

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Treasurer and Minister for Business; Employment and Training; Local Government and Regions; Defence Industries and Community Support; Alcohol Policy; and Corporate and Information Services

Ministerial Communications, Staffing and Certificates of Exemption DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONS

1. For all departments, agencies and authorities you are responsible for, please detail as of 1 July 2013 and as of 1 July 2014:
 - a. total staffing numbers;
 - b. total staffing numbers by FTE;
 - c. a breakdown by classification and level;
 - d. by classification and level, the number of permanent employees; and
 - e. by classification and level, the number temporary employees.

ANSWER:

Government agencies are currently preparing data for verification and inclusion in end of year financial statements. Once approved by Accountable Officers and audits have been completed, end of year financial data will be available in agency Annual Reports in accordance with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* and the *Financial Management Act*.

Financial information included in this Written Question is to 31 March 2014 and is comparable with any financial information that was tabled during the Estimates Committee Hearings.

(answer continued over page)

For the Department of Local Government and Regions:

Staffing Numbers 1 July 2013

Paid Classification	Permanent	Temporary/ Contract	Total Pay Period FTE - Pay 26, 2012-13
	Pay Period FTE	Pay Period FTE	
AO2	1		1
AO3		1	1
AO4	2	0.6	2.6
AO5	2		2
AO6	11.4	3	14.4
AO7	7.5		7.5
SAO1	7.7	0.8	8.5
SAO2	1		1
EO1C		6	6
EO3C		1	1
P3	1		1
Grand Total	33.6	12.4	46

Staffing Numbers 31 March 2014

Paid Classification	Permanent	Temporary/ Contract	Total Pay Period FTE - Pay 20, 2013-14
	Pay Period FTE	Pay Period FTE	
AO2	1		1
AO3	1		1
AO4	2	1.6	3.6
AO5	1		1
AO6	11.9	2	13.9
AO7	3.7	2.6	6.3
EO1C		6	6
EO4C		1	1
SAO1	8	0.8	8.8
SAO2	2		2
Grand Total	30.6	14	44.6

2. Have you or any of your Ministerial Staff engaged in formal or informal communications with L and B MacFarlane (or their representatives) concerning any matter in relation to a water extraction license? If so:

ANSWER: Not relevant

- a. Which Ministers and Ministerial Advisers have engaged in the communications?
- b. What was the substance of the communications?
- c. When did the communications take place?

3. Have you or any of your Ministerial staff engaged in formal or informal communications with Peter Maley (or his representatives) concerning any matter in relation to a water extraction license? If so:

ANSWER: Not relevant

- a. Which Ministers and Ministerial Advisers have engaged in the communications?
 - b. What was the substance of the communications?
 - c. When did the communications take place
4. For each Government Agency and Authority how many Certificates of Exemption were issued in 2013/14?

ANSWER: For 2013/14 the Department of Local Government and Regions issued one Certificate of Exemption.

For each Certificate of Exemption:

- a. What is the description of the goods and services contracted?

The procurement was a consultancy to provide an updated report on the financial viability and sustainability of the Territory's eight Regional Councils and three smaller shire councils.

- b. What is the value of the goods and services contracted?

\$49 000.

- c. Why was the Certificate of Exemption required?

In 2012, the former Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services, procured the services of a local accounting firm which reviewed the financial sustainability of the Northern Territory's eight regional and three smaller shire councils and issued its key findings and recommendations in a report titled "Review of Councils' Financial Sustainability".

In 2013, as part of the review of Local Government, the Department of Local Government and Regions issued a Certificate of Exemption to engage the same accounting firm to review the key findings of its 2012 report and assess the progress that had been made in regards to implementation of the report's recommendations and to highlight any outstanding issues relating to regional council viability and sustainability.

- d. Who recommended the Certificate of Exemption?

Mr Allan McGill, the former Chief Executive of the Department of Local Government and Regions.

- e. Who approved the Certificate of exemption?

Mr Allan McGill, the former Chief Executive of the Department of Local Government and Regions.

- f. Who was awarded the contract?

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.
