

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Housing and Community Development:

Remote Housing Tender Schedules

1. Who is responsible for updating products, items and materials listed in Remote Housing tender documents?

Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

The two departments are working together to update the documents at this time.

2. How often does the Department consult with the manufacturing and supply sectors about innovations and new products which could be provided in remote houses?

In April 2018, the then Department of Housing and Community Development convened an industry forum for businesses to learn more about the \$1.1 billion Remote Housing Investment Package, 'Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes.'

The forum invited industry to present innovative solutions that included:

- remote housing design and construction;
- remote housing construction materials and internal fit outs; and
- sustainable and renewable energy alternatives for items such as power, water and sewerage.

Several companies took up the opportunity to demonstrate their products and have subsequently joined up with builders to submit alternative tenders for construction within the program.

Various staff within both departments are members of several associations and are constantly looking at innovative products to establish if they are suitable.

A further forum is planned in June 2019.

3. How many products listed on tender schedules are now obsolete? Please provide examples.

A review of the schedule is currently underway and is expected to be completed in April 2019.

4. When was the last time the Generic Clauses for New Houses document *IPT-00-000-ARC-SPE-016* was substantively reviewed and updated?

In 2015, the then Department of Housing released a new version of the schedule of materials for new builds and upgrades, with some updates, noting changes to some obsolete items or where item details changed, in 2016.

A full review is currently underway and expected completion is in April 2019.

5. When was the last time the Specification Technical Clauses document *IPT-00-000ARC-SPE-017* was substantively reviewed and updated?

The schedule is also under review with expected completion in April 2019.

6. On how many instances have repairs and maintenance contractors identified and replaced obsolete items in repairs work on remote houses which have been either built or renovated since August 2016?

The information of obsolete items is identified through various means, including the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development's Property Contract Officers who deal directly with the repairs and maintenance contractors and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Project Managers who deal directly with the new build and upgrade contractors.

7. How does the Department ensure that innovation and value for money is ensured in tender requirements?

- The tender documentation includes the opportunity for respondents to offer alternative solutions in the construction of new dwellings, where there has been no specific request through local decision making.
- A technical review is undertaken where an alternative solution is received to ensure that compliance with the specifications and robustness can be achieved.
- The Remote Community Housing Design Guidelines are being prepared as part of the review of the schedule and specifications to assist proponents who put forward an alternative to block construction.