



Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming

Your ref: EHW17
Our ref: 54-04387

Hon Ken Travers MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
lcefoc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Attention: Mr Mark Warner, Committee Clerk

Dear Mr Travers

GENERIC QUESTIONS - 2016-17 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ESTIMATES HEARINGS

Thank you for your letter regarding generic questions for the Housing Authority as part of the 2016-17 Budget Estimates hearings process.

Attached are responses to the questions.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter please contact Ms Andrea Martin, Ministerial Liaison Officer, at my ministerial office on 6552 6100 or at Andrea.Martin@dpc.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

**HON COLIN HOLT MLC
MINISTER FOR HOUSING; RACING AND GAMING**

Att
16 JUN 2016

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Housing Authority

The Committee asked:

Agency Expenditure Review Program

- 1.1) How will the savings measures identified in the Budget be achieved by your agency?
- 1.2) What are the risks to achieving the savings identified?
- 1.3) Are there any low priority programs your agency is ceasing or reducing? If so, please provide details.

Answer: As part of the 2016-17 Budget, the Government announced a third tranche of Agency Expenditure Reviews to apply to 54 agencies and deliver savings commencing in 2017-18. The objective of Agency Expenditure Reviews is to ensure that, as circumstances change over time, the programs delivered by agencies remain a Government priority and continue to be delivered in an efficient and effective manner. Savings allocations are to be held at a global level until allocated to agencies as part of the 2016-17 Mid-year Review, with specific savings measures to be announced as part of the 2017-18 Budget. Agency measures to achieve allocated savings will be developed for consideration in the 2017-18 Budget process.

National Partnership Agreements

- 1.4) Please provide a list of:
 - all national partnership agreements under which your agency receives funding
 - the expiry dates of those agreements
 - how much was received in 2015-16 under the agreements and the budgeted amount for 2016-17
- 1.5) Please provide details of the value of the impact on your agency's budget resulting from the expiry of those agreements.
- 1.6) Will the State be making up the loss in funding resulting from the expiry of agreements?
- 1.7) If so, how and, if not, please provide details of any cuts that will need to be made and the implications for service delivery by your agency.

Answer: Please refer to Budget Paper 3, Chapter 4 ‘General Government Revenue’ (pp. 81-88) and Appendix 13 (p. 311). Appendix 13 provides a summary list of all National Partnership Agreements and includes funding figures and expiry dates.

As noted in Appendix 13, the National Partnership Agreements are time limited and it is assumed in the Budget that there is no continued funding (Commonwealth or State) past an National Partnership Agreement’s expiry date and that any additional or enhanced services generated by the National Partnership will cease (unless otherwise identified by footnote (c)).

Commonwealth Grants

- 1.8) Please provide the same information requested for national partnership agreements above for any commonwealth grants received by your agency.

Answer: Please refer to Budget Paper 3, Chapter 4 ‘General Government Revenue’ (pp. 87-88) and Appendix 2 ‘General Government Operating Revenue’ (p. 235) for details of all Commonwealth grants to the State. General revenue grants and National Specific Purpose Payments are intended to be ongoing.

10 Year Strategic Asset Investment Plans

- 1.9) Please provide a copy of your 10 year Strategic Asset Investment Plan

Answer: Strategic Asset Plans are prepared for Treasury as part of the Budget process to inform decision making by the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee and Cabinet. Disclosure of these plans would reveal the deliberations and decisions of both bodies and are therefore considered Cabinet-in-Confidence. Until such time as specific programs within a Strategic Asset Plan have been considered and approved to proceed they remain indicative. Additionally and understandably 10 year Strategic Asset Plans are subject to a wide variety of exigencies including but not limited to priorities of the government of the day; changes in circumstances; changes in technologies and external events.

Infrastructure Requirements

- 1.10) What are your agency's infrastructure requirements for the next 10 years? Specifically:
- What infrastructure needs to be replaced, upgraded or built to meet demand?
 - What allocation has been made in the Budget for the planning and delivery of these requirements? Is the allocation in capital works?
 - In what timeframe will the requirements be delivered?

Answer: Please see answer to 1.9. Funded infrastructure programs are detailed for Housing Authority in the Asset Investment Program section of the financial statements as reported in Budget Paper No. 2 on Page 791. These programs currently cover the period 2016-17 to 2019-20. Any infrastructure requirements outside this period are subject to further budget deliberations and remain Cabinet-in-Confidence.

Sale of Vehicles

1.11) Has your agency sold any vehicles as part of the Agency Expenditure Review program in 2016-17?

Answer: The Housing Authority does not own any vehicles.

1.12) If so, how many?

Answer: Not applicable.

1.13) What is the total proceeds

Answer: Not applicable.

1.14) What has been the impact on agency staff (i.e what alternative arrangements have been made for their transport)?

Answer: Not applicable.

1.15) What has been the cost of any alternative transport arrangements compared to the cost of retaining the vehicles?

Answer: Not applicable.

Full Time/ Contract Staff

1.16) What is the total number of FTE staff in your agency for 2016-17?

Answer: The Housing authority has budgeted for 1,592 full time equivalent (FTE) employees for 2016-17.

1.17) What proportion are engaged in:

- A contract of service (permanent staff)?
- A contract for services (contractors)?

Answer: 100% of FTE are permanent public sector employees or employees engaged on fixed-term contracts of service.

0% - Contract for service are not included in the agency FTE calculations.

1.18) Of those that are engaged by a contract for services, please explain why they are not engaged as permanent staff.

Answer: Contracts for service engagements are for work that is not permanent public sector work or is project-based work for finite periods that requires expertise and specialist skills that are not available within the public sector.

- 1.19) What is the cost to the agency of engaging contractors, including contract preparation, negotiation, payroll modifications, (i.e. where the contracts are renewed for staff on 6 month contracts) and cost of ER staff who manage the contracts?

Answer: The Housing Authority engagement of Contractors uses a whole-of-government Common Use Agreement such as TPS2014 for Temporary Personnel. There are minimal costs associated with the engagement of contractors via the Common Use Agreement and only minimal internal agency support to provide the required IT access to systems, etc. Contractors are not paid using agency payroll or the Human Resources Information System.

- 1.20) Are staff employed as contractors paid at a different rate to those who are permanent employees in a similar role and, if so, please provide details and explain why.

Answer: Contractors are paid an hourly rate in accordance with the schedule of rates for the category of employee prescribed in the Common Use Agreement Buyers Guide and schedules.

Media Monitoring

- 1.21) How much does your agency spend on media monitoring, for example, newspaper clippings?

Answer:

- i) 2014-15 Actual - \$72,675
- ii) 2015-16 Estimated Actual - \$59,745
- iii) 2016-17 Budget Estimate - \$59,745

- 1.22) Who provides this service to your agency?

Answer: Isentia.

- 1.23) What types of media monitoring services are provided to your agency? Please provide details.

Answer:

- i) Media monitoring of press, TV, radio, online news and social media
- ii) Media Insights – one-off media analysis report
- iii) Media Directory – sending media releases, alerts and advisories

- 1.24) On what basis is this service provided, i.e. ongoing contract or on a fee for service basis? Please provide details.

Answer: A 12 month service contract, which expires in October 2016.

