

Question Time

Question

From what timber is the Speaker's Chair made and who designed and built it?

Answer

The Speaker's Chair (pictured) is made from two types of wood – grey box and sassafras. It was designed by Aldo Giurgola, the architect of Parliament House, and was fabricated by David Upfield-Brown at Cuppacumbalong (Tharwa, Australian Capital Territory).



The Speaker's Chair is a focal point in the House of Representatives Chamber.

Question

How can I order the magazine *About the House* and how much does it cost?

Answer

About the House can be ordered free of charge from the House of Representatives Liaison and Projects Office (contact details below). It is issued five times a year and is available both in printed version and on the Internet at: www.aboutthehouse.aph.gov.au

Send in your questions

If you have a question that you would like to have answered about the House of Representatives, write to, email, phone or fax:

Liaison and Projects Office Email: liaison.reps@aph.gov.au
 House of Representatives Phone: (02) 6277 2122
 Parliament House Fax: (02) 6277 8521
 Canberra ACT 2600

What's being investigated?

New inquiry on conservation controls

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage has announced a new investigation into the impact of conservation controls imposed on landholders by government. The Committee will consider:

- the impact of conservation measures imposed by governments on landholders and farmers;
- international developments in ameliorating the cost of conservation for landholders;
- how to establish the private and public good components of conservation; and
- how to equitably share the costs associated with conservation among all members of the community.

National advertisements have invited the public to comment on these issues. For further information visit www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/enviro or contact the Committee secretariat, telephone (02) 6277 4580 or email: Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au

Radio racing probe hears from broadcasters

At the invitation of the Australian Radio Racing Association, Members of the House of Representatives Communications Committee met with racing broadcasters from each state and

territory at the Association's Conference in Hobart on 24 March. The meeting enabled the House Communications Committee to hear broadcasters' views about the ABC's decision to discontinue its regional racing service. The Committee expects to table its report on the radio racing inquiry in May. For further information visit www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta or contact the Committee secretariat, telephone (02) 6277 2329 or email: cta.reps@aph.gov.au

Trade and immigration feature in Middle East inquiry

Trade and immigration have been highlighted as central issues in the Middle East inquiry being conducted by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. The inquiry, focusing on Australia's relations with the Middle East including the Gulf Region, was advertised nationally in February. People who want to have their say or who want further information on the inquiry should contact the Inquiry secretary, Cliff Lawson on (02) 6277 4306 or email jscfadt@aph.gov.au. Information is also available from the Committee's web site at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt