

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Housing & Community Development and Public Employment:

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION – BUDGET / OUTSOURCING / REVIEWS

Note 1:

The following questions were asked prior to the 2017 and 2018 Estimates Hearings and will be asked again, amongst others, prior to the 2019 Estimates Hearings.

The “Interim report—an independent assessment of the Northern Territory’s fiscal position and medium–term outlook” (Interim Report) released on 14 December 2018 highlighted the need for greater scrutiny of the Territory’s deteriorating financial situation. As such the Northern Territory Opposition seeks interim information as at 31 December 2018.

Note 2:

If there is to be a Whole of Government response to any of the questions, a timely referral to the Minister responsible would be greatly appreciated.

For all Agencies falling under your portfolio areas of responsibility:

BUDGET

1. Following the release of the Interim Report on 14 December 2018, what budget savings measures have been or will be put in place in each agency under your responsibility?

OUTSOURCING

2. For the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018, detail any decision(s) to outsource, contract out or privatise functions that have previously been carried out by the Agency. Is consideration being given to outsource, contract-out or privatise in financial year 2018/19? If so, provide details.

PROCUREMENT / CONSULTANCIES

3. For the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018, please detail expenditure on each report and consultancy (excluding annual reports) that has been obtained from outside the NTPS. For each report/consultancy detail:
 - a) Purpose
 - b) Cost
 - c) Person or entity engaged
 - d) Whether the person or entity has their principal place of business in the Northern Territory or elsewhere (if elsewhere, please provide the address of the principal place of business of the person or entity)
 - e) Whether a report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly as a result of the report or consultancy
 - f) Outcomes or key performance indicators for the report or consultancy
 - g) Whether tenders or expressions of interest were invited prior to work on the report or consultancy being undertaken
4. Please detail expenditure paid, or expected to be paid, to Hawker Britton and/or associated entities for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018. Outline the tasks performed.
5. How many contracts and tenders have been awarded to business entities with their principal place of business in the Northern Territory so far, and what works have been undertaken?
6. How many contracts have been awarded to business entities with a principal place of business outside the Northern Territory for the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018? Detail the work being undertaken by each business entity and the selection criteria for the successful business entity on the applicable contract or tender.
7. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many public quotations were undertaken during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018?
8. For Tier 3, Tier 4 and Tier 5 procurement activities, how many contracts or tenders were awarded without undertaking a public quotation process during the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018?

9. For each instance identified above in question 8, where a public quotation process was not undertaken, including for Certificates of Exemption:
- a) What is the description of the goods and services contracted?
 - b) What is the value of the goods and services contracted?
 - c) What was the reason for not using the public quotation process or for requiring a Certificate of Exemption?
 - d) Who recommended the course of action in c) above?
 - e) Who approved the course of action in c) above?
10. Please advise the total number of NTG Corporate Credit Cards within the Agency, including the position titles and levels of the staff holding the corporate credit cards for the purchase of goods and/or services as at 31 December 2018.

INTERNAL AUDITS

11. How many internal audits and financial investigations were conducted in the period beginning 1 July 2018 and ending 31 December 2018?
12. What were the terms of reference or focus for each investigation?
13. Please provide detail of any fraud, anomalies, breaches of financial legislation or Northern Territory Government policy and procedures exposed by the audits and financial investigations.

REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

14. Details of all reviews and inquiries completed or commenced during the 2018/19 financial year, as at 31 December 2018 also providing the following information:
- a) The Terms of Reference
 - b) The criteria for selection of all panel members
 - c) The composition, qualifications and state or territory of residence of the persons undertaking the review/inquiry
 - d) The cost of the review/inquiry
 - e) How the information was/is accumulated to contribute to the review/inquiry
 - f) If completed, when, the outcome and whether the report has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly
 - g) If not completed when this is expected
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ANSWER

Thank you for your questions submitted for the 2019 Budget Estimates Hearings. As per the standard process, answers will be provided prior to the Estimates Hearings.