

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

Question No.: CORP 01

Topic: REX Government Business

Hansard Page: p. 35 (Monday, 14/2/05)

Output: Corporate Group

Senator Bishop asked:

According to the *Fin Review* on 22 December 2004 Mr Anderson released a Statement stating that Rex received 13 per cent of Government business on the Sydney-Canberra route. My office has been unable to find that Statement and it is certainly indicatively inconsistent with the figures you gave me.

We have been unable to locate the Statement in the newspaper article attributed to Mr Anderson's office. I am seeking a copy of that to be provided to the Committee.

Answer:

There was neither a press release nor a formal statement from the Minister on Whole-of-Government travel statistics. Whole-of-Government information on Government travel can be obtained from the Department of Finance and Administration.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

Question No.: CORP 03

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Not applicable – post hearing written question

Output: Corporate Group

Senator Carr asked:

Please provide a table listing details of all consultancies for the 2003/04 financial year, for the Department and all associated Agencies. Please include the following:

- The costs for all completed consultancies, both budgeted and actual;
- The costs for ongoing consultancies, both budgeted and for the current financial year;
- The total costs for all consultancies, both the amount expended in the current financial year, and the total budgeted value of all consultancies running in the current financial year;
- The nature and purpose of the consultancy;
- The method by which the contract was let;

The name and details of the company and/or individual who is carrying out, or carried out, the contract.

Answer:

For the 2003-04 financial year, Australian Government policy required agencies that are subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) to report all Commonwealth contracts and agency agreements, including standing offers, with an estimated liability (including GST where applicable) of \$2,000 or more in the Gazette Publishing System (GaPS – now called AusTender), within six weeks of entering into the arrangement. The information recorded in AusTender includes a short description of each contract, the provider of the goods or services, the value of the contract and the selection process. Details of all consultancies with a contract value of \$2,000 or more are therefore already publicly-available, *albeit* not in a form that distinguishes consultancies from non-consultancy contracts. Further, the Department's Annual Reports provide information about the number of consultancy contracts let in the financial year to which each Report relates, and the total value of payments made to consultants each year, regardless of when the consultancy contract was let. Annual Reports also list each consultancy contract let during the year with a value of \$10,000 or more, and provide details of the consultant's identify, the purpose

of the consultancy, the contract price and method of selection. The listing for 2003-04 appears in the electronic supplement to the printed Annual Report on the Department's website.

The Department has provided 2004-05 year to date (to 16 March 2005) consultancies of \$10,000 and over in accordance with the format used in Annual Reports for previous financial years.

To provide more information would involve a significant diversion of resources and elicit information already on the public record. In the circumstances, the Department does not consider that the additional work can be justified.