

From: [Assurance](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Assurance](#)
Subject: Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025 4:39:07 PM
Attachments: [Correspondence.pdf](#)
[Attachment A Parliamentary Business Resources Determination 2017.pdf](#)
[image001.gif](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Chester

Attached please find correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Branch Manager (A/g), Transparency, Assurance and Legal
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603
E: assurance@ipea.gov.au
W: www.ipea.gov.au & www.ipea.gov.au/ed



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

5 February 2025

Hon Darren Chester MP
Member for Gippsland
PO Box 486
Sale, VIC, 3853

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Chester

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel

The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) has responsibility under the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017* to undertake assurance activities in relation to the work expenses of members of parliament.

Please note that IPEA publishes completed assurance reviews on the website at www.ipea.gov.au/assurance-audit/published-assurance-reviews.

IPEA is undertaking an Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources accessed in relation to your family reunion travel between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023.

Legislative framework

The use of travel expenses for family reunion must meet the three-part test below, set out in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:

A family member of a member travels for family reunion purposes if:

- (a) the member is travelling within Australia for the dominant purpose of conducting the member's parliamentary business; and*
- (b) the family member travels to accompany or join the member; and*
- (c) the travel by the family member is for the dominant purpose of facilitating the family life of the member's family.*

Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act) and the Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 (the Determination – **Attachment A**) define the four streams of parliamentary business. These are parliamentary duties, electorate duties, party political duties and official duties.

The principles parliamentarians are to apply when utilising public resources are set out in part 3 - division 2 of the PBR Act.

Action Required

Attachment B details your Commonwealth-funded family reunion travel within the period that is relevant to this Assurance Review, and we have set out questions for your response. Where we have asked about the nature of your parliamentary business, please reference the definition of Parliamentary Business as outlined in the Determination and provide copies of documentation to support your response, 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 **28 February 2025**, or advise us prior to the date if you need more time.

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

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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

Attachment B

Assurance Review of travel and travel-related resources – Family Reunion Travel

Work Resource	Traveller	Departure Location	Departure Date	Departure Time	Arrival Location	Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Total Amount
Airfare – Qantas Airways Self	Hon Darren Chester MP	Melbourne	28/02/2022	10:00 AM	Sydney	28/02/2022	11:25 AM	\$201.70
Airfare – Qantas Airways Spouse	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	28/02/2022	10:00 AM	Sydney	28/02/2022	11:25 AM	\$201.70
Travel Allowance – 1 night – Commercial Self	Hon Darren Chester MP				Sydney	28/02/2022		\$415.00
Airfare - Qantas Airways Self	Hon Darren Chester MP	Sydney	1/03/2022	11:00 AM	Melbourne	1/03/2022	12:35 PM	\$201.70
Airfare – Qantas Airways Spouse	[REDACTED]	Sydney	1/03/2022	11:00 AM	Melbourne	1/03/2022	12:35 PM	\$201.70

1. What was the dominant purpose of your travel to Sydney on 28 February 2022?
2. With reference to the Determination at **Attachment A**, what was the nature of your parliamentary business in Sydney between 28 February and 1 March 2022?
3. Please advise whether your family members' travel expenses meet the three-part test in section 6 of the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations 2017:
 - a. You were travelling for the dominant purpose of conducting your parliamentary business; and
 - b. Your family members were travelling to accompany or join you; and
 - c. Your family members' travel was for the dominant purpose of facilitating family life.



Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017

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

Dated 14 December 2017

Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance

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1 Name

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

2 Commencement

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

3 Authority

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

4 Interpretation

(1) In this instrument:

Act means the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*.

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

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

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

5 Parliamentary business of members

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

Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties

(Act s 6(4)(a))

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

Schedule 2—Electorate duties

(Act s 6(4)(b))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Electorate duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In the member's capacity as their constituent's elected representative: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Facilitating and participating in debate, discussion, a meeting, event or function, or undertaking research or administrative functions relating to matters of importance or interest to constituents (including matters that do not relate exclusively to constituents, such as matters of national importance); b) Otherwise communicating with constituents; c) Representing the views and interests of constituents.

Schedule 3—Party political duties

(Act s 6(4)(c))

Column 1	Column 2
Member (or class)	Party political duties
All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives	In respect of the political party to which the member belongs, participating in any of the following in their capacity as an elected Senator or member of the House of Representatives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a formal meeting of the political party (including a meeting of the party executive, a committee or a subcommittee); b) a national, state or territory conference.

Schedule 4—Official duties

(Act s 6(4)(d))

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

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Assurance](#)
Subject: FW: Assurance - Darren Chester
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 2:09:03 PM
Attachments: [Assurance docs - DChester.pdf](#)

Dear Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority,

I can confirm I have reviewed the family reunion travel listed in the reference period and found it met the appropriate criteria set out in the guidelines as Mrs Chester accompanied me to undertake duties in my capacity as Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety which falls under the category of:

- Schedule 1—Parliamentary duties (Act s 6(4)(a)) Column 1 Column 2 Member (or class) Parliamentary duties All members who are a senator or member of the House of Representatives In the member's capacity as a member of the Parliament: a) Preparing for, participating in and attending to business arising from proceedings of the Parliament, whether by committee of the whole or otherwise

I have included evidence attached and I would be happy to provide further details if required.

Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

Level 1, 89-91 Raymond Street | SALE VIC 3850

126 Franklin St | TRARALGON VIC 3844

Tel: 1300 131 785

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Today < > | 28 February - 4 March 2022

Monday

28

Tuesday

1 Mar





Corporate Report



for the year ended
30 June 2022



Contributing to policy development

As one of the world's largest toll road operators, Transurban can provide valuable insights on ways to make roads safer, more sustainable and more efficient. We work with both governments and industry partners, sharing our insights and contributing to policy discussions that will help shape how people move around cities for years to come.

"It's great to see Transurban investing in partnerships with the research industry and working with government to deliver the outcomes Australians expect on our roads."

Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety Chair Hon Darren Chester

One of the key ways we contribute is via Transurban representation on boards, including Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Roads Australia, the Committee for Melbourne, the Queensland Infrastructure Association and the Advisory Committee for Committee for Brisbane, along with the Eno Center for Transportation in the US.

We're also partnering with governments and industry as part of the Australian National University's Institute for Infrastructure in Society, which is undertaking Australia's largest study on engagement and infrastructure delivery.

In FY22, we hosted the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety at the Transurban Road Safety Centre at Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) in Sydney. Committee members learnt about this centre's life-saving road safety research. The visit informed the Committee's inquiry into measures that can be taken to reduce trauma and deaths on Australian roads. We also contributed a submission to the NSW inquiry into mobile speed camera enforcement programs and provided expertise alongside industry partner Roads Australia at a hearing on this issue.

With action on climate change at the forefront for most governments, we shared our progress in decarbonising our business by participating in the inquiry into Renewable Energy in Victoria and Victoria's emissions reduction target for 2035. With renewable energy agreements now signed in all Australian markets, we continue to keep governments and our industry partners updated as we progressively switch our assets over to renewable energy.

In North America, we are partnering with The Climate Board—an organisation bringing industry leaders together to tackle climate change mitigation and resilience challenges. The Climate Board members have ready access to critical research, collective expertise and best practices to aid with progressing actionable climate change solutions.

And with Queensland's population booming and Brisbane 2032¹ on the horizon, Transurban has provided submissions and feedback on several long-term transport strategies for the state, including the government's State Infrastructure Strategy. We also worked with Queensland MPs to support flood-affected Brisbane communities with targeted grants. Read more on page 43.

The Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety visited the Transurban Road Safety Centre at NeuRA



¹ Transurban is not a sponsor of the Olympic Games, any Olympic Committees or events.

Joint Select Committee on Road Safety

PO Box 6021

Parliament House

CANBERRA

Canberra ACT 2600

Monday 20 December, 2021

Dear Mr Chester, Mr Thistlethwaite and Committee Secretariat,

Transurban extends our congratulations to the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety for concluding public hearings on your inquiry into road safety. We look forward to the release of the final report next year.

In our submission to the inquiry in August, we extended an invitation to the Committee to tour the Transurban Road Safety Centre in Sydney and witness a demonstration of its state-of-the-art crash lab.

Through our partnership with Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA), we are supporting world-class research at the Transurban Road Safety Centre that is contributing to improved road safety outcomes for children, senior drivers and motorcycle riders.

This partnership reflects our purpose to strengthen communities through transport, with safety always our highest priority in delivering benefits to our customers and the broader community.

I am writing to invite you to the Centre in early 2022, with the visit comprising a tour of the Centre, witnessing a crash lab demonstration, a presentation on important research findings, followed by an opportunity to discuss the research program and other road safety matters over lunch. We expect the visit would last around 2.5 hours.

Please advise at your earliest convenience if the members of the Committee would like to take up this opportunity, along with available dates from February onwards, by contacting our Federal Government Relations Manager, [REDACTED]

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Road Safety Manager