

Question on Notice
No. 198
Asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2019

MR E SORENSEN ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

Will the Minister detail the additional expenditure value of variations for procurement contracts that have occurred for the Department of Housing and Public Works since 2015-16 (reported separately by financial year)?

ANSWER

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Housing and Public Works (the department) delivers a diverse range of services to benefit Queenslanders and support Government service deliveries.

Machinery-of-government changes following the Queensland State General Election in November 2017 broadened the department's focus considerably, with the addition of a range of new portfolio areas.

Sport and Recreation Services from the former Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing as well as the Smart Service Queensland, Queensland State Archives, Strategic ICT, Queensland Shared Services and Queensland Government Chief Information Office functions from the former Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation all joined the department.

In August 2018, Major Projects from the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning also joined the department.

In providing services to the community and government agencies, the department enters into hundreds of thousands of contracts each year, with a very broad range of contractors and suppliers.

Due to the diverse nature of its portfolio and extremely large volume of contracts, the department does not centrally report on individual variations for every contract, as described in the Member's question.

As the scope of the question is quite broad, I am advised that it would take significant resources to fully assess and provide additional expenditure value of all variations for every procurement contract since 2015-16, including for all entities that have joined the department over the last few years.

If the Member has a question about a specific departmental project, I would be pleased to seek that information from my department.

Contingency planning and contract variations are part of good contract management practices and are a normal part of the business of any government.

The department effectively manages contracts with suppliers to ensure the Queensland Government maximises benefits from procurement.