws.

Payment details

Charges

AUD – A\$



Sunday, September 1, 2019	A\$239.27
Sub-total	A\$239.27
GST	A\$23.93

Total

A\$263.20

Amount paid

A\$263.20

Payment Method

Card number



You were charged for this booking.

Any additional charges and fees incurred during your stay will be charged in your hotel's local currency and may be subject to a foreign exchange fee.

Your Receipt

This receipt was printed on: **Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:49:54 pm GMT+10:00**

Retain this copy for statement verification.

Please note that if you make changes in your booking, they could result in charges applicable by policy and availability.

Please see the website for Terms and Conditions: https://au.hotels.com/customer_care/terms_conditions.html



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

21 June 2022

Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Member for Wide Bay
319 Kent Street
Maryborough, QLD, 4650

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr O'Brien

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 (e.g. sporting events), family reunion travel and travel adjacent to public or school holidays.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related expenses incurred in relation to travel to and within Sydney at a time when an event was hosted at the Channel Nine studios in Willoughby NSW, on 2 September 2019.

At **Attachment A** are details of your Commonwealth-funded travel within the relevant period. 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.

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

'Parliamentary business' has 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 B**).

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Please provide a written response via email to assurance@ipea.gov.au, by close of business on 5 July 2022, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance & Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Attachment A
Mr Llew O'Brien MP
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.)
Travel Fares - Virgin Australia	Brisbane	1/09/2019	4:35 PM	Sydney	1/09/2019	6:10 PM	\$452.54
COMCAR	Mascot	1/09/2019	6:27 PM	Haymarket	1/09/2019	6:46 PM	\$122.10
Travel Allowance Parliamentary Duties				Sydney	1/09/2019		\$830.00
COMCAR	Haymarket	3/09/2019	11:04 AM	Mascot	3/09/2019	11:21 AM	\$58.80
Travel Fares - Virgin Australia	Sydney	3/09/2019	2:00 PM	Brisbane	3/09/2019	3:30 PM	\$452.54

1. What was the dominant purpose of your return travel to Sydney on 1 September 2019?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment B**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney from 1 to 3 September 2019?

From: [O'Brien, Llew \(MP\)](#)
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: RE: Assurance Review - Mr Llew O'Brien MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 4:35:13 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good Afternoon Nicole

Please find attached a letter and documents from Mr O'Brien regarding the Assurance Review 010919 – 030919.

Please let me know if any further information is required.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Electorate Officer | Correspondence & Diary Manager
Office of Llew O'Brien MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay

[REDACTED]

319 Kent Street | PO Box 283 | Maryborough QLD 4650

_Template_Email Signature_Wide Bay2



From: Assurance
Sent: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 3:15 PM
To: O'Brien, Llew (MP)
Cc: Assurance
Subject: Assurance Review - Mr Llew O'Brien MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Dear Mr O'Brien

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority in relation to travel you have undertaken.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6215 3000 or assurance@ipea.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Pearson

Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

T: 02 6215 3000 | [REDACTED]

SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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LLEW O'BRIEN MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay

Postal: PO Box 283, Maryborough 4650

Toll free: 1300 301 968

P: (07) 4121 2936

F: (07) 4122 3968

W: www.llewobrien.com.au

LO/bm

28 June 2022

Ms Nicole Pearson
Branch Manager, Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

E: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Pearson

Thank you for your letter dated 21 June 2022 enquiring about my travel to Sydney on 1 September 2019 and returning on 3 September 2019.

The dominant purpose of this travel, indeed the only purpose for this travel was to conduct parliamentary business. I did not attend any event at Nine studios in Willoughby on 2 September 2019.

In Sydney I met with representatives from Infrastructure Australia, and I was invited to attend a road safety roundtable meeting, and participate in a road safety stakeholder forum, ahead of my appointment as the Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety, which was announced on 2 August 2019. I have attached a copy of my diary for the day and the agenda for the road safety stakeholder forum for your information.

Please contact me again if I can assist your enquiries further.

Yours sincerely

LLEW O'BRIEN MP
Federal Member for Wide Bay

2 September 2019

Monday

September 2019

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30						

October 2019

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MONDAY		Notes
QLD	2	
7 AM		
8		
9		
10		
11	<p>11:00 Travel [REDACTED] to Infrastructure Australia, Level 21, 126 Phillip Street, Sydney Approx. 10 minutes / 1.5 km or walk 1.5 km 20 minutes</p> <p>11:30 Infrastructure Australia meeting [REDACTED] Level 21, 126 Phillip Street, Sydney (Deutsche Bank Building - corner of Hunter Street)</p>	
12 PM		
	<p>12:30 Travel IA, 126 Phillip Street to CPO, 1 Bligh Street Approx. 350 metres / 5 minute walk</p>	
1	<p>13:00 Road Safety Deep Dive - Lunch is provided CPO Sydney, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney (Meeting Room 1 on Level 21)</p>	
2	<p>14:00 ROAD SAFETY STAKEHOLDER FORUM - DPM Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices Sydney, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney (Meeting Room 1 on Level 21)</p>	
3		
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Key Road Safety Stakeholders Roundtable

Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices
Meeting Room 1, Level 21, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney
2pm to 5pm, 2 September 2019

AGENDA

Session 1 **Welcome**

The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure,
Transport and Regional Development

The Hon. Scott Buchholz MP
Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport

Mr Llew O'Brien MP
Chair Joint Select Committee on Road Safety

Session 2 **Australian Government Update**

Office of Road Safety	Infrastructure
Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting outcomes	Infrastructure
Key data update	BITRE

Session 3 **Industry Engagement Session – Facilitated Interactive Discussion**

What's your organisation's major priority and plan for helping to get to zero?	Roundtable discussion
--	-----------------------

Session 4 **Next steps**

Summary and next steps	Facilitator
------------------------	-------------