



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Assurance Review 2025/051

Mr Graham Perrett MP - interstate travel

September 2024 to March 2025

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

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Mr Graham Perrett MP - interstate travel

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an assurance review of the use of work resources for travel (travel resources) by a former Member of Parliament, Mr Graham Perrett.

Scope

2. The scope of this assurance review is travel undertaken by Mr Graham Perrett between 4 September 2024 and 5 March 2025 (period in scope).
3. The purpose of the assurance review was to determine whether the travel resources were used in accordance with the legislative framework.

Reason for review

4. IPEA's Assurance Plan includes routine review of parliamentarians' use of work resources and the travel resources of their staff.
5. On 19 January 2026, IPEA commenced an assurance review of Mr Graham Perrett's use of travel resources.

Outcome*

6. IPEA found that Mr Perrett's use of travel resources was consistent with the legislative framework.

***Potential outcomes**

There are three potential outcomes of an assurance review:

1. Consistent with the framework (rules)

IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource complied with the law.

This means the available evidence, including information provided by the member, clearly shows that all obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* were met.

2. Not inconsistent with the framework (rules)

IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource was not shown to be against the law.

This means IPEA has accepted the member's explanation that they met their obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*, and IPEA has not found any evidence to the contrary.

3. Not consistent with the framework (rules)

IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource did not comply with the law.

This means there has been a misuse of a parliamentary work resource under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*. Where misuse is found, the value of the resource will be recovered, including any applicable penalty.

IPEA's statutory audit function

7. IPEA audits parliamentarians' use of parliamentary business work resources and the use of travel resources by their staff under section 12 of the *Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017*. IPEA conducts assurance reviews to assess the use of resources against the legislative framework to determine if there has been misuse.

Legislative framework

8. Section 6 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act) provides the following meaning of **parliamentary business**:

The parliamentary business of a member means any of the following:

- (a) the **parliamentary duties** of a member, being activities of the member that:
 - i. relate directly 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. relate to the member's role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
 - ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).
9. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act 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. The Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 determines the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.

Review process

10. IPEA found that parliamentary business resources were used by Mr Perrett to travel interstate on 4 occasions. Mr Perrett travelled from Brisbane to:
 - Townsville and return between 4 and 5 September 2024
 - Darwin, Cairns and Townsville and return between 16 and 24 September 2024
 - Perth and return between 20 and 22 February 2025
 - Darwin and Jabiru and return between 2 and 5 March 2025.
11. IPEA wrote to Mr Perrett on 25 February 2026. IPEA's letter asked Mr Perrett what the dominant purpose of his travel was, and the nature of his parliamentary business for the 4 trips undertaken.

12. Mr Perrett responded on 5 March 2026 advising IPEA that he travelled to:

Townsville and return

- Townsville in his role as Chair of the Public Works Committee to inspect the Royal Australian Air Force base and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Darwin, Cairns and Townsville and return

- Darwin as part of the Parliamentary Placement Program.
- Cairns to inspect sporting facilities as representative for the Brisbane Olympic Games Organising Committee. Mr Perrett advised that he also inspected the Cairns Naval facility. This was in his role as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Defence Sub-Committee (the Defence Sub-Committee).
- Townsville to inspect the Townsville defence facilities in his role as a member of the Defence Sub-Committee.

Perth and return

- Perth in his role as a member of the Defence Sub-Committee. Mr Perrett met with Curtin University regarding defence opportunities and inspected the Henderson naval and defence shipping facilities.

Darwin and Jabiru

- Darwin and Jabiru in his role as Chair of the Public Works Committee to inspect public works at Kakadu National Park.

13. Noting Mr Perrett's advice, IPEA found that the dominant purpose of his travel was parliamentary business.

14. IPEA's correspondence with Mr Perrett is at **Attachments 1 to 5**.

Conclusion

15. Based on IPEA's records and the information made available by Mr Perrett, IPEA found that Mr Perrett's use of travel resources was consistent with the legislative framework.