

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(91) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA 86) asked:

(1) Can the department confirm that CSS contracted Mine Site Services to undertake clearing and ground works on Stage 2 and Stage 3, if you refer to the master plan that we have in front of us of the project, to remove the heavily wooded vegetation and level and grade the site for commencement of construction?

(2) When were Mine Site Services provided with a letter of intent to conduct these works and what, if any, other works were Mine Site Services contracted to perform?

Answer:

(1) The Department of Defence engaged their contractors initially to clear the vegetation on the site. That work would have been sufficient for what was initially suggested for Stage 2 and the proposed Stage 3 sites. However, as blast exclusion zones were later identified by the Department of Defence as encroaching into the proposed area, additional clearing became necessary.

Mine Site Construction Services was engaged by CSS to level and compact the site. When the blast zones were identified, CSS used Mine Site Construction Services to clear the additional land away from the blast exclusion zones. Mine Site Construction Services had appropriate machinery onsite and it was more cost effective than bringing back the Defence contractors.

(2) CSS signed a letter of intent for Mine Site Construction Services on 9 August 2010. This letter was not a contract but put them on notice that their services might be required should the contract proceed. CSS advise that Mine Site Construction Services had a variety of roles in this project, including dust suppression, compaction, excavation works, supply of road base materials, and bulk earth works.