

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Outcome 2 Program 1**

**Topic: Procurement**

**Question reference number: F39**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 101, 27 May 2009**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Coonan asked:**

Senator COONAN—Can you identify any instances where the government or the department have provided exemption for a government agency or a department so that they do not have to use the established coordinated procurement contracting for particular properties or services?

...

Senator COONAN—I realise it was a broad question, and it was intentionally so. I invite you to give me a list of exemptions and perhaps the reason.

Dr Watt—We will see what we can do.

Senator COONAN—Is that: yes, you will take it on notice?

Dr Watt—Yes, we will take it on notice. That one is easier than some of the others we have taken on notice.

...

Senator COONAN—Also if you could indicate how temporary ‘temporary’ is—

Dr Watt—The length of time the exemption is for.

**Answer:**

As at 27 May 2009 the Government has approved 54 exemptions for procurement of goods and services subject to a coordinated procurement scoping study. These approvals are in accordance with the government’s transitional arrangements. These arrangements allow agencies to extend existing contracts for up to 12 months, particularly for relatively low value contracts or where there are no further options to extend to ensure continuity of supply, but require agencies to seek approval from the relevant portfolio Minister and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation to enter into new contracts or exercise contract extension options which go beyond 12 months.

Attached is a list of approvals granted to agencies under these circumstances. It should be noted that often these extensions relate to more specialised procurement requirements and these allow agencies to continue their day-to-day business.

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| Agency   | Scoping Study Area                                   | Period of Approval       |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Administrative Appeals Tribunal                | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>3 Yrs</b>             |
| Attorney-General's Department                  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>2 Yrs</b>             |
| Attorney-General's Department                  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>18 Mths</b>           |
| Attorney-General's Department                  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>5 Yrs</b>             |
| Australian Communications and Media Authority  | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>                             | <b>5 Yrs</b>             |
| Australian Competition and Consumer Commission | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS &amp; MAJOR OFFICE MACHINES</b> | <b>One-off Purchases</b> |
| Australian Competition and Consumer Commission | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>18 Mths</b>           |
| Australian Competition and Consumer Commission | <b>VOLUME SOURCING ARRANGEMENT</b>                   | <b>One-off Purchase</b>  |
| Australian Crime Commission                    | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>3 Yrs</b>             |
| Australian Crime Commission                    | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                            | <b>2 Yrs</b>             |

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|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Australian Customs Service                 | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>2 Yrs</b>                                |
| Australian Customs Service                 | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>2 Yrs</b>                                |
| Australian Electoral Commission            | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>4 Yrs</b>                                |
| Australian Federal Police                  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>1 Yr</b>                                 |
| Australian Federal Police                  | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>           | <b>One-off Purchase</b>                     |
| Australian Federal Police                  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>Varying periods or one-off purchases</b> |
| Australian Human Rights Commission         | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>2 yrs</b>                                |
| Australian Industrial Registry             | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>           | <b>One-off Purchases</b>                    |
| Australian Prudential Regulation Authority | <b>VOLUME SOURCING ARRANGEMENT</b> | <b>One-off Purchase</b>                     |

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| Australian Securities and Investment Commission  | <b>VOLUME SOURCING ARRANGEMENT</b> | <b>One-off Purchase</b> |
| Australian Securities and Investments Commission | <b>MAJOR OFFICE MACHINES</b>       | <b>1 Yr</b>             |
| Australian Securities and Investments Commission | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>2 Yrs</b>            |
| Australian Securities and Investments Commission | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>           | <b>1 Yr</b>             |
| Australian Securities and Investments Commission | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>5 Yrs</b>            |
| Australian Securities and Investments Commission | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>           | <b>One-off Purchase</b> |
| Australian Taxation Office                       | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>4 Yrs</b>            |
| Australian Taxation Office                       | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>15 Mths</b>          |
| Comsuper   | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>          | <b>2 Yrs</b>            |

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|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>  | <b>5 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>One-off Purchase</b> |
| Department of Defence                             | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>5 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Defence                             | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>2 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Defence                             | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>3 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Defence                             | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>3 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Employment and Workplace Relations  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>2 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Environment, Heritage and the Arts  | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>5 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Health and Ageing                   | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>  | <b>2 Yrs</b>            |
| Department of Human Services                      | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>  | <b>1 Yr</b>             |

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| Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS &amp; TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b> | <b>1 Yr + extn options</b> |
| Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                         | <b>1 Yr</b>                |
| Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts     | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>                          | <b>5 Yrs</b>               |
| Director of Public Prosecutions                          | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                         | <b>2 Yrs</b>               |
| Federal Court of Australia                               | <b>VOLUME SOURCING ARRANGEMENT</b>                | <b>One-off Purchase</b>    |
| Geoscience Australia                                     | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                         | <b>3 Yrs</b>               |
| GeoScience Australia                                     | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>                          | <b>3 Yrs</b>               |
| Medicare Australia                                       | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>                         | <b>1 Yr</b>                |
| Murray-Darling Basin Authority                           | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>                          | <b>One-off Purchase</b>    |
| Murray-Darling Basin Authority                           | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>                          | <b>One-off Purchase</b>    |

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|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| National Health and Medical Research Council | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>     | <b>3 Yrs</b>              |
| Office of Parliamentary Counsel              | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>     | <b>One-off Purchase</b>   |
| Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman         | <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>    | <b>2 Yrs</b>              |
| Therapeutic Goods Administration             | <b>MAJOR OFFICE MACHINES</b> | <b>One-off Purchase</b>   |
| Department of the Treasury                   | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>     | <b>One-off Purchase</b>   |
| Department of the Treasury                   | <b>DESKTOP COMPUTERS</b>     | <b>One-off Purchase</b>   |