

Department/ Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question: BET 818-823

Topic: Copy paper

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Xenophon

Question:

With reference to the copy paper used by Australian Taxation Office:

818. Can you confirm what a Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Procurement Procedures has recently heard, that the copy paper used by the ATO is sourced from an Indonesian Mill?
819. On what basis was the 'value for money' decision made to purchase this paper instead of Australian made paper?
820. Have you been made aware of any concerns about the paper not meeting the mandatory requirements of the ICT Sustainability Plans, such as concerns that the virgin fiber does not come from a forest managed to internationally recognised forest management standards?
821. Has the Department been made aware of concerns that the recycled fiber is not wholly comprised from post-consumer waste?
822. I understand examples of percentage allocations for overall environmental criteria (product & supplier) are recommended at 20%-40% for copy contracts. If so, how was this weighting for overall environmental criteria taken into account in the decision to procure the copy paper from an Indonesian Mill instead of an Australian made Paper?
823. Evidence provided in the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Procurement Procedures states in March the company "illegally broke off collective bargaining talks and called in the local army and police to intimidate workers against supporting the union". How does this impact the Department's decision to procure the copy paper from this supplier?

Answer:

818. 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".
819. 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.
820. No.
821. No.
822. The Stationery and Office Supplies (SOS) Whole of Government Panel arrangement has incorporated current relevant environmental policies and initiatives. Refer to Department of Finance for further information.

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