

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
20 October 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Consultancies

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-40

How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).

How can the department justify this expenditure?

How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded? Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.

Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

Has there been any changes in the consultancies are planned for this calendar year since Budget Estimates 2010? If yes, have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

ANSWER

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (the department) and its portfolio agencies engage consultants to provide specialist advice and services necessary to ensure effective program delivery. These consultants are engaged when the specialised skills required are not available within the department.

For FMA Agencies (the department; IP Australia; and the Australian Research Council) procurement contracts, where the value is \$10,000 or more, are reported on AusTender within six weeks of the contract being executed. The Australian Research Council (ARC) is not currently up to

date with its reporting on AusTender however processes have been put in place to rectify this for future reporting. For relevant CAC Act bodies (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Australian Institute of Marine Science; Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation; and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation), contracts valued in excess of \$400,000 (\$9 million for construction) are reported on AusTender within six weeks of the contract being executed.

The department's planned strategic procurements, including consultancies, for the 2010-11 financial year are included in the relevant 2010-11 Annual Procurement Plan. These are available at www.tenders.gov.au.

In addition, details of consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more are contained in the relevant Annual Reports.

- The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and IP Australia's consultancy details are provided in the 2008-09 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AbouttheDepartment/Pages/AnnualReport200809.aspx>
- The Australian Research Council's consultancy details are provided in the 2008-09 Annual Report which is available at http://www.arc.gov.au/about_arc/annual_report.htm
- CSIRO's consultancy details are provided in their 2008-09 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.csiro.au/resources/Annual-Report-08-09.html>
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) consultancy details are provided in their 2008-09 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/corporate/ar0809.html>
- Australian Institute of Marine Science's (AIMS) consultancy details are provided in their 2008-09 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.aims.gov.au/source/publications/pdf/ar20082009.pdf>
- The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and IP Australia's consultancy details are provided in the 2009-10 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AbouttheDepartment/AnnualReport200910/index.html>
- The Australian Research Council's consultancy details are provided in the 2009-10 Annual Report which is available at http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/annual_report_09-10.pdf
- CSIRO's consultancy details are provided in their 2009-10 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.csiro.au/resources/Annual-Report-2009-10.html>
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) consultancy details are provided in their 2009-10 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/corporate/ar0910.html>
- Australian Institute of Marine Science's (AIMS) consultancy details are provided in their 2009-10 Annual Report which is available at <http://www.aims.gov.au/source/publications/pdf/ar20092010.pdf>
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO) consultancy details for the period of 31 May to 30 September 2010 are provided below. See response to Senate Estimates Question BI-73 (May 2010) and BI-103 (June 2009) regarding past consultancies.

The below figures do not include legal services and the approach to determining consultancy contracts from non-consultancy contracts was obtained from the Department of Finance and Administration's *Guidance on Procurement Publishing Obligations (July 2007)*.

31 May 2010 to 30 September 2010

Consultant	Subject Matter	Order Date	Total Value of Contract (exc GST)	Method of Procurement
Plaut IT Australia P/L	SAP – IT Consultancy	02/06/2010	\$400,000.00	Direct Appointment
A E & D Cons	Building compliance assessment services	21/06/2010	\$2,000.00	Direct Appointment
Elizabeth M. Farrelly Urban Consultant	Heritage and planning services	21/06/2010	\$35,000.00	Direct Appointment
Frost & Sullivan	Market research services	29/07/2010	\$25,000.00	Direct Appointment
Plaut IT Australia P/L	SAP - IT Consultancy	09/08/2010	\$100,170.00	Direct Appointment
Intelligent Risks Pty Limited	Security evaluation services	11/08/2010	\$11,250.00	Direct Appointment
Seerpharma Pty Limited	Technical consultancy	26/08/2010	\$5,625.00	Direct Appointment
TOTAL:			\$579,045.00	