

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

Question No: 259
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - CONSULTANCIES
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, how many consultancies have been undertaken? 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. List each, including name, cost and purpose
 - ii. If so, why?

Answer:

1. All consultancies at or over \$10,000 for non-corporate Commonwealth entities and \$400,000 for corporate Commonwealth entities (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), non-corporate and corporate Commonwealth entities are not required to individually identify contracts under the abovementioned thresholds and therefore do not record this information.

- a) The Procurement Plan was published in June 2014. 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 i.e. an open approach to the market. 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 entities and business areas and it is not possible to otherwise detail any changes to planned consultancies without a significant diversion of resources.
 - i. Refer to response above
 - ii. Refer to response above