



The Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security

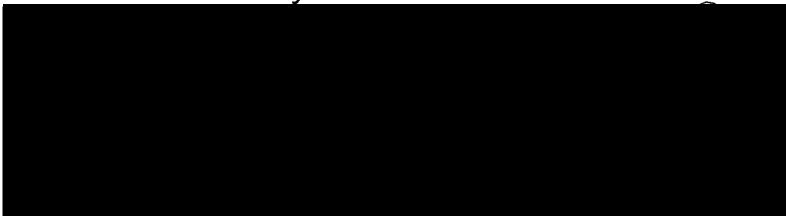
Ref No: MS24-000494

Julian Hill MP
Chair
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audits
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair *Julian*

Attached for the information of Committee members is a copy of the Department of Home Affairs March 2024 update in response to recommendation 15 to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit - Report 498: 'Commitment issues' - An Inquiry into Commonwealth procurement.

Yours sincerely



CLARE O'NEIL

28/3 / 2024



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EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT 498

Commitment Issues – An Inquiry into Commonwealth Procurement

General comments

The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) is pleased to provide the Committee with the following update on the progress of the surveillance services procurement, in response to recommendation 15 the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Report No. 498 ‘Commitment issues’ – An inquiry into Commonwealth procurement (the Report).

Response to the recommendation

Recommendation No. 15

The Committee recommends that the Department of Home Affairs report back to the Committee, commencing in September 2023 and then six monthly until the current contract expires, on its progress in tendering and procuring a new surveillance services contract, given that it will have been 21 years since the contract was competitively procured if it runs to its current expiry date.

Progress

On 12 October 2023, the Department published on AusTender an open approach to market for the provision of aerial surveillance services, via a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI). A virtual industry briefing session was conducted on 31 October 2023, to assist potential respondents in better understanding the background, context and REOI details. The REOI closed on 1 December 2023. Evaluation of the REOI responses has been completed.

Governance

In accordance with the Department’s Accountable Authority Instructions, Financial Management Guidelines, Risk Management Framework and legal principles and practice, all REOI Evaluation documentation was endorsed by the High Risk High Value Steering Committee prior to gaining Delegate approval.

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Next steps

The Department is currently developing documentation for the Request for Tender (RFT) stage taking into consideration information from the REOI, lessons learnt, Australian Maritime Safety Authority audit and other recommendations. It is anticipated that the RFT stage will open to the shortlisted respondents from the REOI by quarter 1 2024-25. The Department looks forward to updating the Committee on the progress of the RFT in the next reporting period.

Signed by



Lee-anne Monterosso
First Assistant Secretary
Department of Home Affairs
26 March 2024