

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins for the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development:

Miscellaneous Questions

1. How many local Councils have failed to lodge their annual financial statements in time and who were they? Are they facing any penalties?

All 17 local government councils lodged their 2017-18 annual report, by the statutory due date of 15 November 2018.

2. The Auditor-General has identified “control deficiencies and weakness across the procurement lifecycle and non-compliance with procurement rules” by your agency – how have her concerns been addressed?

Structural changes, within the procurement unit have included the amalgamation of the procurement and contract teams, bringing the procurement lifecycle together to strengthen the end-to-end procurement process.

The Central Procurement Unit engaged a consultant to review and update procurement and contract management processes, governance, systems, and staffing, including the building of procurement and contract management capability across the Department.

The Department is currently working through the following priorities to help in addressing the deficiencies in the procurement lifecycle:

- establish a Procurement and Contract Management System to provide a centralised reporting system for procurement and contracts;

- develop and implement a robust compliance check process with a view to closing contract management documentation gaps for all open contracts;
- develop a range of process flows, guides, fact sheets, checklists tools and templates to create standardised and consistent procurement processes and improve in areas where team capability development is required; and
- develop capability training packs to reiterate policy, business rules, roles and responsibilities across the procurement lifecycle.

The Department has developed a new procurement functional model and governance framework that clearly describes roles and responsibilities in respect to key stakeholders in procurement, how business units interface with the Central Procurement Unit and establish work flow processes to manage and support procurement.

3. From the answers to the Global Questions, the Public Housing Appeals Board did not convene a meeting from 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2019 – why would that be? What is the average number of meetings for the Board per year?

From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, there were five Second Tier appeals. The five appeals were resolved internally to the satisfaction of both the appellant and Department, therefore a board was not convened.

4. How much does it cost for the Board to operate?

The operating cost of the board is dependent on how often it sits. Members are remunerated at \$405 per day while the Chairperson is remunerated at \$719 per day. When the board is convened for a hearing, one Chairperson and two members are required.