

**Senate Environment and Communications References Committee
Inquiry into Australia's Faunal Extinction Crisis**

**Answers to written questions on notice: Dr Wendy Craik
Hearing 23 September 2019**

Noting that these additional questions on notice have also been provided to the Department of the Environment and Energy, it is my view that most of them are best answered by a Departmental representative. I have noted below where this is the case. My responses to the questions are as follows:

Did the Craik review team seek meetings with any Members of Commonwealth Parliament who are not members of the Liberal or National parties? If so, how were these meetings organised and by whom? When did they occur?

I met with Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Environment and Water, on 21 May 2018. I was accompanied by Aither Director Will Fargher at this meeting. The meeting was proposed, scheduled and organised by the Department. As such, questions as to how this meeting was organised, and by whom, are best answered by the Department.

Who made suggestions during the 7 May 2018 meeting, as to where the Craik Review team should visit? Were those suggestions taken up?

My notes don't indicate who made suggestions as to where to visit, or what those suggestions were, so I cannot provide a specific response for these questions. As best as can be recalled, the review team developed a long list of locations and stakeholders for engagement, with a view to ensuring an appropriate, representative exposure to stakeholders and views across the country.

Which Coalition MPs or offices did the Craik review team meet with in October 2018? Who was present besides Dr Craik? What was the purpose of the meetings?

Aither Senior Consultant Kai Wakerman Powell accompanied me to two separate meetings, one with members of the National Party Room, and one with Coalition members and their staff, both on 15 October 2018. There was no formal advice as to who was in the room, so I am not able to provide a list of names of those present. The meetings were focused on presenting the final recommendations from the review, for the information of those in attendance.

In relation to the procurement CN3497206-A1 for the consultancy with Aither Pty Ltd:

- *Were any other providers approached under the Standing Offer besides Aither Pty Ltd?*
- *Was a request for quote (RFQ), request for proposal (RFP) or some other form of request provided to Aither Pty Ltd and other potential suppliers? If so, on what date was that request provided? On what dates were responses from Aither Pty Ltd and any other potential suppliers received?*
- *Was approval provided and recorded under S23 of the PGPA Act for the commitment of funds for the consultancy? If so, by whom was the approval provided, and on what date was it recorded?*

These questions relate to Departmental procurement processes and are best answered by the Department.

Dr Craik's appointment was announced on 28 March 2018, while the contract with her consultancy company, Aither Pty Ltd, was not finalised until 9 April 2018. Is it unusual for an announcement to be made in advance of formal contract negotiations being completed? Is this practice consistent with Departmental procurement rules?

These questions relate to Departmental procurement processes and are best answered by the Department

The contract with Aither was amended shortly after its commencement in April 2018 to increase the contract price by \$77,000 and extend the end of the contract period by several weeks. Why were these amendments necessary?

This question relates to Departmental contract management processes and is best answered by the Department.

I would also like to clarify that I am not an employee nor shareholder of Aither. As a Senior Associate at Aither, I am an affiliate who may be contracted by Aither to work on individual projects, on a case-by-case basis. I do not have any role in relation to the management or financial performance of Aither as a business.