

PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRACTS, FUTURE REFINEMENT

688. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister for Works; Services:

In view of the very good performance of the public sector in the area of contracting, as indicated by the small number of complaints, does the minister recognise a need for future refinement of the procurement process?

Dr Gallop: Are you going to contract out your multicultural policy to One Nation?

Mr JOHNSON replied:

The Leader of the Opposition must be desperate over there.

I thank the member for some notice of this question. There is a continuing need for further refinement of the contracting procurement process. The State Supply Commission has initiated an ongoing audit of procurement contracting. The audit will assess the risk management mechanisms within agencies, their procurement and contracting functions and the skill base of relevant officers. The initial pilot group of 10 to 15 agencies will be subject to the health check in the first instance. That audit will provide further information which will be used in refining processes to improve outcomes and to further minimise any possible risks. This is in addition to the initiatives I announced last week, such as establishing a process review panel and expanding the role of the state tenders committee.