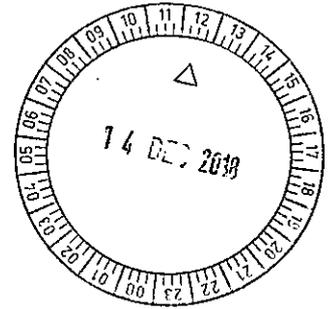


Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2017-18 Annual Report hearings - Additional questions



Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

The Committee asked:

1. During the hearings, Committee Members asked a number of questions to agencies affected by machinery of government changes about the process to amalgamate the various financial, human resource and administrative systems that operate within the agency. These questions arose from recent commentary from the Auditor General, who noted: 'progress with amalgamating systems of various constituent entities is slow, with most departments continuing to operate on several financial, human resource and administrative systems. This is impacting the realisation of cost savings that can be achieved by rationalising systems.' (Office of the Auditor General, *Audit Results Report - Annual 2017-18 Financial Audits of State Government Entities*, Report 7, November 2018, p 23).

- (a) Which financial, human resource and administrative systems are currently being used by the Department?

Answer:

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage currently utilises the following systems:

Category	System(s)
Financial	TechOne
Human resources	Ascender
Admin (projects)	Brightwork
Admin (electronic document records management and ministerial workflow add-ons)	Objective (Ministerial Workflow System and Correspondence Processing System)

- (b) Is there a plan to rationalise the numbers of those systems currently being used by the Department –

Answer:

Yes

- (i) If yes to (b), can you provide that plan?

Answer:

The plan for the rationalisation of systems relating to ministerial workflow add-ons is currently under review.

- (ii) If no to (b), why is there no plan?

Answer:

Not applicable

Hon Colin Tincknell MLC asked:

1. I note on page 11 of the Annual Report that the objective of the SPUR Program is to collaborate between public and private sectors and accelerate Western Australia's start-up community.

a) With regards to the 7 grants awarded by Landgate's SPUR Program, what is the total value of the grants that were awarded?

Answer:

\$98,000

b) How will the performance of these initiative be tracked and assessed?

Answer:

The SPURonWA Grants are Government grants to assist start-ups to accelerate their innovative location-based solutions to reality. They are not an equity/share investment into the awarded start-ups.

SPURonWA Grants are provided to Western Australian businesses that have met specific selection criteria for funding on listed and approved initiatives. Similar to other Government grant programs, activity reporting is required at the conclusion of the project period from the grant recipient, indicating the outcomes of initiatives. Proof of expenditure is also required as per the signed grant agreement between Landgate and the business.

c) I note on page 68 that one of the first start-ups established by the SPUR Program, Earthmine, has been wound up. How much did Landgate lose each year on this joint venture?

Answer:

earthmine Australia was both a standalone project of Landgate, as well as an investment in an entity: earthmine Australia Pty Ltd.

As a project, earthmine Australia included several channels of return to Landgate, including: the 45% shareholding in the company; the provision of services by Landgate to earthmine Australia; and Landgate's role as a Value Added Reseller of the earthmine Australia solution.

In terms of its investment, Landgate invested \$180,000 for 45% of earthmine Australia Pty Ltd, reported in 2011/12. The amount of investment returned to Landgate on winding up the company in 2017/18 was \$119,448.

In terms of the project's worth to the agency, and distinguishing from its investment in earthmine Australia company, Landgate received a net surplus of approximately \$939,544 between the years 2010/11 and 2017/18 by providing location based services to the earthmine Australia Joint Venture and re-selling earthmine Australia's products.

d) Has any of Landgate's SPUR collaborations, joint ventures and/or start-ups returned a profit for the State?

Answer:

Yes

2. I note on page 57 of the Annual Report that Legal consultancy fees increased from \$630,000 to \$833,000. What was the increase attributable to?

Answer:

Landgate general legal support in the absence of full-time General Counsel, a post filled in the 2018/19 financial year.

3. I note on page 10 of the annual report that Landgate continued its Reform program with regards to the Valuations Team. How many Valuers were made redundant due to the reform?

Answer:

30

