



Parliamentary Service

BUDGET 2015-16

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

SPEAKER'S RESPONSE

TO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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GOVERNMENT QUESTION 1

I refer to page 1 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2015-16 Queensland State Budget - Service Delivery Statements – Legislative Assembly of Queensland, and I ask Mr Speaker to kindly outline any steps he has taken to reduce costs and improve efficiencies in the Office of the Speaker since he has been elected as Speaker

SPEAKER'S RESPONSE

In terms of “reducing costs”, I have reduced the staff establishment numbers within the Office from three (3) to two (2) staff establishment positions.

By abolishing the “Chief of staff and Executive Officer position “(an S03 position) a saving of approximately \$130,000 per annum has been achieved in 2015-16.

Further, rather than appoint external persons to fill the remaining two (2) vacant positions in the Office, I have seconded Parliamentary Service staff to work in the Office. This has two (2) benefits:

- a) Seconding experienced Parliamentary Service staff has made for a seamless transition because these staff have a good understanding of the Parliament, the Parliamentary precinct and the Parliamentary Service.
- b) Seconding these staff will also save on termination payments that would be payable when I cease to be Speaker (e.g. an officer engaged for one term of parliament would be eligible for 8 week's severance pay plus 1 months' notice).

I have also sought to reduce motor vehicle costs by extending the lease on the current vehicle provided to me. The current vehicle is in good condition and rather than simply replace it because it is due, I have asked for the lease to be extended which will save approximately \$4,500 per year compared to what the cost of a new lease would have been for a similar vehicle.

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION 1

With relation to page 3 of the SDS which states a “planned review will examine changes in security risks”, can the Speaker provide a detailed schedule of events relating to the 2015 transfer of PCCC safes for each outgoing Member of the PCCC?

SPEAKER’S RESPONSE

The full context of the quoted statement from page 3 of the SDS is as follows:

“In 2015-16, the Parliamentary Service will conduct a comprehensive review of electorate office security. Building on the initial review conducted in 2007, the planned review will examine changes in security risks, security monitoring tools and techniques, and security awareness.”

It is clear that the paragraph is referring to a review of electorate office security – predominantly the security of the physical environment and security systems.

The Parliamentary Service does provides various services to committees of the Legislative Assembly, including services to minimise security risks. In respect of the PCCC that includes the provision of two safes to each member of the committee for the secure storage of material at:

- (a) the Member’s electorate office; and
- (b) the Member’s office at Parliament House.

The Parliamentary Service, through Property Services, does arrange for the movement of the PCCC safes¹ when there are changes in membership on the PCCC. The PCCC at the appropriate time notifies Property Services from when to where the safes are to be moved and Property Services facilitates the movement of the safes. In respect of the movement of safes from one member’s electorate office to another, Property Services often engages external contractors to facilitate the movement, particularly for electorate offices outside the South East corner. Safes outside of this area have always been moved by contractors.

It is stressed that when the safes are moved, they are moved without keys. That is, neither officers of Property Services nor any contractors engaged are able to open the safes.

Whilst strictly not relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee’s examination of the appropriation for 2015-16, I am willing to provide some information about the process in early 2015.

Following the membership changes post the election and the appointment of new members, a request by the secretariat to move the safes was made to Property Services on 30 March 2015.²

¹ This is the terminology used in the question. They are referred to as safes but are actually fire-proof filing cabinets with a security rating.

² On 5 March 2015, arrangements were made to move the Member for Nicklin’s safe at the request of the Member.

In relation to the movement of the safes at Parliament House, the exact date that each of these safes were moved was not recorded. The safes were only moved after the permission of Members to enter and remove the safes were received. Some of the Parliament House safes were moved from a Member's office to the PCCC secretariat office for a period. One of the safes from Parliament House was moved to an electorate office.

All new Committee Members had safes in their Parliament House office by the time the Committee had its first meeting on 4 May 2015.

Member's Parliament House Office move from	Member's Parliament House Office moved to
Nicklin (Electorate Office)	Callide
Nicklin	Warrego
Capalaba	Sunnybank
Lockyer	Toowoomba North
Bundamba	Morayfield
Broadwater	Lytton
Logan	Capalaba
South Brisbane	Callide (Electorate Office)

In relation to the movement of the safes between electorate offices, the safes were moved in accordance with the details provided in the schedule below:

Initial Location (Electorate Office)	Electorate Office Moved to	Moved by	Date removed	Date delivered
South Brisbane (Member's Parliament House Office) (via PCCC secretariat for a period)	Callide	Star Track Express	30.04.15	02.05.15
Capalaba	Remained in situ	N/A	N.A.	N.A.
Lockyer	Toowoomba North	BAS (QBuild)	27.04.15	28.04.15
Bundamba	Warrego Roma	Allied Pickford	14.5.15	27.5.15
Broadwater	Lytton	Allied Pickford	14.5.15	15.5.15
Logan	Sunnybank	Allied Pickford	14.5.15	15.5.15
South Brisbane	Morayfield	Allied Pickford	14.5.15	15.5.15
Nicklin	Callide (Member's Parliament House Office) (via PCCC secretariat for a period)	ASAP Couriers	13.3.15 ³	16.3.15 at PCCC secretariat

The PCCC may have its own orders/policies/practices for the security of information in the safes and the movement of the safes. These matters are not within the Speaker's immediate remit.

As Speaker I am generally aware of various matters raised in the Assembly and the public domain about the transfer of PCCC safes for outgoing Members of the PCCC and the material allegedly left in one of those safes. That issue is currently before the PCCC and it is not appropriate for me to comment in respect of that matter.

³ On 5 March 2015, arrangements were made to move the Member for Nicklin's safe at the request of the Member.

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION 2

In relation to page 3 of the SDS which states a “planned review will examine changes in security risks”, can the Speaker provide copies of the statements signed by all outgoing PCCC members in 2015, other than the Member for Bundamba, stating how they had dealt with the contents of their PCCC safe/s?

SPEAKER’S RESPONSE

The full context of the quoted statement from page 3 of the SDS is as follows:

“In 2015-16, the Parliamentary Service will conduct a comprehensive review of electorate office security. Building on the initial review conducted in 2007, the planned review will examine changes in security risks, security monitoring tools and techniques, and security awareness.”

It is clear that the paragraph is referring to a review of electorate office security – predominantly the security of the physical environment and security systems.

I refer to my answer to question 1, wherein I state:

“The PCCC may have its own orders/policies/practices for the security of information in the safes and the movement of the safes. These matters are not within the Speaker’s immediate remit.

As Speaker I am generally aware of various matters raised in the Assembly and the public domain about the transfer of PCCC safes for outgoing Members of the PCCC and the material allegedly left in one of those safes. That issue is currently before the PCCC and it is not appropriate for me to comment in respect of that matter.”

If there are any statements signed by outgoing PCCC members in 2015, they are proceedings of the committee. Standing Order 211A applies to those proceedings which provides:

211A. Confidentiality of proceedings for Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and Ethics Committee

(1) The proceedings of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and the Ethics Committee or a subcommittee of those committees that is not open to the public or authorised to be published remains strictly confidential to the committee until the committee has reported those proceedings to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(2) No member shall in the House refer to any proceedings of a committee in (1), until the committee has reported those proceedings to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(3) A member who wishes to refer to in camera evidence or unpublished committee documents of a committee in (1) in a dissenting report shall advise the committee of the evidence or documents concerned, and all reasonable effort shall be made by the committee to reach agreement on the disclosure of the evidence or documents for that purpose.

(4) A committee in (1) may elect for this Standing Order to not apply to a particular proceeding or a particular inquiry of the committee, and adopt its own rules in relation to the confidentiality of its proceedings for that proceeding or inquiry.

I emphasise that the issue relating to PCCC information and safes is currently before the PCCC and it is not appropriate for me to comment in respect of that matter. This question is also not relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee’s examination of the appropriation for 2015-16.

NON-GOVERNMENT QUESTION 3

In relation to page 3 of the SDS which states a “planned review will examine changes in security risks”, can the Speaker provide copies of any statement signed by the Member for Bundamba relating to how the MP dealt with the contents of their PCCC safe/s?

SPEAKER’S RESPONSE

The full context of the quoted statement from page 3 of the SDS is as follows:

“In 2015-16, the Parliamentary Service will conduct a comprehensive review of electorate office security. Building on the initial review conducted in 2007, the planned review will examine changes in security risks, security monitoring tools and techniques, and security awareness.”

It is clear that the paragraph is referring to a review of electorate office security – predominantly the security of the physical environment and security systems.

I refer to my answer to question 1, wherein I state:

“The PCCC may have its own orders/policies/practices for the security of information in the safes and the movement of the safes. These matters are not within the Speaker’s immediate remit.

As Speaker I am generally aware of various matters raised in the Assembly and the public domain about the transfer of PCCC safes for outgoing Members of the PCCC and the material allegedly left in one of those safes. That issue is currently before the PCCC and it is not appropriate for me to comment in respect of that matter.

If there are any statements signed by outgoing PCCC members in 2015, they are proceedings of the committee. Standing Order 211A applies to those proceedings which provides:

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I emphasise that the issue relating to PCCC information and safes is currently before the PCCC and it is not appropriate for me to comment in respect of that matter. This question is also not relevant to the Finance and Administration Committee’s examination of the appropriation for 2015-16.