

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 3

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 4-5, 24/2/2015

Topic: Bureau of Communications Research - Tenders

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: What budget is allocated for each of those tenders?

Mr Clarke: We do not allocate a budget against the panels. There is a budget for consulting and advisory services, but they are not allocated by panels.

Senator URQUHART: What is that budget?

Mr Clarke: Again, I will provide you the breakdown of that on notice...

Senator URQUHART: ...That is okay. What is the budget, which I asked about, allocation for each of those tenders?

Mr Clarke: There almost certainly will be a budget estimate that DrPaterson and the bureau have for those three projects. We will provide you with that estimate as quickly as possible.

Senator URQUHART: I understand that the closing date for those applicants was yesterday—23 February.

Mr Clarke: I do not have that date in front of me, but that would sound right.

Senator URQUHART: Do you know about the applicants?

Mr Clarke: No, I do not as of today.

Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide that?

Mr Clarke: We will be able to provide you with the number of responses that were received under those three headings, yes.

Senator URQUHART: If you could provide that.

Answer:

The budget for the NBN non-commercial services Requests for Tender (RFT) – for provision of financial, economic and technology advisory services – has not been published as price forms part of the competitive assessment process to ensure that the Commonwealth gets value for money for the procured services.

The procurement process was competitive in attracting 42 submissions:

- Financial – 11 submissions
- Economic – 18 submissions
- Technology – 13 submissions

The contract cost and identity of the successful tenderers will be published on Austender once the procurement processes have been completed.