



Minister for Roads
Minister for Commerce

Question on Notice

Question taken on Notice from the Hon Don Harwin MLC during the Estimates Committee hearing on 26 October 2007.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Is it benchmarked against a statewide industry-standard or is there a local benchmark, for example, in regional areas?

Mr LEE: I am happy to take that on notice but I can confirm that an independent management firm undertook that benchmark in the last 12 months and we are happy to provide you with those details.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Could you give me the name of the firm?

Mr LEE: I do not have it here tonight so that is why I am taking it on notice.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: And you would be able to provide the name of the firm and the date of their report?

Mr LEE: I am hoping to be able to provide that to the Committee.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The benchmarking was undertaken by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. The final report is dated April 2005. The report was supplied on a commercial-in-confidence basis as it contains commercially sensitive information and methodologies.

HON ERIC ROOZENDAAL MLC
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OPEN SOURCE STANDARDS

QUESTION

Dr JOHN KAYE: It is late, it is Friday night, and this is an arcane issue for many people but it is a terribly important issue for a lot of us. Can you give us more details of the answer you just gave us? Can you elaborate on that in an on-notice question? Can you come back to us with details of what the cooperation between the States is, where we are going with this and in what particular areas are we moving towards open source solutions?

ANSWER

I am advised

The Department of Commerce has established a panel contract of suppliers capable of providing enterprise wide solutions for desktop computers and servers based on Linux and other open source software.

Currently seven companies provide services under this contract: CSC, Dell, IBM, Novell, Si2, Sol1 and Starcom. A number of agencies including the Roads and Traffic Authority, the Judicial Commission and the Office of State Revenue are already using open source software in their daily operations.

As part of PeopleFirst, the Government's ICT Strategic Plan, the Government Chief Information Office considers open source software solution alternatives whenever it is considering solutions based on proprietary software to ensure it is obtaining the best value for money. For example, the Government Chief Information Office has established an open source content management solution for websites that can be shared by agencies through a central data facility.

At a national level, State Governments and the Commonwealth Government are working together on developing the open technology frameworks to maximise national information sharing and improve government service delivery. The Online and Communications Ministerial Council is investigating a National Data

Sharing Strategy and the Cross Jurisdictional Chief Information Officer
Committee is considering a National Standards Framework for Government.

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SHARED CORPORATE SERVICES

QUESTION

The Hon. DON HARWIN: You talked about some of the savings. Could you give the total amount of savings that have been achieved so far? Who is in charge of tracking savings?

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Over the life of the initiative, what savings are expected to be achieved?

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Minister, the particular report that I have referred to disappeared from the website. When will it be returned to the website?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Department of Commerce is responsible for tracking savings. From 2003-04 to 2005-06, the total amount of savings achieved is \$269 million.

In the February 2006 Economic and Financial Statement the Treasurer set a target of \$170 million, to be achieved by 2008. This target is in addition to savings that have already been made under the Strategy.

I am advised that the 'report' that the honourable member refers to was actually a discussion paper that was published on the then Premier's Department website. As the strategy has now been agreed to, there is no need for the discussion paper to remain on the website.

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Mr HOPKINS: At the moment we are still looking at whether we will upgrade to Vista, so we are using the 2 or 3 versions at the moment, which are in the sector, and the job is to rationalise those systems so we have one negotiating point of view.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Which of the 2 or 3 versions are you using?

Mr HOPKINS: I am not the government chief information officer; the government chief information officer works for me. I will have to take that on notice.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Will you release full details of the contract for all the new hardware for the New South Wales Government under this plan?

The Hon. ERIC ROOZENDAAL: I am advised that there may be some commercial in confidence issues in relation to those contracts. I will take the question on notice and come back with a better response. I will seek some advice on the matter.

ANSWER

I am advised:

NSW Government agencies are using a number of different versions of Microsoft Word (word processing software) and Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet software). Agencies purchase Word and Excel as part of Microsoft's Office suite of desktop software products.

A survey by the Government Chief Information Office at the end of 2006 identified agencies using Microsoft's Office 97, Office 2000, Office XP and Office 2003. The different versions of Office were released at different times and accordingly contain different versions of Word and Excel. Since that survey agencies have also been able to purchase Office 2007 software.

Office 2003 (with Word 2003 and Excel 2003) is the most widely used version in Government.

Details of the contract are published on the Department of Commerce website.

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CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FOR COMMONWEALTH FUNDED SCHOOLS PROJECTS

QUESTION

Dr JOHN KAYE: Could the department provide a list of all the public schools in New South Wales for which the department provides contract management services from Commonwealth government funding for capital works in schools? Is it possible to produce such a list?

Mr LEE: We will take it on notice but we do not usually consolidate that sort of information.

Dr JOHN KAYE: We want a list of those schools that you manage and for each of those schools the fee that you charge? It should not be that hard.

The Hon. ERIC ROOZENDAAL: We will take it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Office of Public Works and Services within the Department of Commerce is a fee-for-service provider of management services to the Department of Education and Training in relation to its capital works projects.

Fees are determined through the identification of the particular services and management activities that are required to complete a project, together with estimates of the management time that is to be allocated. The actual services provided are determined in conjunction with the particular school/college on the basis of the specific project need. The range of services that can be provided by Commerce on capital works projects includes;

- Scope, risk and budget advice to inform funding submissions
- Brief development and review

- Cost Planning
- Risk analysis and risk management strategies
- Option identification and review
- Management of approval processes including development applications
- Contract documentation
- Calling tenders
- Tender evaluation
- Tender recommendation
- Contract award
- Review of contractors insurances, occupational, health and safety systems, child security clearances
- Contract valuations and payments
- Draw down on funding sources
- Audit quality
- Audit occupational, health and safety
- Variation management
- Contract finalisation
- Management of warranty period.

In some instances, where long travel distances are required for site attendance, travel costs are included in fees. Commerce has conducted independent benchmarking of its fees and established that they are commercially competitive.

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SHARED SERVICES SAVINGS

QUESTION

The Hon. DON HARWIN: One brief supplementary question in relation to the \$219 million savings on the shared services initiative that you mentioned earlier. Would you be able to provide a detailed breakdown on how the \$219 million is comprised and what particular elements there are, what the assumptions are and how that figure was arrived at?

The Hon. ERIC ROOZENDAAL: We will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that a review of the Hansard transcript has not identified any statement made during the course of the hearing attributing \$219 million in savings to the Government's shared services initiative.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REDEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

QUESTION

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Are you able to help me by telling me what the average time spent on the program is?

The Hon. ERIC ROOZENDAAL: I will have to take that on notice.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: In the past year how many people who have been part of the redeployment program were then paid a redundancy?

The Hon. ERIC ROOZENDAAL: I will take that on notice.

(The Hon. DON HARWIN: What was the amount paid to displaced employees in the last financial year?

The Hon. ERIC ROOZENDAAL: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Public sector redeployment program is managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Questions in relation to this matter should be referred to the Premier.

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