

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(166) Output 1.5: Detention

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Has the Government held discussions with any interested or relevant parties regarding the future of the Port Hedland detention facility since February 2007? Is there any plan to lease or sell the facility?
2. Has the Department or other Government agency consulted or met with local councils, community and industry groups about the future of the Port Hedland detention facility? If so, who?
3. Have there been any feasibility studies conducted to use the facility as temporary accommodation for workers in the area?
4. Has the Government considered conducting any feasibility studies for the use of the Port Hedland facility in any other capacity?

Answer:

1. The Government has not held discussions with interested or relevant parties in regard to the future of the Port Hedland detention facility since February 2007. There is a plan to lease the facility and it is expected that a 24 month lease will be signed in mid July 2007. There is no plan to sell the facility.
2. The Department has met with local councils, community and industry groups about the future of the Port Hedland detention facility.

These meetings were in the context of a Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) which followed an announcement by Minister Andrews on 16 March 2007 that the Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre (PHIDC) would be leased as temporary accommodation in a bid to ease the acute housing shortage in north-west Western Australia.

An REOI was advertised in the West Australian of 24 March 2007. Enquiries were received from thirty-four organisations (**Attachment 1**). Of those thirty-four organisations, sixteen attended a detailed on-site briefing on 2 April 2007. These included the Town of Port Hedland and major local industry and community groups (**Attachment 2**). The REOI closed on 13 April 2007.

On 28 May 2007, as part of the subsequent Request for Tender (RFT) process, shortlisted respondents were invited to discuss matters relevant to the RFT on site with the Project Officer. Tenders closed on 19 June 2007.

3. No feasibility studies have been conducted to use the facility as temporary accommodation for workers in the area.
4. The Government will review the longer term role of the PHIDC in the context of the FY 2008-09 budget.

Attachment 1 – List of Enquiries

| Serial | Organisation |
|--------|---|
| 1. | Port Hedland Shire |
| 2. | Hedland First National |
| 3. | Seven Four Seven inc Pty Ltd |
| 4. | Total Motel Management |
| 5. | ISS Facility Services Pty Ltd |
| 6. | ISS |
| 7. | Chris Berry |
| 8. | Brian McGillivray |
| 9. | Ridwest Mechanical Contracting Pty Ltd Port Hedland |
| 10. | Ridwest Mechanical Contracting Pty Ltd Perth |
| 11. | Agim Khaled |
| 12. | Pilbara Meta Maya Aboriginal Corporation |
| 13. | Greg Bathgate |
| 14. | Simto Australia |
| 15. | Fortescue Metals Group Limited |
| 16. | Gary Burmester |
| 17. | Compass Group Perth |
| 18. | Auzcorp Group Ltd |
| 19. | Action Industrial Catering Perth |
| 20. | Team 45 |
| 21. | Engenium |
| 22. | YMCA Perth |
| 23. | Churchill Capital |
| 24. | NRW |
| 25. | Jonker Contracting |
| 26. | Base Camp Emerald Pty Ltd |
| 27. | Transfield Services |
| 28. | Hospitality Total Services |
| 29. | CountryState |
| 30. | John Dowling |
| 31. | Office of Tom Stephens, Member for Pilbara |
| 32. | Dept of Defence |
| 33. | FACSA |
| 34. | WA Country Health Services |

Attachment 2 – Attendance at Site Inspection

| Serial | Organisation |
|--------|---|
| 1. | Ridwest Mechanical Contracting Pty Ltd |
| 2. | Base Camp Emerald Pty Ltd/Jonker Plant Hire |
| 3. | Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation |
| 4. | Compass Group (Australia) Pty Ltd |
| 5. | Hedland First National |
| 6. | Fortescue Metals Group Limited |
| 7. | Port Hedland Council |
| 8. | YMCA |
| 9. | Seven Four Seven inc Pty Ltd |
| 11. | Action Industrial Catering |
| 12. | ISS Facility Services |
| 13. | Team 45 |
| 14. | Auzcorp Group Ltd |
| 15. | ADF |
| 16. | BHP Billiton |