

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Procurement

- 1. Procurement has come under serious questions from the business community, what measures have been taken by the Department to ensure that the process is fair, and transparent?**

To ensure the procurement process is fair and transparent, DIPL has a dedicated group of experienced and accredited procurement practitioners providing procurement advice and quality assurance in procurement processes to our staff.

The Procurement Operations team provide facilitation and oversight to every Tier 3 quotation, and Tier 4 and Tier 5 tender as it progresses through the planning, tendering and assessment phases of the procurement lifecycle.

The Department's Agency Procurement Management Plan describes an internal approval pathway that mandates review by independent delegate at several stages of the process.

The team provides DIPL staff with oversight, strategic advice and operational support and training for all procurement activities to deliver a range of Departmental procurement outcomes in a timely manner, in compliance with the NT Government's regulatory frameworks and policies and that demonstrate Value for Territory outcomes.

DIPL have presented three Value for Territory audits to the Buy Local Industry Advocate, with two closed out confirming our compliance to the procurement framework delivered Value for Territory; the third audit close out is yet to be finalised.

Government continues to look at ways to improve procurement processes to ensure decisions are fair and transparent, and reasons are clearly communicated to tenderers.

Further information on Procurement Governance Policy and Rules is available at: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/government/what-you-need-to-know-about-procurement/procurement-rules>

- 2. Have the number of complaints about the tendering process increased or decreased in the financial year 18/19? Why is this so?**

DIPL is the biggest procurer of works and services in the NT, representing 48 percent of all contracts awarded by all departments (including Health, Power Water and DCIS), and 40 percent of award value across all contract types.

The Department received 50 complaints in 2018-19, slightly lower than the 51 complaints received in 2017-18. This represents less than 2 percent of tenderers.