

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 113
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Portfolio wide - consultancies
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 04 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- 1) How many consultancies have been undertaken from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
- 2) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
- 3) Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - i. If so, which ones and why?

Answer:

1. All consultancies at or over \$10,000 inc GST for Financial Management and Accountability Act (FMA) agencies and \$400,000 inc GST for Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (CAC) agencies are published on AusTender as per mandatory reporting requirements. Details of these consultancies can be found at www.tenders.gov.au

Under contract reporting requirements set out in the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs), FMA agencies and CAC agencies are not required to individually identify contracts under the above mentioned thresholds and therefore do not record this information.

2. All known consultancies have been published in the Annual Procurement Plan in June 2013. This is a 'rolling plan' which is updated throughout the year as consultancy requirements often change in accordance with business requirements.

The Annual Procurement Plans for the portfolio can be found at www.tenders.gov.au

As planning for consultancies sits with individual business areas it is not possible to detail planned consultancies without a significant diversion of resources.

The Department and portfolio agencies have increased their focus on constraining consultancies and use of consultants to specialist expertise only.

3. Consultancy engagements under the Open Tender threshold of \$80,000 including GST for FMA Agencies and \$400,000 including GST for CAC Agencies are conducted in accordance with the tendering rules of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs). As such, it is expected that unless there are extenuating circumstances, consultancies under

this threshold would not go out to tender. For further information on these consultancies, the procurement method for all contracts at or above the reporting threshold are published on AusTender as per mandatory reporting requirements. Details of these consultancies can be found at www.tenders.gov.au.