

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F18

Outcome 2 - Output 2.1.4 and 2.1.5

Topic: Haystac Public Affairs

Hansard Page: F&PA 102

Senator Faulkner asked:

What about the tender process for Haystac? There must have been an original tender. You might also provide information on that for the committee.

Answer:

A select tender was conducted for the provision of public relations services to the AEC in 2003 including services for the 2004 election campaign.

Haystac was one of four agencies identified by the Government Communications Unit as a possible choice for the provision of Public Relations services to the AEC. Each of the four entities was invited to apply for the contract.

Haystac Public Affairs was the successful tenderer and was contracted to the AEC in November 2003. Letters exercising an option to renew the contract for the period 2005-2007 were exchanged by both parties in 2005, and a variation was finalised by both parties in June 2006 extending Haystac Public Affairs' contract until 90 days after the date of the next federal election.