

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.1

Topic: Actions in the Cloud policy

Senator: Ludwig

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: In terms of your agency, Finance, have you started to look at cloud computing?

Ms Halton: Yes, we have.

Senator LUDWIG: Have you started a review? Have you started the preliminary work?

Ms Halton: No. We are thinking about what it is we are intending to procure in the next little while ...

Senator LUDWIG: There are 10 action items listed in the policy. It says: one, which has been completed. What does that mean? What action has been done to complete that first policy outcome?

Ms Pensko: Are you referring to the cloud policy?

Senator LUDWIG: Yes.

Mr Vickers: The first action was around issuing a resource management guide to agencies to highlight their responsibilities under the new policy.

Senator LUDWIG: So that has been done?

Mr Vickers: That has been done.

Senator LUDWIG: Is that public?

Mr Vickers: Yes.

Senator LUDWIG: Is it on your web?

Mr Vickers: I would have to check.

Ms Pensko: We will take that on notice.

Senator LUDWIG: All right. If it is not on your web, can the committee have a copy of it? And it is a matter for you as to whether you put it on your web. The other items—3, 4 and 5—are close to scheduled completion. Would you give me an update on those?

Ms Pensko: I would have to take that on notice. So that was in relation to 3, 4 and 5?

Senator LUDWIG: Perhaps we could just deal with the remaining nine items and you could just let us know where that is.

Ms Pensko: Yes.

Answer:

An update on the 10 actions listed in the Australian Government Cloud Computing Policy is below:

#	Action	Implementation	Progress
1	Evaluate cloud services for new ICT services and when replacing existing ICT services at ICT refresh points. To support the effective adoption of cloud services, Finance will release a Resource Management Guide (RMG) to reflect this policy.	Finance to issue RMG in October/ November 2014. Non-corporate commonwealth entities ongoing.	Completed. The Resource Management Guide was sent to agency heads and posted on the Finance Website on 29 October 2014. Government non-corporate entities under the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (PGPA Act) now must adopt cloud services where it is fit for purpose; provides adequate protection for the information involved and delivers value for money.
2	Update the Agency Solutions Database ⁷ after acquiring a cloud service	Non-corporate commonwealth entities ongoing.	Ongoing. It is the ongoing responsibility of agencies to update the Agencies Solutions Database.
3	Trial the relocation of critical data to a secure government cloud using automated tools from 2014.	Finance to complete by December 2014 / January 2015.	In progress. The trial includes a sample set of data for relocation to a secure cloud using automated tools and techniques. The trial is on track.
4	Review the Data Centre as a Service Multi-Use-List during 2014	Finance to complete by December 2014.	Substantially complete. On track for December 2014
5	Establish a Cloud Services Panel.	Finance to establish by January 2015.	In progress. On 24 September 2014, Finance released a Request for Tender for a Whole-of-Government Cloud Services Panel including Software, Platform and Infrastructure as a Service, and Specialist Cloud Services. The Request for Tender closed on 20 October 2014. Finance is evaluating the tender responses. The project is on track.
6	Streamline obligations on entities relating to the storage and processing of Australian Government information.	Attorney-General's Department (in consultation with Finance and the Department of Communications).	Completed. The Attorney-General's Department updated the Information Security Management Guidelines – Risk management of outsourced ICT arrangements (including cloud) in August 2014.

#	Action	Implementation	Progress
7	Update information sharing to facilitate continual learning and establish a repository of case studies, better practice guides, practical lessons learned and information on entity solutions. Interested State and Local Government organisations will be invited to participate.	Finance ongoing	<p>Ongoing. The Cloud Information Community was established in 2011 and provides opportunity for Local, State and Federal Government agencies to learn and share experiences.</p> <p>The Cloud Information Community GovDex space is the repository for agencies to post information about their cloud projects.</p> <p>A review of the suite of better practice guides developed over the past 3 years is currently scheduled in the first quarter of 2015.</p>
8	The Government will assist entities to share experiences and best practice in developing contracts to successfully acquire cloud services.	Finance ongoing	Ongoing. Pending results of the cloud services panel through which Finance will develop a body of knowledge based on negotiating with cloud providers.
9	The Government will report on the use of cloud services across Federal Government entities.	Finance ongoing	<p>The reporting of cloud services is included in the annual ICT Benchmarking undertaken by Finance.</p> <p>A revised ICT Benchmarking Framework, including improved data metrics is scheduled for July 2015.</p> <p>Cloud specific categories from the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code were added to AusTender on 3 July 2014 to enable more accurate reporting of procurement contracts for cloud and cloud-like services.</p>
10	The government will continue to contribute to regional and international standards institutions and technical committees.	Finance ongoing	Ongoing. Finance contributes to international cloud computing standards development through the ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) Joint Technical Committee 1, Sub Committee 38, Working Group 3 (ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC38/WG3) program of work.