

Geospatial Intelligence Pty Ltd
Response to question taken on notice
Inquiry into supporting Australia's exports and attracting investment
Public hearing 18 October 2019

Question (page 18 proof transcript):

Senator VAN: In your submission you highlight some roadblocks to the approvals process, particularly around defence export controls. Are they system driven? Are the policy settings okay or not, or is it more that the bureaucracy is not delivering on what the system is set up to do?

Mr Coorey: I think it's a good question. I think the policy settings are right, in actual fact. We have welcomed a lot of the new policies that have come in over the last five or six years. I think you're right; the fundamental problem with the bureaucracy is that they don't understand small business, or they don't understand business. Time frames don't impact on them—it comes back to the export approval thing. I can give you many examples within a number of federal government departments where it has taken many, many months to actually get decisions on quite simple and easy projects. The problem with small industry, or any industry, is that everything costs money.

Senator VAN: I'll let you continue, but I will just pick you up on that point. On notice, can you provide us with some of those examples?

Mr Coorey: I can give you two examples where we've submitted tender responses to two separate government departments. It has been over 12 months since we submitted, and every time we ask them what the progress is, it's being evaluated. It has been over 12 months.

Senator VAN: If you'd provide those to the inquiry on notice, that would be helpful.

Answer:

The Tender Request I had in mind were with Geosciences Australia and CSIRO.