

Department/ Agency: Australian Taxation Office
Question: BET 721-723
Topic: Copy Paper
Reference: Hansard page 54-55. Written 5 June 2014
Senator: Madigan

Question:

SENATOR Madigan asked

Senator MADIGAN: My issue goes to the issue of ATO procurement. Is there somebody there that can deal with that?

Mr Leeper: Our Chief Financial Officer, Ms Cawthra.

Senator MADIGAN: Can you confirm what a Senate inquiry has recently heard, that the copy paper used by the ATO is sourced from an Indonesian mill?

Ms Cawthra: I am sorry, I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that with me.

Senator MADIGAN: Fair enough.

Mr Jordan: Is that the photocopy paper?

Ms Cawthra: Yes.

Senator MADIGAN: On what basis was the value for money decision made to purchase this paper instead of Australian paper and was it just because it was nominally cheaper? Have you been made aware of any concerns about the paper not meeting the mandatory requirements of the ICT sustainability plan, such as concerns that the virgin fibre does not come from a forest managed to internationally recognised forest management standards and that there is some ambiguity there in what is claimed for this paper?

Mr Leeper: We would need to take that on notice.

Senator MADIGAN: Yes, fair enough. Are you aware that in addition all copy papers need to comply with the mandatory requirements to the ICT sustainability plan, which are the conditions of participation in that plan and the claims that they make?

Ms Cawthra: Yes.

Senator MADIGAN: Thank you.

Answer:

721. The ATO sources its paper through Complete Office Supplies (COS), a Commonwealth supplier, via the mandatory Whole of Government Stationery and Office Supplies panel. The copy paper currently used by the ATO is labelled as "Made in Indonesia".
722. Cost of the goods and services to be procured is not the sole determining factor in assessing value for money. The Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) outline the relevant value for money considerations that are used by the ATO. These include policy compliance, business requirement and financial considerations.
723. No.