

4 September 2003

(General Purchase Standing Committee No.1)

Portfolio
The Legislature

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING THE HEARING

1) Ms Rhiannon asked the President, the Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC—

a) How much of the IT budget is allocated for software?

Answer: During the financial year 2002/2003, no funds came out of the Information Technology Services budget for software, however ITS coordinated the following purchases of software for the Legislative Council and Joint Services Departments (not including any Legislative Assembly Departments nor Accounts) which came out of the individual department's budgets:

Legislative Council	Amount
Company	Ex GST
Novell (additional network licenses)	\$1,852.00
Symantec (PC Anywhere)	\$2,311.50
Adobe (Acrobat & PageMaker)	\$3,658.71
Microsoft (MS Project)	\$343.97
Odyssey (ISYS)	\$2,072.00

Joint Services Departments	Amount
Company	Ex GST
Novell (additional network licenses)	\$7,871.00
Adobe (Acrobat, PageMaker & Photoshop)	\$5,467.64

b) How much is allocated for support and maintenance of that software?

Answer: During the financial year 2002/2003, no funds came out of the Information Technology Services budget for software support and maintenance. ITS records indicated that during this period the following software support and maintenance was coordinated for the Legislative Council and Joint Services Department and paid out of their budgets:

Legislative Council	Amount
Company	Ex GST
Novell (Network Operating System)	\$21,965.10
Oracle Systems (Database)	\$3,571.62
Symantec (Antivirus)	\$2,430.75
SAP (Accounting)	\$9,150.33
Presence of IT (SAP accounting system enhancements)	\$5,490.20

Joint Services Department	Amount
Company	Ex GST
Novell (Network Operating System)	\$21,007.70
Oracle Systems (Database)	\$6,632.90

Symantec (Antivirus)	\$2,347.41
SAP (Accounting)	\$8,836.60
Presence of IT (SAP accounting system enhancements)	\$5,301.96

c) Of these two budget items [software and support and maintenance of software] how much is allocated for open-source software?

Answer: None

d) How much of that revenue goes to New South Wales?

e) How much of that revenue stays in Australia?

f) How much of that revenue goes to foreign companies?

g) How much of that revenue goes to the foreign company Microsoft? (Hansard page 2)

Answers: It is difficult to calculate the revenue split for the software companies listed above, other than to note that Tower Software and Odyssey are Sydney based companies, Hardcat is Melbourne based and the others are international companies. All are private enterprise companies and information regarding allocation of their revenue earnings and how this revenue is shared between Australia and overseas, is not available to Parliament.

2) Ms Rhiannon asked the President, the Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC—

When will the investigation into open-source software be completed? (Hansard page 3)

Answer: The Open Source Group is chaired by the Office of Information and Communications Technology. The group meets quarterly and has active participants from 40 government agencies.

The Open Source Group provides regular reports to the government on its progress. Recently the group developed a Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) spreadsheet to be trialed by some agencies when assessing new software. It is intended to give this spreadsheet for a wider use if the trial was successful.

Further information can be obtained from Elizabeth Gordon-Werner, Manager Electronic Strategic Projects, Department of Commerce, elizabeth.gordon-werner@commerce.nsw.gov.au ,

3) Ms Rhiannon asked the President, the Hon Meredith Burgmann MLC ---

What is the total floor space of the two rooms (plus annexes) occupied by Mr David Oldfield on Level 9 Parliament House? (Hansard page 15)

Answer:

Room 919 = 19.19sqm	Room 919A = 10sqm	Total 29.19sqm
Room 918 = 19.19sqm	Room 918A = 10sqm	Total 29.19sqm

Ms Rhiannon has previously sought information regarding the allocation of office space to members of the Greens compared to other cross bench members and she has been provided with a detailed response from the Clerk to her request for more space.

The Legislative Council has sought Crown Solicitors advice on the matter. The Crown Solicitor's advice is that office space must be allocated in a consistent and fair manner.

Standard offices on level 11 (allocated to all Government and Opposition Members) have a floor space of 28sqm.

To accommodate the expansion of cross bench members' staff to two fulltime positions, office space on level 11 was reconfigured in 1999. This was done in the fairest way possible, without major and costly structural alterations.

Original offices (a member's room plus annex) designed to accommodate one member with one staffer were combined either as 2 member's rooms or 1 member's room and 2 annexes. Some corridor space was also converted to office space. Because of this, there are small differences in the actual floor space allocated to cross bench members.

Irrespective of the actual dimensions of the carpet, all cross bench members have been allocated one members room plus adequate office space to accommodate two staffers.

Mr Tingle, Mr Breen & Ms Hale have a total floor space allocation of approx 36sqm (one member's office and two annexes).

Dr Wong, Dr Chesterfield-Evans, Ms Rhiannon, Rev Nile and Rev Moyes have a total floor space allocation of approx 42sqm (two members offices). Ms Rhiannon is also occupying 1148, contrary to Crown Solicitor's advice, taking her actual office space to 56sqm.

Mr Cohen has 55sqm.

Mr Oldfield has 2 separate offices totalling 58sqm on level 9. These are approximately 1sqm larger than those on level 11.

Mr Oldfield agreed to occupy rooms on level 9 as there was no space on level 11. Level 9 has traditionally been administered by the Legislative Assembly and therefore it was not possible to remove walls and reduce the space to a single office configuration as is case on level 11. If it had been possible to accommodate all members of the Legislative Council on level 11, Mr Oldfield would have been provided with office space similar to that of other cross benchers.

The average office size for a cross bench member is 43sqm. The CDP has an average of 42sqm per member. The Greens have an allocation of 44sqm per member.

However, if room 1148 is included, the Greens in practice have an average of 49sqm per member.

Occupation by Ms Rhiannon of room 1148 is also restricting access to 1150. It was hoped that this room could be used as a constituents meeting room, which would be available to all members.