The purpose of this circular is to bring to your attention the arrangements that apply to the tabling of documents during the caretaker period.

Documents cannot be tabled in the House of Representatives after it has been dissolved. However, there is an opportunity for documents to be presented in the Senate during the caretaker period subject to the Guidance on Caretaker Conventions, (see paragraph 7.1), as updated in November 2018, issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

PM&C can be contacted for advice on caretaker matters on 6271 5399 or caretaker@pmc.gov.au.

The Guidelines for the Presentation of Documents to the Parliament set out the requirements for the presentation of documents when the Parliament is not sitting. Departments will need to contact the Senate Documents Officer on (02) 6277 3037 during the caretaker period.

Please note that input will not be sought from departments in the first half of 2019 for the Government’s status update on the Presiding Officers’ schedule of outstanding government responses to parliamentary committee reports.

Advice on tabling in the 46th Parliament will be provided in due course.

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Phone: 02 6277 7212 Email: tabling@pmc.gov.au
11 April 2019

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1 The caretaker period begins at the time the House of Representatives is dissolved and continues until the election result is clear or, if there is a change of government, until the new government is appointed.