

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008



Question: PM95

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Discrepancies relating to contracts

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked: -...So what this whole exercise shows is that the times were-suffice it to say that the matter was rushed, to say the very least, which indicates perhaps a lack of preparation. I think that we have adequately seen that corners were cut in this process and I think that, in the process-and you could take this on notice-as you pay the bills, you are obviously doing a bit of a stocktake of the various contracts. Have you found other discrepancies?...When you provide the answer to the question about the contracts, could you look each of the contracts and highlight for me whether there were any discrepancies that were found subsequently in the process.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-Also, can you tell me which of those contracts were actually scrutinised and went through the lawyers.

Mr Mrdak-Certainly. I-

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-Thank you.

Answer: a) PM&C has commissioned an external firm to undertake a compliance audit of the Australia 2020 Summit procurements, which we anticipate will be completed by the end of the 2007-08 financial year.

b) An external legal provider was engaged to provide services to the Australia 2020 Summit, but their role did not include a review of individual contracts or tenders.