

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

Program: Division or Agency: 1: SHFT **Question No:** 226

Topic: HMAS Platypus - waste disposal tender

Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question: 10-11 (14/2/12)

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: You are at the very, very advanced stage, by the sound of it, of the primary tender, which is to achieve what, precisely?

Mr Bailey: To remove the tarry waste from the site—the by-product of the coal gas plant that existed there until the Commonwealth resumed the site in 1942. It was a coal gas-generating facility, and a by-product of that industrial process was tar, which they buried in pits under the ground. Those pits are still there. Because the pits were excavated out of sandstone and the sandstone is porous, some of that tar, which is in a liquid form, moves through the porous sandstone.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: How many tenderers did you have for that?

Mr Bailey: Six.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: And you are down to negotiating with the final one, I assume.

Mr Bailey: It is between two.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Are you able to tell us who the six tenderers are? Is that public information?

Mr Bailey: It would be public information, but I cannot rattle them all off the top of my head. I can certainly give them to you. It is not a secret. I will remember some and not others and I suspect that is not a good idea.

Answer:

The six tenderers are:

- Thiess Services Pty Ltd;
- Enviropacific Services Pty Ltd;
- RMA Contracting Pty Ltd;
- Ward Civil and Environmental Engineering Pty Ltd;
- WSP Environmental Pty Ltd; and
- Synergy Resource Management Pty Ltd.

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Program: Division or Agency: 1: SHFT **Question 227**
Topic: HMAS Platypus - volume of waste
Proof Hansard Page and Date 11-12
or Written Question: (14/2/12)
No:

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: How is the waste transported off-site?

Mr Bailey: It is being barged off-site.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: And transport to?

Mr Bailey: A licensed landfill. There are two types of waste: about a third of it will go that way; the other two thirds, which are the less toxic materials, will be processed on-site and reburied on the site. By 'processed' I mean it will be mixed up with a cementitious material—basically solidified—and put back in the hole that it came out of. By that time it is immobile and cannot leach. It is regarded by all of the authorities as safe.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: What volume of the two types of waste are we looking at?

Mr Bailey: As to the relative volumes, I have forgotten. I could take that on notice and let you know. The total volume of excavated material was around 35,000 tonnes. I am not sure if that has changed, but it will not be any more than that. It may be a bit less.

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Thank you. If you could take that on notice, that would be great.

Answer:

The anticipated volume of material to leave the site is approximately 5,000 tonnes, whilst the anticipated volume of material to be treated and remain on site is around 25,000 tonnes.

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Program: Division or Agency:	1: SHFT	Question No:	228
Topic:	Long-term plan for the HMAS Platypus site		
Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question:	12 (14/2/12)		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: Back on the planning front, just remind me of when the long-term plan for the site was finalised and of the pathway forward you see once his contract for a mediation is let and that process is underway. How then might you consider updating, revising or pursuing the long-term plan for the site?

Mr Bailey: Are you asking that as a question on notice?

Senator BIRMINGHAM: If you are able to give a quick snapshot now, that would be great. But if you need to give more detail on notice—

Mr Bailey: I would prefer to give you the detail, but my recollection is that it was signed off by the minister in 2009. As for the other detail you are asking for in that question, I would rather come back to you.

Answer:

The long-term plan for the site was approved by the Minister in accordance with the SHFT Act in 2009. The approved plan foreshadowed more details to follow. These are as follows:

- Site Environmental Management Plans for each phase of the remediation and construction works. These are prepared for each phase of the works prior to the preparation of tender documents and include the necessary measures to protect the local environment and neighbourhood amenity from construction impacts.
- A more detailed plan for the site based on the 2009 approved plan will be carried out. This will include:
 - The public domain and building refurbishment design including an updated budget to implement the plan (scheduled for completion in 2012);
 - Car parking and transport management (2013); and
 - On-going management measures to protect the neighbourhood amenity and the local environment once the site is open to the public (2013).