

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Procurement rules – local jobs and local supply

Question: 2

Hansard Reference p 9; 5 May 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 June 2016

Senator XENOPHON: I understand that. I will not take much longer, but what I am trying to understand is this: do our procurement rules take into account the benefits of local jobs and local supply in terms of Australian content, Australian innovation and the like? Is that clear, or how do you weigh that up?

Mr Stefanic: I am not entirely across the detail of the tender evaluation process and what factors are taken into account with that process itself. That I can take on notice and provide.

Answer

The Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) set out the rules that officials must comply with when they procure goods and services. Achieving value for money is the core rule of the CPRs. Officials responsible for a procurement must be satisfied, after reasonable enquires, that the procurement achieves a value for money outcome.

In achieving value for money the CPRs state that procurements should, among other requirements, encourage competition and be non-discriminatory. This is defined in section 5.3 of the CPRs:

All potential suppliers to government must, subject to these CPRs, be treated equitably based on their commercial, legal, technical and financial abilities and not be discriminated against due to their size, degree of foreign affiliation or ownership, location, or the origin of their goods and services.

DPS is confident that the CPRs have been complied with in regard to this particular procurement.