

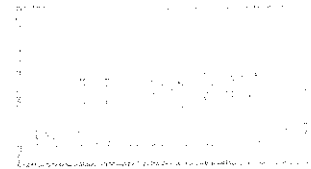


Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Hon David Hawker MP

10 APR 2007

Hon Paul Calvert  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA



Dear Mr President

*Paul*

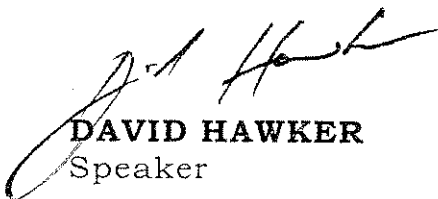
Thank you for your letter of 1 March in which you drew my attention to a recommendation by the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration which had been adopted by the Senate.

The recommendation was that the Department of the House of Representatives comply voluntarily with a Senate resolution concerning departmental and agency contracts. The Department's position is known to the Senate Committee, and is mentioned by it in the February 2007 report which prompted the latest Senate resolution.

The Department notes the work of the Senate committee in this area, but regards itself as accountable to the House of Representatives and does not propose to publish the information in question in the manner and form recommended unless the House itself passes a similar resolution.

The Department is aware of the planned development of the AusTender system and will wish to be involved in this development. It notes that this may lead to the publication in a helpful and efficient form of much information about departmental and agency contracts. It will also continue to provide information in its annual report in accordance with whole of government requirements.

Yours sincerely

  
**DAVID HAWKER**  
Speaker