

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2016-17 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS ANSWERS TO GENERIC QUESTIONS TO AGENCIES

Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority

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 to Questions 1.1-1.3:

The 2016-17 Budget includes the savings from AER Tranche 3, which, as the MRA understands, has been applied at a global level to agencies. The MRA is not on that list of agencies.

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 to Questions 1.4-1.7:

The MRA does not have any NPAs.

Commonwealth grants

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

Answer:

The MRA does not receive any Commonwealth grants.

10 year Strategic Asset Investment Plans

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

Answer:

Strategic Asset Plans (SAPs) 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 SAP have been considered and approved to proceed they remain indicative. Additionally and understandably 10 year SAPs 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 each agency in the Asset Investment Program section of their financial statements as reported in Budget Paper No. 2. 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 How many vehicles does your agency expect to sell in the 2015-16 financial year?

Answer:

The MRA does not own any of its vehicles – all MRA vehicles are leased through State Fleet. As such, the MRA will not sell/has not sold any vehicles in 2015-16.

1.12 How many vehicles does your agency expect to sell in the 2016-17 financial year?

Answer:

The MRA does not own any of its vehicles – all MRA vehicles are leased through State Fleet. As such, the MRA does not expect to sell any vehicles in 2016-17.

1.13 What is the estimated total proceeds from the sales in each of the above financial years and how will those funds be allocated?

Answer:

Not Applicable

1.14 Will any of the sales in 2016-17 be part of the Agency Expenditure Review program and, if yes, how many?

Answer:

Not Applicable

1.15 What will be the impact on agency staff (i.e. what alternative arrangements have been made for their transport)? What will be the cost of any alternative transport arrangements compared to the cost of retaining the vehicles?

Answer:

Not Applicable

Fulltime/contract staff

1.16 What is the total number of FTE staffing your agency for 2016-17?

Answer:

- Estimated total number of FTE staff for the **2015-16 financial year is 135**
- Estimated total number of FTE staff for the **2016-17 financial year is 135**

1.17 What proportion are engaged in:

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

Answer:

In each financial year:

- **Approximately 80% of** employees will remain permanent
- **Approximately 20% of** FTEs will be engaged as contract for service

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

Answer:

The engaged FTEs by a contract for service was based on any of the below reasons:

- Appropriate expertise is unavailable in the public sector at the time of need;
- There is a requirement for impartiality and objectivity external to the public sector;
- The required expertise and specialist skills are available only from external sources; and/or
- There arises a need to fill a position on very short notice for which the appropriate expertise within the public sector cannot be readily made available.

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 staff who manage the contracts?

Answer:

The MRA does not produce separate costing for administrating different types of employment positions required.

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:

No, contractors are paid at the position classified, which they are filling.

Media monitoring

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

Answer:

This value varies depending on the amount of media coverage in a given month. For the period 1 October 2015 – April 2016, the average monthly spend was \$4260.57.

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:

iSentia collate relevant newspaper articles, radio grabs and TV clips into an online portal from local, State and National media.

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

Answer:

The service is provided under an ongoing contract, which was awarded in late 2015. The contract term is two years, with three options to extend for one year.