

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 230
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Portfolio wide - consultancies
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
 - a) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
 - b) Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - i. If so, which ones and why?

Answer:

1. All consultancies at or over \$10,000 for Financial Management and Accountability Act (FMA) agencies and \$400,000 for Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (CAC) agencies (inc GST) are published on AusTender as per mandatory reporting requirements. Details of these consultancies can be found at www.tenders.gov.au

Under contract reporting requirements set out in the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs), FMA agencies and CAC agencies are not required to individually identify contracts under the abovementioned thresholds and therefore do not record this information.

- a) The Annual Procurement Plan was published in June 2013. This is now a 'rolling procurement plan' which is updated throughout the year as requirements often change in accordance with business requirements. Agencies are only required to publish significant planned procurements. These planned procurements are publicly available at www.tenders.gov.au

The Department and portfolio agencies have increased their focus on constraining consultancies by minimising the use of consultants to specialist expertise only.

- b) Planning for consultancy services sits with individual agencies and business areas and it is not possible to otherwise detail any changes to planned consultancies without a significant diversion of resources.
 - i. As per above answer.