

Referral of proposed action

Project title	South East Wing Refurbishment – Adaptive Re-use, Old Parliament House, Canberra
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1 Contacts

1.1	Referring party	Person, agent or agency who is making the referral Jenny Anderson Director Old Parliament House King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 02 6270 8264 jenny.anderson@oph.gov.au
1.2	Responsible party	Person responsible for or who will carry out the proposed action. If same as 1.1, write 'as above' As above
1.3	Proponent	Person responsible for preparing assessment documentation, if approval is required. If same as 1.2, write 'as above' Erni Rauter Manager, Capital Projects Old Parliament House King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 02 6270 8273 erni.rauter@oph.gov.au

**Referral 2008/4325 incorporating revised text in response to additional information
requested from DEWHA on 19 August 2008
Approved for public consultation by DEWHA on 18 September 2008**

2 Summary of proposed action

NOTE: You must attach an A4 size map/plan(s) showing the location and approximate boundaries of the area in which the project is to occur. The summary below should encompass any alternative locations, timeframes or activities that are listed in Section 3.2.

2.1	Short description	Proposed refurbishment of the South East (House of Representatives) Wing of Old Parliament House (OPH) to accommodate office functions for OPH staff and the Australian Prime Ministers Centre (APMC) research facility. As such it has to accommodate all the requirements for a code compliant work environment including, offices for workgroups, meeting rooms, work rooms, store rooms, reading rooms, library type stacks, lunch rooms, kitchenettes and toilet facilities. Note: This referral is informed by, but not a consequence of, Referral EPBC 2008/3949 for asbestos removal and services upgrades at Old Parliament House.						
2.2	Latitude and longitude				Latitude		Longitude	
		location point	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
		SE Wing entry	35	18	10 S	149	07	48 E
2.3	Locality	South East Wing (House of Representatives) Old Parliament House, Canberra						
2.4	Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)	Approximate GFA (Gross Floor Area) is 3030m ² , (approx. 1010m ² per floor, across three floors)						
2.5	Street address of the site	King George Terrace Parkes ACT 2600 (see Attachment A)						
2.6	Lot description	Block 1, Section 39, Parkes						
2.7	Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)							
2.8	Project life	Expected commencement date – August 2008 Expected completion date – December 2008						
2.9	Alternatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No					
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete section 3.2					
2.10	State assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No					
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete Section 3.5					
2.11	Component of larger action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No					
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, complete Section 3.6					

3 Detailed project description

NOTE: The proposal described here is the action(s) on which ALL subsequent decisions under the EPBC Act will be made, including decisions on significance, level of assessment (if needed) and approval (if needed). It is therefore important that the description is complete and includes all components and activities associated with the action, as well as any specific alternatives to be assessed. If certain related components are not intended to be included within the scope of the referral, this should be clearly explained in Section 3.6.

3.1 Description of proposal

(This section is to be read in conjunction with the plans in **Attachments B, C and D**)

Comparison Table of Approved and Proposed Actions

Building Element	Entire SE Wing		1940's section		1965 section	
	Approved in Referral 2008/3949	Proposed Action	Approved in Referral 2000/3949	Proposed Action	Approved in Referral 2008/3949	Proposed Action
EXTERNAL						
Facade	✓					
Roof	✓					
Lights	✓					
Courtyard	✓					
SERVICES						
Cores	✓					
Electrical	✓					
Mechanical	✓					
Hydraulic	✓					
Fire	✓					
Radiators	✓					
Lifts						✓
INTERNAL						
Floors				✓	✓	
Walls				✓	✓	✓ amendment
Windows				✓		
Ceilings				✓	✓	
Joinery					✓	
Doors				✓		✓
Stairs		✓		✓		
Trims				✓	✓	
FINISHES						
Floors				✓	✓	
Walls				✓	✓	
Ceilings				✓	✓	
Windows				✓	✓	
Joinery				✓	✓	

EXTERNAL

In general, the external works to the Wing are limited to repairs. Apart from a new fire exit on the southern façade, no other changes are proposed to the exterior of the SE Wing.

Facade

The only penetration in the external fabric is to be for a new egress point on the southern face. This is a requirement of fire code, as the Wing currently only has one egress point. The new egress point is designed so the penetration is within the red brick base of the building, with stairs coming up to street level. This will mean there is no impact on the white rendered face of the building and a minimal impact on the southern elevation of the building.

Roof and Guttering

Due to the removal of major plant from the roof and the number of patches and penetrations, the existing metal deck roof is in poor condition. It is to be replaced with a new metal deck roof of similar profile. Insulation will be added under the roof sheeting. All new works will be below the existing parapet and will not change the existing structure or configuration of the roof line. The existing guttering will also be replaced as part of the roofing works.

Lights

No change to the existing lighting configuration. The only addition lighting will be the required lighting for the new egress point. All existing lights will be refurbished (re-wired and re-lamped).

Courtyard

Sub-surface rectification works are required to the sewerage pipes that run under the courtyard. This will involve some minimal excavation to access the underground pipes. Upon completion of the hydraulic works, the courtyard is to be refurbished as per the recommendations in the "South East Wing Courtyard Garden Heritage Analysis 2007" prepared by heritage consultants Godden Mackay Logan. Fundamentally there will be no change to the configuration in the courtyard, as primarily the works will be of a horticultural nature. To comply with access requirements, modifications to the door at the North end will be required.

SERVICES

All the building services in the SE wing are to be either replaced or upgraded in order to meet current code requirements in terms of fire safety, occupant safety, energy efficiency and operational functionality. In the previous referral¹, upgrades to the 1965 section toilets, on all three floors, was approved in order to comply with relevant codes. After further design investigation it is proposed to reconfigure the layout of the toilet block in order to best utilise the space and achieve the optimum in meeting the functional requirements. The reconfiguration will occur entirely within the envelope of the existing toilet block and primarily involves reconfiguration of the entry point and the internal layout.

All of the building services upgrade works are to be undertaken with a minimum impact on the existing fabric of the base building itself. This is achieved through a general strategy to use, wherever possible, the original service penetrations in the building, in routing all new building services.

Furthermore a strategy to minimise ongoing deterioration to the existing building fabric is to carefully coordinate the layout of the building services so that ongoing maintenance and future upgrades can occur without disrupting areas of high sensitivity to change. The services design intent is to consolidate the major services into risers contained in the north and south ends of the Wing. These 'service cores' will become the main connection points for the Wing and locations where maintenance activities can occur. The new doors required for the services cores will clearly

¹ Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, *Referral EPBC 2008/3949, Old Parliament House-South East Wing Refurbishment*

be identifiable as introduced elements, but will be in keeping with the character of the 1965 section.

The existing service skirtings in the 1965 side will be utilised.

Another example of this strategy is the new services shroud that will be introduced to the ceilings in the 1940's section. This new element will be a simple folded metal tray, suspended below the existing plaster ceiling, which will conceal all the services cabling and pipe work required for each room (refer **Attachment D** for sketch). This element will also provide a surface to mount any new components that are part of the building services upgrade including smoke detectors, fire sprinklers, motion detectors, emergency speakers and thermostats.

Electrical and Communications

Replacement of all of the existing electrical services. Much of the electrical cabling, especially in the 1940's section, consists of VIR cables which pose a large fire hazard. Also the existing electrical infrastructure is not capable of accommodating the requirements of a modern office environment. A communications room is to be provided, on each floor, in the southern service core.

Mechanical

Replacement of all mechanical plant and ductwork due to contamination with asbestos. The plant in the basement will become redundant as the SE wing will be connected to OPH's central cooling and heating plant. In the 1940's section the new mechanical services will utilise the existing penetrations and grilles. As the ceiling is being replaced in the 1965 section, new air conditioning registers will also be installed. Currently there is a unique approach to the arrangement of services on the ceilings in the 1965 section where all the lighting, fire and mechanical services are clustered into groups and fixed to a metal pan in central locations in each room. This same design philosophy will be utilised in the layout of services for the replacement ceiling.

Hydraulic

In upgrading the fire services, new sprinkler pipe work is to be introduced into the Wing. In the 1940's section, all sprinkler pipe work is currently suspended below the fibrous plaster ceilings. This approach will be retained in the rationalisation of the fire system design. It is not intended to disturb the existing fibrous plaster ceiling by concealing the sprinkler pipes.

Fire

Full implementation of the OPH Fire Safety Strategy components relevant to the SE Wing. This includes installation of new thermal and smoke detectors, fire hydrants and hose reels and alterations to the existing fire sprinkler layout and the fire mains.

Radiators

The existing radiator heating system in the 1940's section is currently disconnected from the main hot water loop. The radiators within the individual offices will be removed and, where no representative sample exists, placed into storage. The existing radiator pipe work will also be removed. The radiators in the corridors will be disconnected, filled with an inert rust protection solution and retained in-situ as representative examples.

Lifts

The existing lift, in the northern service core, is not compliant with OH&S and access code requirements. A new lift car is to be installed in the existing shaft. As the existing car must be replaced, the new lift car will have new finishes consistent with the OPH HMP and the OPH Interpretation Plan approach. The existing lift openings at each floor will be used without modification and no further change to the base building fabric is required to accommodate a new car.

A new platform lift will be installed in L83 in order to provide wheelchair access to the offices in the 1940's section. This will require the partial removal of the wall to the corridor to create a compliant circulation path.

INTERNAL

It is proposed that the upper and lower floors of the Wing will be used for office accommodation in preparation for expanding the interpreted areas of the North Wing, currently occupied by OPH staff, to the lower floor as set out in the HMP proposed use plan². The lower floor will accommodate contemporary office fit-out without any need for wall removal and utilising the location of existing amenities. The spatial requirement for APS team based operation and effective organisational collaboration is the basis for the proposed wall removal on the upper floor (1965 side). The permanent location for the APMC will be on the main floor. This will include: a public area with a reception space; library area; collection storage; and a staff area with an oral history recording room, meeting rooms, kitchen facilities and accommodation for APMC staff and Fellows.

Floors

The floors in the 1965 sections are concrete and require no refurbishment.

The 1940's section is constructed of pine timber floorboards on hardwood joists. Generally the floor is in poor condition with many boards lifted from the joists. Rather than complete replacement, major remedial works will be carried out on the floor to refix the floor boards to the joists. The corridors are constructed of a number of timber access panels which are also in poor condition. These panels will be replaced with new timber panels of a similar nature and labelled as new.

Walls

Primarily the extent of works to the internal walls is to be remedial in nature. It mainly consists of repairing flaking and peeling plastering. Wall removal is principally limited to the 1965 section on the main and upper floors and only the lower floor in the 1940's section (refer above to **Lifts**). No wall removal is proposed in areas identified as having high sensitivity to change.

In order to provide for the functional requirements of the APMC on the main floor, a coherent space for accommodating the library collection is required. In keeping with the design intent, the project architects have proposed an innovative solution. As the ministerial offices are already organised into suites of three offices with interlinking door ways, the method of creating the required space is with the judicious partial wall removal between the suites. This greatly reduces the impact on the existing building fabric.

In the previous referral³, the removal of every second wall on the upper floor (the walls without fixed joinery) of the 1965 section had been approved. Further design development has demonstrated that this solution will not provide a functional office environment for small workgroups, as the rooms are too small to be able to accommodate more than two staff with the existing joinery in-situ. This has a major impact on the potential total staff capacity of the upper floor. Therefore it is proposed to revise the design to remove the walls that have the fixed joinery and retain the opposite wall.

In order to minimise the impact of loss of fabric, two suites of offices are being retained as representative samples with no walls to be removed and fixed joinery to be re-instated. These are offices U108-110 and U117-119.

² *Old Parliament House and Curtilage Heritage Management Plan 2008-2013* pp27

³ Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, *Referral EPBC 2008/3949, Old Parliament House-South East Wing Refurbishment*

Where partial or full wall removal is required, the mitigating measure is to retain a 150mm minimum nib will be retained at the wall and ceiling to evidence the existence of a wall.

The reception booths at the north end of the main and upper floors are also proposed for removal to adapt the northern entry to the Wing into a functional lift lobby and reception area. The reception booth on the lower floor is to be restored and retained as a representative sample

Windows

Most of the glazing in the Wing does not comply with safety codes and requires replacement. This will be undertaken by replacing the glass only and retaining the existing window frames. This type of work has successfully been undertaken previously in OPH.

Ceilings

As the original suspended plaster tile ceiling in the 1965 section will be removed due to asbestos contamination, a new suspended ceiling will be introduced. This will be of a similar character to the original plaster tile ceiling in language. The design intent is a 600mm x 600mm square grid, centred to each room with a minimal set plasterboard perimeter.

In the 1940's section minimal intervention is intended with the existing fibrous plaster ceiling. Only the light fittings will be fixed to the ceiling, as they currently are, except for the reorientation of the light fittings in a small number of rooms to accommodate the proposed shroud. All other building services will be fixed to a new service shroud which will be suspended below the existing ceiling (see sketch at Attachment D). The services shroud will not be installed in M73 or M74 to preserve the unique ceiling features.

Fixed Joinery

All fixed joinery such as pinboards and bookshelves will be removed from the Wing to protect it during asbestos removal and construction works (covered by referral 2008/3949). It will be labelled and stored as per the requirements of the OPH HMP. Where feasible, it will be re-instated into its original location. Fixed joinery in the following rooms will not be reinstated:

Lower floor:

- former services panel in north corridor

Main floor:

- M110, M112, M114, M117, M118, M123, M120, and the former services panel in north corridor

Upper floor:

- U115, U116 (covered by referral 2008/3949)
- U98, U103, U104, U105, U111, U112, U121, U122, U123, U124, U125, U126, U129 and the former services panel in north corridor

All rooms and all joinery units have been documented through the Wing measured draw and digital images.

New semi-fixed joinery is proposed for the staff kitchen/lunch room on the lower floor of the 1940's section, LCR2. This new item will be placed against the eastern wall and will be designed as a floor standing unit which is only fixed to the wall for stabilisation. It will be able to be removed at a future date with minimal impact on the surface of the eastern wall.

Built-in Joinery

All built in joinery such as cabinets with sink units built into specific wall cavities will remain in-situ. Many of these joinery units have taps and sinks incorporated in them. Where it is not feasible or consistent with the use of the space, the hydraulics will be disconnected and capped. Where required for functional use, new joinery will be inserted over the existing. This will be done in

such a manner that will allow the future removal of any new joinery in order to display the original built-ins.

Doors

Wherever feasible existing doors will be retained in-situ, and adapted to suit any new functional requirements of the building. For example, the swing of some doors will be changed to meet code requirements on all floors as shown in Attachment C of the Referral. All other rooms will be assessed on a case by case basis. Unless required for safety or security, this will not be undertaken in other rooms. If an existing door cannot be adapted for re-use, where no representative sample of that type of door exists, it will be removed to storage, and a new door will be installed in its place. Attenuators will be retained in L95, L100, M63, M73, M77.

On the main floor, 1965 section, it is proposed to remove the doors facing the corridor to rooms M113 to M123 and replace with fixed glazed panels in a manner that will not preclude the original doors from being reinstated in the future, as the original doors will be placed into storage. The glass panels have been presented by the designer as the most effective solution for these spaces. As the public are allowed onto the main floor, this solution is to allow:

- a secure boundary between the corridor and the APMC reading room, both physically and acoustically,
- natural light into the APMC and to create a visual connection between the reading room and the courtyard,
- an opportunity for the public visitor to OPH to observe the functions of the building in action,

On the main floor, 1965 section, the doors to following rooms will remain in place: M124, M125, M128, M129, and M130. Extensive design development has been undertaken to increase light, and meet the functional requirements for the APMC.

On the upper floor, it is proposed that the doors to rooms U100-U107 and U120 to U127 will be removed.

Skirting and Trims

No changes are proposed to the existing skirting, architraves, picture rails and stained timber in the Wing. All of these existing elements will be protected during the construction works and refurbished as part of the project.

Stairs

The stairs in the Wing do not comply with Building Code of Australia requirements for emergency stairs, which they are all classified as. The requirements include fire rated materials, appropriate height and safety measures for railings and consistent tread coverings to all floors.

The existing southern stair in the 1965 section will be made compliant through replacement of the handrail and tread covering.

Both the timber stairs in the 1940's section will have a section added to the handrail to raise the height and the treads replaced with a material of a higher fire rating. Where feasible, the original tread covering will be retained.

FINISHES

Floors

As set out in Referral 2008-3949, where feasible, the floor coverings will be relaid. If, due to the condition of the floor covering, the intended use will involve high traffic loads, or the pre-1988 flooring has been removed and no physical evidence exists or known documentation provides information on the type of floor covering that was in place pre-1988, a contemporary flooring will

be used. In these circumstances, a representative sample (100x100mm) will be relaid in each room/area (if known).

Pre-1988 flooring exists in the 1965 side in the following areas:

- toilet and attendants areas on the lower floor: L139, L140, L141.1, L138, L154
- the toilet and attendants areas on the main floor: M111, M118, M127 and
- all rooms and corridor on the upper floor

Pre-1988 flooring exists in the 1940s side in the following areas:

- offices L100, L84, L85
- the north and west stairwell to all floors
- offices M77, M78
- all rooms and corridor on the upper floor

The contemporary flooring for carpets are proposed to be carpet tiles, in order to reduce the impact of installation on the building and to allow for easy future installation or broadloom or Axminster carpet if required. The rationale for using modern carpet tiles is based on the intended use of the spaces and the OPH interpretation approach. In order to clearly identify to staff and visitors the heritage and new elements of the spaces, a colour palette of grey, purple (aubergine) and orange will, and has been used throughout the building for new carpet. Grey will be the predominant colour for the Wing. This approach is consistent with the OPH Interpretation Plan and the OPH HMP.

Walls and Ceilings

All walls and ceilings will be repainted as part of the refurbishment. The colour palette will be consistent with the rest of OPH and in keeping with the existing character of the Wing. Where exposed timber work existing, such as panelling, picture rails and other elements, it will be sanded and re-stained to its original shade.

Window Treatments

Where feasible the existing window treatments, which will have been refurbished, will be reinstated. Where reinstatement was not possible, new window treatments will be installed.

Loose Joinery

All new loose joinery will be of a consistent and contemporary finish, which will clearly identify it as a newly introduced element.

3.2 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action

There are no alternative locations. The Government's decision to create the APMC specifically outlined that the first stage would be located in the Senate (South West) Wing until the asbestos removal and refurbishment of the SE Wing is complete. Upon completion, the APMC would be relocated to the SE Wing. In addition to the intended permanent location of the APMC, OPH explored other spaces within the building that could possibly accommodate the requirements of the APMC including the lower North West Corner of the North Wing and the former Parliamentary Library store on the Lower Floor (see locations below) and the Main Floor spaces to be vacated by the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) in December 2008.

The lower North West Corner of the North Wing

This area was assessed in 2003 by Pip Giovanelli for its suitability to be modified to provide an orientation and activity space for school groups. The report outlined that:

*"The relatively high degree of intactness [of the lower North West Corner of the North Wing] therefore supports a similarly high degree of interpretation potential, particularly of the Senate and its support functions."*⁴

⁴ Giovanelli, P., 2003 *North West Corner Refurbishment Advice – Old Parliament House*

This area is designated for interpretation use in the 2013 Potential Use plan⁵ and does not require major upgrades to services or the fabric. The space is also not in close proximity to the Prime Minister's Suite or the other Gallery spaces that will be redeveloped as part of the Gallery of Australian Democracy. This area was therefore was not considered suitable for refurbishment to accommodate the APMC.

The former Parliamentary Library storage space (lower floor)

This area is of considerable size, with access via the front and rear of the building. In comparison to the SE Wing, there is insufficient space to accommodate the requirements of the APMC. It has been modified post 1988 to accommodate the storage and registration requirements of the NPG. It currently has full environmental control, a lift, security measures and storage racking suitable for framed portraits. It is more appropriate that this space is utilised for a similar registration function after the NPG vacates the space. The cost of replicating these facilities for OPH GAD purposes would far outweigh any benefit gained from a different use. Additionally, finding another suitable location for this function would present a significant challenge. This area was therefore not considered suitable for refurbishment to accommodate the APMC.

The former Parliamentary Library space (main floor) and spaces to the east and west of the central library

The funding provided through the Government's decision is to produce a Gallery of Australian Democracy to replace the NPG within OPH. Therefore planning for GAD includes a permanent exhibition installation in the former Parliamentary Library space and exhibitions and discovery areas to the east and west. It is planned that the former Opposition Party Room and the Leader of the Opposition's office (the two rooms highlighted in green to the east/left hand side of the red shaded area on the plan below) will be reconstructed and interpreted. This area was therefore not considered suitable for refurbishment to accommodate the APMC.

3.3 Previously considered alternatives and the 'do nothing' case

The catalyst for this action is a Cabinet Decision of 2006 to locate a permanent home for the Australian Prime Ministers Centre within the SE Wing of OPH. This is consistent with the role and responsibility of OPH as a heritage site to tell the stories of the people and events that have shaped Australia's political history.

Also, the HMP has identified the lower north areas of OPH, currently occupied by staff, to be interpreted and opened for the general public. In order for this to occur, the SE Wing is identified in the HMP and the 2001 Heritage Study⁶ as an appropriate location for office accommodation.

3.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements

Management Context

From July 2008 Old Parliament House will be an Executive Agency within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, reporting to the Cabinet Secretary; the curtilage area is administered by the National Capital Authority.

The removal of asbestos and services upgrade proposed for the SE Wing is essential for OPH to meet health and safety standards. It is outlined as a project in the OPH Capital Works Plan and was addressed as part of EPBC Referral 2008/3949.

Proposed Use

The main floor is planned for use by the Australian Prime Ministers Centre, which is an aspect of the Gallery of Australian Democracy (GAD). The Government's decision to create the APMC

⁵ *Old Parliament House and Curtilage Heritage Management Plan 2008-2013* pp 27

⁶ Marshall, D. Pearson, M. O'Keefe, B. 2001, *Old Parliament House - Heritage Study of the South East Wing* pp58

specifically outlined that the first stage would be located in the Senate (South West) Wing until the asbestos removal and refurbishment of the SE Wing is complete. Upon completion, the APMC would be relocated to the SE Wing.

The Upper and Lower Floors will be required for office accommodation in preparation for expanding the interpreted areas of the North Wing to the lower floor as set out in the proposed use plan.⁷ This area is currently occupied by OPH staff. Additionally, the storage of APMC material and accommodation for Fellows of the APMC will be required on these floors.

In researching this proposal, relevant legislation and planning documents were considered. These are outlined in Section 10.

Policy Context

OPH management works to the following documents, the:

- OPH Corporate Plan 2005-2010.

The proposal is consistent with Goal 2 of the Corporate Plan 2005-2010 which is to:
Optimise the heritage significance of the building and its collections

And the related strategy to:

Actively promote OPH as a nationally significant heritage building and institute measures to ensure the long-term conservation of the OPH building and its cultural heritage assets.

Conservation Policy Context

A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) has been developed specifically to address the obligations of the EPBC Act for the place. It was fully adopted upon Gazettal by the Environment Minister, which occurred on 5 March 2008. The SE Wing is identified as part of the **House of Representatives and Senate Wing Zone** in the HMP. The Statement of intent for this Zone is:

*To facilitate new uses consistent with the heritage values of the zone, while conserving and interpreting those values and ensuring the interpretation of former uses.*⁸

Key objectives are to:

- Facilitate public access.
- Ensure significant physical and intangible relationships between spaces comprising the zone and relationships to other zones are not compromised by inappropriate change or use.
- Ensure the zone is managed in accord with the policies in the HMP.
- Ensure change or use is consistent with the place's heritage values and does not detract from the relationship of the place to its wider setting.

The proposal is consistent with the above Statement of Intent and Objectives, along with the potential uses outlined in the HMP for the three floors of the SE Wing which are as follows: Upper Floor - office accommodation, Main Floor – APMC, interpretation and office accommodation; and Lower Floor – education and office accommodation.⁹ Additionally **Policy 5** of the HMP states that:

Old Parliament House management must allow and facilitate only those uses of the place that are compatible with the heritage values of the place.

Based on the definitions outlined in **Strategy 5.3** of the HMP, the compatibility of the proposed uses outlined in this proposed action have been assessed as follows:¹⁰

⁷ *Old Parliament House and Curtilage Heritage Management Plan 2008-2013* pp 27

⁸ *Old Parliament House and Curtilage Heritage Management Plan 2008-2013* pp 69

⁹ *Old Parliament House and Curtilage Heritage Management Plan 2008-2013* pp 27

¹⁰ The Old Parliament House Heritage Management Plan Strategy 5.3 outlines a methodology for assessing compatible use based on the following definitions:

Floor	side	Proposed use	Compatibility
Lower	1965	office accommodation	Highly compatible
Lower	1940	office accommodation	Very highly compatible
Main	1965	APMC, interpretation	Less compatible, due to possible changes required (not relevant for this referral)
Main	1940	office accommodation	Very highly compatible
Upper	1965	office accommodation	Highly compatible
Upper	1940	office accommodation	Highly compatible

All relevant policies and strategies in the HMP were considered, in particular:

Policy 1.2.1

Conservation, maintenance preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaption works (as defined in the Burra Charter) must be carried out in accordance with the Burra Charter. The respective need for conservation, preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation must be determined by reference to Old Parliament House's heritage values and their sensitivity to change.

OPH management has considered this proposal in accordance with Burra Charter principles and sought external advice for further reference to OPH's heritage values and sensitivity to change.

Policy 1.3.1

Conserve, protect and maintain all heritage fabric (attributes of the values) of the building pertaining to the functions and occupation of Parliament including:

- *the existing external and internal fabric, spaces, objects and servicing;*
- *the interwar, stripped classical architectural style, symmetrical style, form, massing and details of the building in its open vista setting; and*
- *all rooms of design, architectural and functional interest and their juxtapositions.*

The external fabric will be conserved. There will be not alteration to the structure or style of the exterior. The internal fabric with design, architectural or functional interest will be conserved.

Policy 1.4.1

Heritage building fabric (pre-1988) must be retained in situ commensurate with its heritage values and sensitivity to change, unless precluded by legislative requirements, health and safety considerations, threat of vandalism or theft, and/or severely deteriorated condition

Where the proposal outlines removal of building fabric on the main floor, full documentation has been undertaken and where feasible, materials will be retained and stored.

Very highly compatible: historically appropriate uses that continue or echo pre-1988 uses and retain the significant fabric and spaces of Old Parliament House in their pre-1988 state.

Highly compatible: appropriate uses that, while not necessarily continuing pre-1988 uses, allow significance to be recognised, and utilise unaltered 1988 spaces or spaces altered after 1988 and subsequently reconstructed to their 1988 configuration.

Moderately compatible: appropriate uses, or new uses that allow significance to be recognised, that require limited adaptation works.

Less compatible: uses that are not sympathetic to pre-1988 uses (such as the use of offices for storage), or require the substantial alteration of fabric (such as the removal of walls between rooms).

Least compatible: uses that are actively unsympathetic to pre-1988 uses (such as the use of ministerial rooms as kitchens), or that require

large scale alteration of fabric (such as the removal of walls between two or more rooms, or between corridors and rooms).

Policy 1.4.2

Any proposal to remove fabric to protect it from threats of deterioration, theft or vandalism will be an Action which must be assessed.

Policy 1.4.3

A representative sample of in-situ fabric must be retained where feasible.

This will be implemented for all heritage fabric including: room styles; suites; floor coverings; joinery; services such as radiators, light switches and phone sockets; architectural features; speakers and clocks.

Policy 1.5.5

New/replacement fabric must be labelled and discernible as such on close inspection.

Labels have been produced ready for use.

Policy 1.8.2

Wherever possible the conservation of one 'layer' of the Old Parliament House story should not compromise the conservation and interpretation of other 'layers'. Maintenance or capital works must be undertaken in accordance with the identified heritage values of the layers.

In planning this proposal, OPH management recognises that the 1940s side contains load bearing walls and is not contaminated by asbestos. Consequently, minimal work is required. Where feasible the fabric on the 1965 side will be protected or reconstructed or restored after the refurbishment. Minimal wall removal is proposed on the 1965 section. The layers of use on the 1965 side will be evidenced by representative samples of Ministerial suites M128-130, U117-119 and U108-110.

Policy 1.9.3

The treatment of specific components of the building should be carried out as outlined below. This is not an exhaustive list of treatments, but rather a specific list of key components.

b. Where feasible, pre-1988 floor fabric should be conserved, with appropriate finishes. Sample areas of rubber flooring should be retained in use and on display where their ongoing conservation can be achieved. Where rubber or parquet floor materials are unserviceable and it is intended to lay new and different floor coverings (e.g. carpet in place of rubber), consideration should be given to methods of laying new floor coverings on top of old which might maximise conservation of the earlier flooring. Every effort should be made to conserve in situ at least a sample of original flooring treatments if more extensive conservation is not feasible. If flooring has been assessed by Action Committee for removal due to poor condition, then a replica must be considered the most appropriate alternative (see also policies 1.4.1 and 1.5.5).

All carpets will be assessed individually and recommendations made accordingly.

Policy 2

Old Parliament House management must maintain a cross organisational committee to ensure the protection of heritage values through robust participatory management, decision making procedures and the assessment of action proposal and manage tenders and contracts through appropriate application of the EPBC Act and other relevant legislation and codes.

OPH management has undertaken an internal assessment of this proposal using the cross organisational committee.

OPH South East Wing Heritage Study

The proposal was also informed by the *South East Wing Heritage Study 2001* which provides recommendations for ongoing management, conservation and future use of the area. Although this study was completed prior to the development of the HMP, the recommendations are consistent with the HMP policies. One of the key implications identified as arising from the significance of the SE Wing in the *South East Wing Heritage Study* is especially relevant to the following proposed action:

The internal arrangement within the Wing should allow for presentation to visitors the feeling of office accommodation. This would include retention of corridors with rooms off them. The use of existing rooms without major modification of the office accommodation scale and rhythms would be most desirable. Should decisions be made to substantially alter the arrangement of the walls within the wing, the retention of at least a substantial representative sample of ministerial and member accommodation in each of the development stages of the Wing should be a priority.¹¹

Minimal wall removal is proposed for the 1965 section which will serve to maintain the ministerial suites and member accommodation.

A key recommended action from the *South East Wing Heritage Study* that relates to the proposed action (in italics) with a comment on how this can be met is outlined below:

Appropriate Use

Future uses that are appropriate are those compatible with the significance of the SE Wing.

Excluding the 1965 side of the main floor, the proposed uses of the spaces have been assessed as highly or very highly compatible.

3.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

Care was taken during the preparation of this referral to ensure the previously approved EPBC referral 2008/3494, was adhered to, and when changes were necessary, was clearly identified for evaluation in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (refer **Attachment H**).

OPH has engaged the services of professional architects, access consultants and heritage experts in order to develop the design for the Wing refurbishment. An independent expert HIA was also sought in preparation of the refurbishment design proposal (refer **Attachment H**).

3.6 A staged development or component of a larger project

NOTE: The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts may not accept a referred action that is a component of a larger action and may request the person proposing to take the action to refer the larger action for consideration under the EPBC Act (Section 74A, EPBC Act).

If you wish to make a referral for a staged or component referral, read 'Fact Sheet 6 Staged Developments/Split Referrals' and contact the EPBC Act Referrals Section (1800 803 772).

Not applicable.

¹¹ Marshall, D. Pearson, M. O'Keefe, B. 2001, *Old Parliament House - Heritage Study of the South East Wing* pp 47

4 Affected environment

NOTE: You must attach a map(s)/plan(s) clearly showing the location of the action in relation to any matters of national environmental significance

4.1 Matters of national environmental significance

4.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

Not applicable.

4.1 (b) National Heritage Places

Statement of Heritage Significance for the SE Wing

The SE or House of Representatives Wing is a significant component of OPH which is, overall, a place of outstanding heritage values. The Wing makes a significant contribution to these heritage values: as a major physical expression of the continuous expansion of parliament over the 61 years of occupation of the building. The increasing incorporation of executive functions in the building is highlighted in the Wing through the ministerial accommodation.

The 1943, 1948 and 1965 sections all reflect the growth of accommodation needs for departmental support staff for ministers. The Wing has modest aesthetic qualities relating to its exterior and interiors. The exterior expresses in a simplified way the Inter War Stripped Classical style of the 1927 building. The 1943 and 1948 interiors of the Wing continue the Inter War Stripped Classical style of the 1927 building through the moulded render to create skirtings, architraves and picture rails. The 1965 interiors are simple and reflect contemporary design ideas. Room M74 in the 1943 part of the Wing features dark stained, simply detailed timberwork and the suspended ceiling light diffuser, consistent with the aligning architectural character with executive ranking as is evident in the North Wing.

Prominent ministers and members associated with the Wing include Dame Enid Lyons, Arthur Calwell, Jack McEwan, W.H. Hughes, J.D. Scullin, Paul Hasluck, Don Chipp, Doug Anthony, Bob Hawke and others (refer to **Attachment D**). There is also particular association through personal memories of the occupation of Wing by staff, members and ministers.¹²

The courtyard garden is unique in that it is the only remaining OPH garden in its 1988 form. The garden is representative of courtyard gardens in parliamentary buildings, providing light, a sense of space and privacy to the surrounding offices. The gardens aesthetic qualities relate to the design intent of the Architects of the Commonwealth Department of Public Works and as part of the last phase of building activity at OPH. As an integral component of the South East Wing, it is likely that events of potential political significance occurred within this garden. Further research may uncover reference to specific events.¹³

Specific attributes

The wing expresses the designation of suites of rooms for Ministers. Suites of particular significance include:

- **Lower Floor** – Suite 1 (Rooms L141- L143) suite for the Minister for Interior Doug Anthony
- **Main Floor** - Suite 10 (Rooms M128 - M130) suite for the Attorney General, Billy Sneddon in 1965. Room M130 also contains a safe that is unique to this wing.
- **Upper Floor** - Rooms U61-U63 former suite for the Minister for the Army & Navy in 1950, then a suite for the Attorney General in 1959.

¹² Based on the Statement of Significance in Marshall, D. Pearson, M. O'Keefe, B. 2001, *Old Parliament House - Heritage Study of the South East Wing* pp 45-46

¹³ Based on the Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage Criteria in Godden Mackay Logan 2007, *Old Parliament House South East Wing Courtyard Garden Heritage Analysis* pp 33-34

A number of individual rooms accommodated significant people in the history of Parliament up to 1988. These include:

- **Lower Floor** – L86 W.M Hughes office in 1950
- **Main Floor** -M67 – Dame Enid Lyons the Vice President of the Executive Council and M68 with the Secretary to the Vice President of the Executive Council in 1950. These rooms then accommodated the Minister for Social Services and his Secretary in 1951. In 1959 these rooms housed the Minister for Primary Industry and his staff. By 1965 these rooms were part of Suite 11 from M66-M68 housing the Minister for Social Security, Ian Sinclair and his staff.
- **Upper Floor** - U113 - Don Chipp 1965
- **Upper Floor** -U53 - Arthur Calwell 1950

Specific architectural attributes include:

- Overall form and extent of the Wing as it evolved to 1988;
- Symmetrical facades, especially the east elevation;
- The vestigial entablature (the cornice);
- External wall bracket lights on the 1940s side;
- The internal moulded render skirtings, architraves and picture rails;
- Simply detailed and light coloured stained timberwork in the 1965 side;
- Room M74 in the 1940s side has a special character related to dark stained, simply detailed timberwork and suspended ceiling light diffuser.

The SE Wing is identified as part of the *House of Representatives and Senate Wing Zone* in the OPH HMP. Key aspects of the zone as stated in the HMP are paraphrased below.

- It was occupied mainly by ministerial staff and members' officers from the 1960s to 1988.
- It accommodated the expanding parliament and government as Australia's population grew.
- Its location, spatial arrangement and confined spaces reflect growing and changing needs of parliament from original construction to 1988.
- The wings were additional to the original building and stand alone from the original design concept.
- Heritage values in the zone have been compromised by recent remediation works [to the Senate Wing] which removed large amounts of original fabric [from the Lower and Main Floors] and consequently reduced the ability of the fabric to demonstrate its values and associations.

The OPH HMP also identifies the sensitivity to change in relation to the National and Commonwealth heritage values.

The South East Wing is graded as follows:

Criterion	Side	Floor	Sensitivity to Change
A: History	1965	all floors	Low
	1940s	all floors	High
B: Rarity	1965	Upper	Low
		Main	Low
		Lower	High
	1940s	all floors	High
C: Research Potential	1965	Upper	Low
		Main Floor	Criterion not represented
		Lower	Low
	1940s	all floors	High
D: Characteristic	1965		Criterion not represented
	1940s		Criterion not represented
E: Aesthetic	1965	Lower Floor	High (Committee rooms, garden)
	1945		Criterion not represented
F: Technical	1940s	all floors	Criterion not represented
	1965	all floors	Criterion not represented
G: Social	1965	all floors	Low
	1940s	all floors	High
H: Significant People	1965	all floors	Low

There are a number of changes that have occurred to the fabric post 1988. These include:

1. replacement of the carpet:

Lower floor

1965 side: L141 to L155, including the corridor

1940s side: L92 to L99 and L86 to L88 including the corridor

Main floor

1965 side: M112 to M130 including the corridor

1940s side: M63 to M76 including the corridor

2. new kitchen installed in M77

3. new fire hose reel installed on north wall of U64

4. toilets and urinals decommissioned and damaged

5. communications room installed in L100

4.1 (c) Wetlands of International Significance (Ramsar)

Not applicable.

4.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

Not applicable.

4.1 (e) Listed migratory species

Not applicable.

4.1 (f) Nuclear actions

Not applicable.

4.1 (g) Commonwealth marine areas

Not applicable.

4.2 Important or unique aspects of the environment, if relevant

4.2 (a) Soil and vegetation characteristics

Not applicable.

4.2 (b) Water flows, including rivers, creeks and impoundments

Not applicable.

4.2 (c) Outstanding natural features, including caves

Not applicable.

4.2 (d) Gradient

Not applicable.

4.2 (e) Buildings or other infrastructure

Not applicable.

4.2 (f) Marine areas

Not applicable.

4.2 (g) Kinds of fauna

Not applicable.

4.2 (h) Current state of the environment

The area is currently in a sound physical state.

4.2 (i) Commonwealth Heritage Places and places on the Register of the National Estate

The area is within OPH, a listed Commonwealth Heritage Place (see 4.1 (b)). This proposal will not impact on any surrounding Commonwealth land.

4.2 (j) Known Indigenous heritage values

None known.

4.2 (k) Other important or unique values of the environment

Not applicable.

4.2 (l) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)

Freehold (Commonwealth land)

4.2 (m) Existing land uses

Site of the OPH building, a Commonwealth and National Heritage listed place, functioning as a museum of Australian political history.

4.2 (n) Proposed land uses

As above.

5 Nature and extent of likely impacts

5.1 Likely impacts on matters of national environmental significance (NES)

5.1 (a) Likely impact on the world heritage values of a declared World Heritage property

Not applicable

5.1 (b) Likely impact on the heritage values of a listed National Heritage place

The likely impact has been assessed based on each of the identified heritage values of the area (refer **Attachment H**). In summary:

1. Fabric loss of;
 - a. flow of Ministerial accommodation in the 1965 section on the main and upper floor (the lower floor and representative suites on the main and upper floor to be retained)
 - b. floor coverings on the 1940's section and 1965 section upper floor
 - c. radiators in individual rooms on the 1940's section (representative sample to be kept in the corridor)
 - d. two attendance booths (one to be kept on the lower floor)
 - e. former stair railings and nosings on 1965 stairs (currently non building code compliant)
 - f. existing window glazing (currently not compliant with safety code)
 - g. walls and joinery on the 1965 section upper floor (representative samples to be kept)

5.1 (c) Likely impact on the ecological character of a declared Ramsar wetland

Not applicable.

5.1 (d) Likely impact on the members of a listed threatened species or ecological community, or their habitat

Not applicable.

5.1 (e) Likely impact on the members of a listed migratory species or their habitat

Not applicable.

5.1 (f) Likely impact on the environment in part of the Commonwealth marine area

Not applicable.

5.2 Likely impacts for nuclear actions, actions affecting Commonwealth land or actions taken by the Commonwealth

Not applicable.

6 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

(This section is to be read in conjunction with the plans at **Attachments B, C and D**)

The following measures have or will be implemented in order to reduce the impact, meet the Zone Statement of Intent, the HMP policies and to conserve key components of the Wing:

1. The entire wing has been fully documented with a highly detailed measured draw of each room/area with corresponding images to assist in reconstruction. This information will be stored in OPH's collection database.
2. Particular attention will be paid to ministerial suites, rooms with unique features and rooms that accommodated significant people in the history of Parliament up to 1988. These rooms/suites will be conserved, used as part of the adaptive reuse of the Wing and interpreted using the methods outlined below and include:
 - a. **Lower Floor** – L86, Reception Booth – L139, Ministerial Suites – Entire Lower floor,
 - b. **Main Floor** – Ministerial Suites: M66-68, M124-126 and M128-130.
 - c. **Upper Floor** - Ministerial Offices – U 53, U61-63, U108-110, U117-119, U113 and Bathroom – U57.In these areas, there is no proposed wall removal and minimal impact on the fabric to facilitate adaptive reuse.
3. Conservation of the SE Wing Courtyard Garden will be undertaken as recommended in the 2007 Heritage Analysis.¹⁴
4. Conservation of the 1940s side will be undertaken as recommended in the 2007 conservation assessment (refer Attachment I).¹⁵
5. During the retention or reconstruction process, consideration will be given to the architectural intent of the interior and exterior of the Wing including the:
 - a. Overall form and extent of the Wing as it evolved to 1988;
 - b. Symmetrical facades, especially the east elevation;
 - c. The vestigial entablature (the cornice);
 - d. External wall bracket lights on the 1940s side;
 - e. The internal moulded render skirtings, architraves and picture rails;
 - f. Simply detailed and light coloured stained timberwork in the 1965 side;
 - g. Notice boards on the upper floor of the 1965 side
 - h. Timber panelling on main and lower floor of 1965 side
 - i. Room M74 in the 1943 part with its special character related to dark stained, simply detailed timberwork and suspended ceiling light diffuser.
6. Retention of examples of current or redundant services including radiators, division bells, lights, safe in M130, attenuators and clocks.
7. The new major building services will be concentrated in the 'service cores', at the northern and southern ends of the Wing, to minimise the impact on the remainder of the Wing for ongoing maintenance and future upgrades. Redundant services, such as power points, will be safely terminated and wiring to light switches reconfigured to work from other existing switches.
8. Services shrouds will be used in the 1940s offices except in rooms M73 and M74. This new element will be a simple folded metal tray, suspended below the existing plaster ceiling, which

¹⁴ Godden Mackay Logan 2007, *Old Parliament House South East Wing Courtyard Garden Heritage Analysis*

¹⁵ Conservation Works 2007, *Works Assessment – SE Wing Offices*

will conceal all the services cabling and pipe work required for each room (refer **Attachment D** for sketch). This element will also provide a surface to mount any new components that are part of the building services upgrade including smoke detectors, fire sprinklers, motion detectors, emergency speakers and thermostats. The re-orientation of some of the lights in a small number of rooms will help to conserve the ceilings facilitate the installation of the shroud which will minimise potential future cumulative impact if additional services are required to be installed.

9. All areas will be interpreted appropriately to ensure the former uses and associated heritage values are identified and displayed. The following interpretive methods¹⁶ will be implemented:

Lower Floor - OPH staff area – plaques

Main Floor - general public area – interactive

OPH staff and APMC scholar area – plaques and panels

Upper Floor - OPH staff area – plaques

It is proposed that all areas of the SE Wing will be accessible to the general public in some way, either during business hours or during special tours.

10. The new fire exit at the southern end of the Wing is to only alter the existing red brick plinth of the building. No modification of the existing, symmetrical white rendered southern façade is required.
11. Where walls are proposed for removal, a nominal amount (approx 150mm) will be retained against the wall and ceiling to evidence the location of a previous wall. This will be finished and painted to match the existing wall. The new carpet will also be colour coded to denote previous wall location.
12. Existing window coverings will be removed and cleaned. Those in good condition will be reinstated. Others will be placed in store and new coverings installed.
13. Throughout the SE Wing, prior to the refurbishment, minor items on existing walls such as speakers and switches will generally be removed and stored. These will be reinstated once the refurbishment is complete.
14. Where required, new data and power will be installed and concealed.
15. Lights on the 1940s side will be re-lamped and cracked/missing diffusers repaired or replaced to provide lighting to meet standards. On the 1965 side, new lighting will be installed which is of a similar character to the original.
16. All newly introduced material will be labelled to ensure future identification can be made.
17. All fixed joinery such as pinboards and bookshelves will be removed from the Wing to protect it during asbestos removal and construction works ([covered by referral 2008/3949](#)). It will be labelled and stored as per the requirements of the OPH HMP. Where feasible, it will be re-

¹⁶ There are three approaches to interpretation of heritage fabric in OPH based on the three different audiences: staff; the general public; and tenants. These different approaches are required to raise awareness, actively engage and to protect.

Several methods can be used in different areas to suit a particular approach. These methods include:

1. Plaque - small sign denoting what a room/space was used for and who used it and changes to walls where relevant.
2. Panel - medium size sign providing more information on the room/space with images
3. Interactive – touch screens with information on the room/space, with images, plans, narration
4. Residual fabric and Panel – a sample of the pre-1988 fabric in-situ, such as timber panelling or paint colour, protected and interpreted via a Panel
5. Recreation – conserve and display a room/area in a particular way to emulate a particular time/design consistent with historical information. This can incorporate all or some of methods 1 to 4.
6. Website – information in the interactive accessible off-site

Methods will be chosen on a case by case basis to suit the audience and the location.

instated into its original location in all rooms/areas.

The refurbishment will not be introducing any new fixed joinery into the Wing. The design approach is to fit new joinery in such a manner that will not preclude easy removal for future interpretation of the spaces.

18. All built in joinery such as cabinets with sink units built into specific wall cavities will remain in-situ. Many of these joinery units have taps and sinks incorporated in them. Where it is not feasible or consistent with the use of the space, the hydraulics will be disconnected and capped. Where required for functional use, new joinery will be inserted over the existing. This will be done in such a manner that will allow the future removal of any new joinery in order to display the original built-ins.
19. In rooms where replica or contemporary carpet is deemed necessary after assessment of the existing heritage carpet, a representative sample of the heritage carpet will be reinstated in-situ, where feasible, as per Policy 1.4.3 of the HMP.
20. Doors proposed for removal on the main floor (M112-M123) will be labelled and stored.

7 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

NOTE: Under the EPBC Act, you must identify in the referral whether or not you believe significant impacts on the matters protected under the Act are likely. If you identify that significant impacts are likely, you must identify the relevant protected matters in section 7.2.

Do you **THINK** your proposed action is likely to have significant impacts?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No, complete section 7.1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, complete Section 7.2 |

7.1 Proposed action is NOT LIKELY to have significant impacts

Key reasons

A number of mitigating measures set out in section 6 and the following factors, serve to minimise the impact on the heritage values:

1. All mitigating measures are consistent with the OPH HMP
2. Highly detailed documentation (full measured drawings and photographic records) facilitate reconstruction of any require representative samples.
3. The architects engaged to undertake this project have adopted the OPH HMP as a guiding document in developing their design philosophy (refer **Attachment G**).
4. Minimal wall removal proposed in order to retain the existing sense of space.
5. Clear identification of new/altered elements.
6. Implementation of appropriate levels of interpretation.
7. Minimal introduction of new fixed elements.

7.2 Proposed action is LIKELY to have significant impacts

Matters likely to be impacted

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 12 and 15A (World Heritage) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 15B and 15C (National Heritage places) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 16 and 17B (Wetlands of international importance) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 18 and 18A (Listed threatened species and communities) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 20 and 20A (Listed migratory species) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 21 and 22A (Protection of the environment from nuclear actions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 23 and 24A (Marine environment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | sections 26 and 27A (Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | section 28 (Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions) |

Key reasons

8 Assessment approach under the EPBC Act

NOTE: If a decision is made that a proposal needs approval under the Act, the Minister will also decide the assessment approach needed to satisfy the objectives of the Act. While the information you have provided in this referral will be taken into account in making this decision, the final decision rests with the Minister.

Level of assessment

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bilateral Agreement applies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accredited assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assessment on referral information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Environment Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Impact Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commission of Inquiry
<input type="checkbox"/>	No comment/Not sure

Key reasons

Extensive in-house planning and consultation has occurred with a commitment to explore the best options for reducing the impact on the heritage values of the place in implementing the adaptive re-use of the South East Wing.

9 Environmental history of the responsible party

NOTE: The EPBC Act Regulations provide for the environmental history of the party proposing to take the action to be taken into account when deciding the assessment approach for actions that need approval under the Act.

		Yes	No
9.1	<p>Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Yes, provide details <p>Previous submissions to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and the rigorous internal process outlined in the OPH Heritage Management Plan.</p>	✓	
9.2	<p>Is the party taking the action subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Yes, provide details 		✓
9.3	<p>For an action for which a person has applied for a permit under the EPBC Act, is the person making the application subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Yes, provide details 	NA	
9.4	<p>If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Yes, provide details of environmental policy and planning framework <p>Old Parliament House has a gazetted Heritage Management Plan for OPH and Curtilage which outlines a process for assessing the impact of proposed actions on the heritage values of the place.</p>	✓	

10 Information sources and attachments

10.1 References

Legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999

Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991

Guiding Documents

Old Parliament House and Curtilage-Heritage Management Plan 2008-2013

Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter)

Marshall, D. Pearson, M. 2001, *Heritage Study of the South East Wing-Old Parliament House*, unpublished report prepared for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Godden Mackay Logan, 2007, *Old Parliament House South East Wing Courtyard Garden Heritage Analysis*, unpublished report prepared for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Conservation Works, 2007, *Works Assessment – SE Wing Offices – Old Parliament House*, unpublished report for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Building Code of Australia 2007

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, *Referral EPBC 2008/3949, Old Parliament House, South East Wing Refurbishment – Removal of asbestos and upgrade of services*

10.2 Reliability of information

The information contained in this referral has been endorsed by the OPH Actions Committee and examined, during the preparation of this proposal, by OPH staff and found to be reliable and relevant.

10.3 Attachments

You must attach	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 2)	X
	figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 4)	X
If relevant, attach	copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 3.4)	NA
	copies of any completed assessments to meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 3.5)	NA
	copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 4)	NA
	technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters and that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 4 and 5)	X
	report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous Stakeholders (section 4)	NA

Attachment List

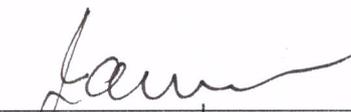
- Attachment A - Location Plan
- Attachment B - Floor Plans - Existing Condition
- Attachment C - Floor Plans - Proposed Configuration
- Attachment D - Floor Plans – Measures to Avoid or Reduce Impacts
- Attachment E - 2001 Heritage Study of the South East Wing of Old Parliament House
- Attachment F - 2007 Old Parliament House South East Wing Courtyard Garden Heritage Analysis
- Attachment G - Project Architect's Letter of Design Intent
- Attachment H - Heritage Impact Statement
- Attachment I – Works Assessment 1940s side

11 Signatures and declarations

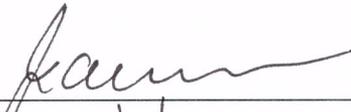
NOTE: Providing false or misleading information is an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment and fine (Section 489, EPBC Act).

Project title South East Wing Refurbishment – Adaptive Re-use, Old Parliament House, Canberra

11.1 **Party who prepared the referral** I declare that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading. I request that the person named in 11.3 below (if any) be designated as the proponent for the action.

Signature 
 Date 22/9/2008
 Full name Jenny Anderson, Director, Old Parliament House

11.2 **Party who is responsible for action** I declare that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading.

Signature 
 Date 22/9/2008
 Full name Jenny Anderson, Director, Old Parliament House

11.3 **Proponent (complete only if different from 11.2)** I, being the person nominated in Section 1.3 of this referral form as the nominated proponent (or agent acting on behalf of), agree to be designated as the proponent for the action described above if it is decided that the action requires approval under Part 9 of the EPBC Act.

Signature 
 Date 22/9/2008
 Full Name Erni Rauter, Manager Capital Projects, Old Parliament House

If the referring party is a small business (fewer than 20 employees), estimate the time, in hours and minutes, to complete this form (include your time reading the instructions, working on the questions and obtaining the information and time spent by all employees in collecting and providing this information).

Hours	Minutes