

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
20 October 2015

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.1

**Topic:** New Icebreaker vessel

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** F78

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 4 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. Can the Department explain Finance's role in the tender process for the new icebreaker vessel?
2. Which part of Finance was involved in this?
3. How many staff were involved? Were consultants or contractors hired to assist with this work? If so, how many consultants or contractors were hired, and at what cost?
4. When will final costs for the new icebreaker be finalised?

**Answer:**

1. Under the devolved Commonwealth procurement framework, each entity is responsible for its own procurement processes and decisions. In the normal course of considering funding proposals such as this, Finance provides advice to the Minister for Finance and may assist agencies if questions about the application of the Commonwealth procurement framework arise.

The 'Research and Supply Icebreaker (RSI) Project' is subject to the Gateway Review Process, which is administered by Finance. The Gateway Review teams are made up of reviewers independent of Finance. The Gateway Review Process examines the entire project, and was not commissioned to play a role in the tender process.

2. The areas of Finance involved in matters related to the icebreaker have been Budget and Financial Reporting, Governance and APS Transformation, and Commercial and Government Services.
3. No Finance staff formally worked on the tender process. No consultants or contractors were hired by Finance.
4. The final cost will be known when formal contract negotiations have concluded. The Department of the Environment has advised that this is expected to occur in early 2016.