

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 238

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) Is this rapid response capability program complete?
- b) Were the funds fully expended?
- c) How were the funds expended? (specify allocation)
- d) Were any positions tied directly to this program?
 - (i) If yes, now the program has been expired are they redundant?
- e) Did it meet budget?
- f) How much did it go over or under?
- g) Please provide a breakdown of final expenditure?
- h) Do you believe our rapid response capability is up to scratch?
- i) The funding was for the provision of technical and communications platforms and facilities similar to those available in metropolitan areas to be provided to rural areas, is that correct?
- j) Could you indicate whether this was completed?
 - (i) What hardware was provided under this scheme?
 - (ii) Where was this hardware sourced from?
 - (iii) What sort of tender scheme was provided for the supply of the hardware?
 - (iv) Was this tender open or closed, and why?
 - (v) If it was closed, who was invited to tender and how were they chosen?
 - (vi) If it was open, where was it advertised?
- k) What was the cost of any hardware that was sourced under the scheme?
- l) Was the purpose of the project to add this capability to existing AFP remote offices and command posts, or was it to allow the AFP to expand its capability into remote offices and command posts at a later date?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Yes.
- b) The budget was fully expended.
- c) Refer to answers to (g) and (j).
- d) Yes.
 - (i) Yes.
- e) Yes.
- f) Not applicable.
- g) The program was made up of two distinct components, rapid response forensic capability and rapid response communication and technical capability. A breakdown of expenditure between the two components is as follows:

	Operating Expenses inc depreciation	Capital Expenses	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Forensic Capability	0.5	0.8	1.3
Communications & Technical Capability	3.6	2.3	5.9
Total	4.1	3.1	7.2

- h) Yes.
- i) Yes.
- j) Yes.
- (i) One 4x4 Truck and Heavy Duty Trailer
Two 6x6 Trucks and Heavy Duty Trailer
Forensic Van
Communications Equipment
IT Equipment
Surveillance Equipment
Audio/Video Equipment
Power Generation
Forensic Equipment
- (ii) The vehicles were purchased from local dealers in Australia and fitted out by a local company. Ancillary equipment was purchased from local merchants and specialist equipment purchased from sole suppliers.
- (iii) Single source supplier arrangements was the method used to procure major capital equipment. Minor capital equipment was generally procured using simple procurement guidelines, except where equipment was specialist in nature, where it was procured from single known suppliers.
- (iv) The tender process was closed. The project was preceded by a Rapid Response capability project for CHOGM, which was conducted using a single source procurement process, due to the urgency requirements of CHOGM.
- The Rapid Response Project vehicles were procured by single source based on the following reasons:
- continuity of equipment/fit out requirements with the existing CHOGM vehicle;
 - reduce the training needs of PTT members;
 - cost effectiveness, as the supplier had already developed the Technical Specifications and the process of re-tendering would not provide value for money; and
 - the supplier already had the security requirements.
- (v) Rambler Concept Vehicles were chosen, based on the outline above.
- (vi) Not applicable.
- k) The cost for Capital Equipment was \$3.1m.

- 1) The project's scope was to provide a capability for a Rapid Response to allow Police operations to be conducted in remote areas of mainland Australia. In addition, this capability is able to provide a limited business continuity capability.

The project expanded the response capability delivered under CHOGM (based in Brisbane), with a response capability based in Perth and an air deployable response capability based in Sydney. In addition, the project provided the AFP with a rapid response forensic capability.