

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:

Annual Report – Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

1. Is there a reason behind the large gap between requests for certificates and certificates issued in the Alice Springs Town Council area?

2. What were the reasons behind the 50% increase between actual and budgeted expenditure in 2016-17 on “purchases of goods and services”. Is there a further breakdown of the goods and services purchased?

Response to 1.

Data in the 2016-17 Annual Report relating to requests for Authority Certificates reflects the number of applications for Authority Certificates received in the reporting period. Certificates issued in the reporting period may also be in response to applications received in the previous financial year. The gap between requests for certificates and certificates issued in the Alice Springs town area is explained by a number of applications being received late in the financial year, and a number of complex applications still in progress. In addition some requests received have subsequently been withdrawn. Once these factors are taken into account there is not a significant gap between requests for certificates and certificates issued in Alice Springs. The difference reflects the active workload of the Authority in Alice Springs.

Response to 2.

AAPA services are demand driven and cost recoverable so revenue and expenditure tends to move in unison.

In 2016/17 AAPA Purchases of Goods and Services exceeded budget by \$508K. This additional expenditure was due to costs incurred in earning the additional \$1,095 in revenue.

Major items of additional budget included (\$,000s):

Consulting anthropologists	\$377
Airfares and travel expenses	\$59
Motor vehicle expenses	\$41

All of the above related to the additional workload due to extra activity.

All other variations were less than \$40K.