

ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, AWARD PROCESS

190. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- (1) What are the steps followed from the announcement through to the awarding of contracts for road construction?
- (2) When determining the choice of tender -
- (a) what departments are involved; and
- (b) what officers are involved and what is their position in the department?
- (3) What structures are in place to ensure there is no conflict of interest when awarding contracts?

Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:

- (1) In general terms, the process involves the following steps:
- Tenders are invited. For all contracts with an estimated value of more than \$50,000 tenders are advertised in The West Australian and on the Government Contracting Information Bulletin Board.
- Tenders are lodged in Main Roads Tender Box and removed on the designated closing time.
- Tender submissions received are evaluated by a Main Roads Officer or an evaluation panel.
- Recommendation of a preferred proponent is made.
- The evaluation and recommendation is reviewed for due process by an Approved Supply Officer (for contracts with a value of less than \$50,000) or by the Manager Supply and Transport (for contracts with a value of more than \$50,000).
- Subject to endorsement of the recommendation by an Approved Supply Officer or the Manager Supply and Transport, the recommendation is approved in accordance with Main Roads Delegation of Authority manual and the contract awarded.
- This process conforms with the requirements and guidelines set down by the State Supply Commission.
- (2) (a) Tenders are generally evaluated by Main Roads personnel. In Design and Construct contracts, one independent person is included on the evaluation panel.
- (b) This varies subject to the nature and location of the contract. Given that Main Roads awards about 1,000 contracts per annum state wide, numerous officers are involved in the evaluation of tenders. All tenders are evaluated by appropriately qualified and experienced officers, and all tenders with a value of more than \$50,000 are reviewed for due process by the Manager Supply and Transport.
- (3) For Design and Construct contracts, all officers including Main Roads staff are required to sign a confidentiality agreement in which they are required to disclose any conflict of interest. For other contracts Main Roads relies on the Public Sector Management Act that requires all public servants to disclose any conflict of interest. Further assurance is provided by the requirement for all contracts with a value of more than \$50,000 to be reviewed for due process by the Manager Supply and Transport. Furthermore all contracts are approved in accordance with Main Roads Delegation of Authority that stipulates the level of approval based on the contract value. For example, all contracts with a value greater than \$200,000 must be approved by an Executive Director and all contracts greater than \$500,000 by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. In all cases an officer independent of the evaluation officer/s must approve a contract.