

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Northern Australia and Trade:

Northern Territory Representative to Indonesia

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) select tender for the Provision of Consultancy for Northern Territory Representative to Indonesia for a period of 12 months was cancelled on 20 July 2021 with “Nil Responses” and cancelled again with “Nil Responses” on 8 September 2021.

Questions:

1. **Is there a current NT Representative to Indonesia?**
 - a) **If yes, who is this and when does their tenure expire?**
 - b) **If no, who was the last NT representative and when did they cease in this role?**

Mr Bill Farmer AO, a former Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, has been contracted since November 2017.

2. **Please provide an outline of the primary objective of this role.**

The representative will provide direct assistance to the Northern Territory Government, businesses and industry, including but not limited to, facilitating diplomatic trade, investment and cultural delegations.

3. **Why is the term for this role only 12 months?**

The procurement was for a 12 month consultancy, with 2 by 12 month extension options. This allows the Department to review the consultant's progress against the agreed work plan and ensure suitability before renewing the contract. This is common practice for employing international consultants.

4. **Who was invited to the select tender in July and in September?**

The Department identified a highly qualified Indonesian citizen with extensive government, trade and investment expertise; who has previously served in the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry and has extensive knowledge of the Northern Territory, as the preferred candidate to appoint to the position.

As the individual has not been appointed to the role, it would be inappropriate to share their name.

5. How can DITT invite parties to a select tender without knowledge that none of the parties were interested in tendering for the role?

The criteria of the role requires a highly qualified Indonesian citizen, currently living in Indonesia. Options were researched utilising in-country networks and an ideal candidate was identified.

6. After two failed attempts to attract a tender submission, how and when will DITT next seek a prospective consultant as its NT Representative to Indonesia?

The Department is reviewing a number of alternative candidates who are suitably qualified.