

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

**Remote Housing Contracts – Ingkerreke Commercial**

- 1. Please provide the number of select tenders awarded to Ingkerreke Commercial over the period January 2016 to September 2021.**

For remote housing works, five select tenders have been awarded to Ingkerreke Commercial over this period.

- 2. Please provide the total cost of the awarded contracts for new homes constructed at Mutitjulu completed by Ingkerreke Commercial during the period January 2018 to December 2020 period?**

The tender for the replacement of two dwellings and 26 upgrades was awarded to Ingkerreke Commercial on 29 October 2018 for \$2.7 million. The cost for the replacement dwellings, as a component of this tender was \$984 000.

- 3. Is the cost as per question two considered under the market price for completing these homes?**

The tender price submitted by Ingkerreke Commercial for the replacement dwellings was considered to be within the benchmark pricing for a three-bedroom block dwelling in 2018.

- 4. Were any issues raised at the cost of the contracts awarded?**

As above.

- 5. Has the Government paid Ingkerreke Commercial any payments in relation to the construction of homes at Lot numbers 330, 15 and 327, Town of Hermannsburg?**

Yes.

- 6. Has the Government been made aware of the current financial status of Ingkerreke Commercial?**

The Department has been made aware that a voluntary administrator was appointed.

**7. Is Ingkerreke Commercial still listed as a CAL accredited Contractor?**

On 25 November 2021, Ingkerreke Commercial was not listed as a CAL Accredited Contractor on the public website.

**8. What will occur with any existing contracts already awarded to Ingkerreke Commercial?**

If a company becomes insolvent or bankrupt or goes into liquidation, DIPL contracts provide a mechanism to terminate.

The Department is formalising the contract termination process for each of the contracts held with Ingkerreke Commercial Pty Ltd.

Alternative arrangements for each of these contracts is being explored. Various solutions may be implemented to minimise the impacts of liquidation, including the re-tendering or utilising existing sub-contractors to complete the works.

**9. Have concerns of sub-contractors who have been in contact with Government departments been taken into consideration with the awarding of works?**

The Department is considering each project to determine an appropriate option to complete any outstanding works. This may include a direct approach to sub-contractors, should they be best placed to complete outstanding works.

**10. Please provide the number of emails received from sub-contractors over the last 12 months to either remote housing agencies or to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics outlining concerns regarding Ingkerreke Commercial's financial situation during that period?**

Five emails have been received by contractors. All were responded to, highlighting the contractual relations between the Department and Ingkerreke Commercial. Contractual obligation of Ingkerreke to provide declaration of payment to sub-contractors was confirmed in correspondence.

**11. The NT Government's Request for Tender Document (Clause 10, p17) provides that declarations of financial status must be provided. Have these declarations been sought prior to ongoing payments to Ingkerreke Commercial and have there been any instances where documents were not sought?**

Declarations of financial status must be provided during the tender process. There is no requirement to provide further clarification once contract is awarded.

- 12. Has there been an audit process in place to ensure that the head contractor has been paying its sub-contractors prior to releasing monies?**

Under the contract terms, the contractor must provide declaration of payment to contractors.

- 13. Has the Department received confirmation of sub-contractor payments from Ingkerreke Commercial prior to releasing payments?**

Yes.