

Question on Notice

No. 622

Asked on 10 September 2013

MR HOLSWICH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND THE ARTS (MR WALKER)—

Will the Minister advise how the Newman Government's ICT strategy will benefit Queensland ICT small to medium enterprises, including those based in the Pine Rivers Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Newman Government values the pivotal role that small to medium enterprises (SMEs), including those based in the Pine Rivers Electorate, play in growing the Queensland economy.

In recognising this role, we are determined to remove the barriers to government business that SMEs have previously faced and create the conditions that will enable SMEs to provide ICT solutions to government more effectively than ever before. Through the ICT Strategy and the associated ICT action plan, the Government has issued the blueprint by which we can engage more productively with the broader ICT industry.

The ICT Action Plan envisions a public sector working more effectively with business to deliver the best possible service, at the best possible price, to Queensland taxpayers. It outlines in more detail how we will achieve this vision of a modern ICT environment by leveraging the innovative thinking, flexibility, accessibility and value for money that SMEs can provide.

The plan describes how we are streamlining our procurement processes to make it easier for SMEs to work with government, meaning that the local ICT sector, including the 40 or so SMEs based in the Pine Rivers electorate, will have an improved capacity to bid for government ICT contracts.

This will be achieved through a series of actions, including, firstly, at least one responding SME capable of delivering will automatically be short listed in the evaluation of ICT offers.

Secondly, the Government Information Technology Conditions (GITC) framework is going to be reviewed and simplified for SMEs.

In addition, a simple ICT contractual framework for ICT procurements up to \$1 million will be put in place to provide all companies, including SMEs with increased opportunities to win government business by removing onerous red tape.

Further, significant contracts will be unbundled, where appropriate, to minimise risks to Government, improve value for money and harness innovative solutions. This

means that SMEs can align their capabilities to stages of a project and be competitive through the process.

The guidelines will also ensure that major consortiums cannot change sub-contracting arrangements relating to SMEs without the Government's express approval.

Finally, Government departments can directly engage SMEs in the provision of innovative solutions up to \$500,000 which demonstrate value for Queensland in addressing government priorities.

The Government closely collaborated with a wide range of industry stakeholders in developing the ICT action plan. As we continue to deliver services in new and innovative ways, we will again engage with the ICT industry, including local SMEs, to transform the way the Newman Government delivers ICT services to Queenslanders.