

Question: 3**Topic:** Paper procurement**Received:** 2 June 2017**Senator Carr asked:**

1. In relation to the Senate's procurement of office copy paper and the assessment table provided for the March 2017 assessment:
 - What formula was used to determine the scores in both the value for money and ranking columns?
 - Has the Senate considered adding a column(s) in its assessment table, showing the country of origin of the paper and whether or not it is sourced from an Indigenous supplier?

Answer:

The value for money score is calculated by dividing the performance score by the price per ream. The value for money score is then ranked in order of highest to lowest.

The department has not specifically considered adding a separate column to show the country of origin of the supplier or whether or not it is sourced from an Indigenous supplier.

In relation to country of origin, this is due to the requirement in the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (paragraph 5.3) that procurement must be non-discriminatory, including in relation to 'foreign affiliation or ownership'.

In relation to Indigenous suppliers and the Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP), as paper procurement is covered by a mandated whole of government arrangement (Stationery and Office Supplies Whole of Government Panel) the department is required under the CPRs to use the mandatory panel arrangement¹.

The department notes that of the papers available through the SOS panel, 2 are from an Indigenous supplier (Nullawil). The department's assessment ranked them 7th and 8th of the 13 papers tested.

¹ See: Panel Arrangements and the Indigenous Procurement Policy
https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/factsheet_standing_panels_1.pdf