



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**13 November 2018**

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Asked by ELIZABETH LEE MLA:

In relation to: Contract for Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation at Tidbinbilla

**MS LEE:** No worries at all. Just going down to the next line item: the Aboriginal and heritage consultation at Tidbinbilla. That one has a select because it is exempt from quotation. Can you please explain why that was exempt from quotation?

**Ms T Lee:** Thao Lee, Chief Financial Officer from EPSDD. If I could just go back to that previous question in terms of the quotation I can answer. So quotation—I mean, obviously we go out and get quotation from several suppliers to make sure that we come in and we do a cost analysis to make sure that is the best provider for the service.

**MS LEE:** You do not have any for that particular line item?

**Ms T Lee:** Sorry?

**MS LEE:** You do not have any quotations you received for that particular line item?

**Ms T Lee:** I can take that on notice.

**MS LEE:** Yes, sure.

**Ms T Lee:** I mean, usually, we go out to at least three, but I can check that for you.

**MS LEE:** Yes, sure. At least three. That is the usual practice, yes, no worries. And yes, the question I have got just in relation to the why there was an exemption for the Aboriginal and Heritage consultation Tidbinbilla contract.

**Ms T Lee:** Sorry could you please point out which page was that?

**MS LEE:** So it is page 137, and it is 7 line item.

**Ms T Lee:** So that is—where you asked the question—that was a select contract.

**MS LEE:** So that one says that it was exempt from quotation and I am just wondering the reason.

**Ms T Lee:** So select for us is a resource where we base on—the searching contracts, so we do not go out to quotation, for example, because specialised skills or something we need in the directorate to perform our function, so we just go straight out to select the provider.

**MS LEE:** Okay. And what was the specific—in this specific instance?

**Ms T Lee:** That would be specialising, but I might have to take that on notice. It is a bit recent, but it would be in terms of there were requirement needs for that that we had to go specific to that vendor.

**MS LEE:** Yes, sure, no worries. Because I understand that you said that, you know, that might be one of the instances, but I just wanted to know for this specific item. And that contract itself is for a period of 6 weeks at a cost of almost \$200,000. Can you explain what the nature of that consultation was? Or what that contract was for.

**Mr Ponton:** I suspect we will need to take it on notice as well.

**MINISTER GENTLEMAN:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The contract was reported as 'select'; however exemption was granted only to approach suppliers that were not members of the 'Creative Services' panel. Exemption was provided as there was no identified Indigenous owned or operated businesses on the 'Creative Services' panel. Engaging an indigenous business ensured that a cultural expert implemented a consistent method of consultation and content collation across Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
2. Quotations were sought from 3 suppliers not on the 'Creative Services' panel.
3. The contract was for the quantitative evaluation of key themes, messages and stories related to Tidbinbilla with a particular focus on Ngunnawal culture. This was undertaken by engaging with the local Indigenous community, Tidbinbilla volunteers, education representatives, members of the heritage community and staff.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

26/11/18

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA