

Question on Notice
No. 1481
Asked on 9 October 2008

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the new State Procurement Policy -

- (1) What was the cost to the Department of Public Works for the development and implementation of the policy and how does this differ from the previous policy?
- (2) Will this now allow for full and open disclosure of Government tenders and contracts to be publicly available during and after the procurement process for each contract?
- (3) Will Queensland businesses be given every available opportunity to compete for tenders to encourage growth in the business sector in Queensland?
- (4) What competitive advantage will there be to Queensland-owned and based companies through the tendering process?

ANSWER:

- (1) The development of the new State Procurement Policy was undertaken by the Queensland Government Chief Procurement Office within the Department of Public Works in 2006-2007 using a team of two officers. The development of the new policy included a review of the former State Purchasing Policy and involved consultation with agencies, business and industry. The total salary cost for the two officers during the course of the project was approximately \$220,000. Some external costs totalling \$37,200 were also incurred for printing, travel, accommodation and venue hire costs for consultation with industry and the public sector. The previous review in 1999-2001 was estimated to have cost approximately \$3 million. This cost included the development and implementation of the policy, and involved more extensive research, consultation and change management because of the new direction that the policy took at that time. As the 2000 State Purchasing Policy radically modernised procurement, the more recent review was largely a refinement of the policy to ensure that it continued to represent best practice and replaced the hopelessly inadequate purchasing policy used by the Borbidge Coalition Government.
- (2) As part of the Bligh Government's commitment to openness, the new State Procurement Policy incorporates additional requirements to improve the accessibility and transparency of the government supply arrangements. All public tenders must now be advertised on a common site and this can be found at the Queensland Government Marketplace website <http://www.qgm.qld.gov.au/>. Tendered responses will continue to be evaluated in a secure environment to ensure that matters such as commercial in confidence information are maintained.

Budget-sector agencies must publish details in relation to awarded contracts valued over \$100,000. The details to be published include:

- the name and address of the procuring entity
- a description of the goods or services procured
- the date of award or contract date
- the contract value

- the name and address of the successful supplier
- the procurement method used.

These details are to be published on the Queensland Government Marketplace website after the procurement process.

- (3) The new policy requires agencies to use their best endeavours to ensure that local firms are given full, fair and reasonable opportunity to supply the Queensland Government. This ensures agencies go no further than is necessary to secure competitive supply and includes the local town, region, the State and only beyond the State borders if there is no alternative.
- (4) As mentioned above, Queensland based companies are given full, fair and reasonable opportunity to supply the Queensland Government. Queensland's participation in the Australia New Zealand Government Procurement Agreement and the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement prevents providing any advantage to firms based on origin or ownership.