

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Outcome: 1

Topic: Consultancies

Senator: ABETZ

Question reference number: 66

Type of question: Written, Tuesday 19 October 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

- a) 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?
- b) Has there been any changes in the consultancies that 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.
- c) 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.

Number of pages:2

Answer:

a) As a newly established agency the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government is currently awaiting confirmation that we can register contracts in our own right on the Government's tender and contracts website. However as an interim measure, contracts entered into by the Department will be recorded on the AusTender website by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

b) Given that the Department was not established at the time of the 2010-11 budget process no Annual Procurement Plan (APP) has as yet been established on the AusTender website.

c)

Contract	Rational / Intended Use
Grey Advantage Consulting Pty Ltd	Development of a shared services scoping study and benchmarking to support the establishment of the initial structure of the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Moore Stephens Canberra Pty Ltd	Development of the initial budget and subsequent New Policy Proposal (NPP) for the newly established Department
Moore Stephens Canberra Pty Ltd	Undertake a due diligence study of s.32 and s.72 transfers of initial appropriation funding and staff from feeder agencies to the newly established Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.
Morison Consulting Pty Limited	The provision of high level financial advice in relation to the establishment of financial processes and structures in the new Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

All four consultancies provide access to specialist financial, costing, due diligence and benchmarking skills and support during the inception phase of the new department.