



File Ref: 714/40

Reply to: Ross Smith
Phone: 07 3224 5631

31 March 2005

FILE No:
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MARS/PRISM.

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Mr Gregson

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects application for revocation of authorisation A58 and substitution with authorisation A90946.

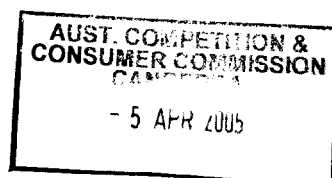
Please find enclosed a response to the questions raised in your correspondence of 14 March 2004 in respect of the Department of Public Works, Queensland.

Should you require clarification of any aspect of the response, please contact Ross Smith, Principal Policy Manager – Industry Policy Unit (telephone 07 3224 5631, facsimile 07 3224 5498 or email – ross.smith@publicworks.qld.gov.au).

Yours faithfully

Don Allan
Director, Industry Policy

Enc.



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Response to Questions

Does your organisation currently, or has your organisation in the past, acquired building design services and, if yes, how did/does your organisation select the provider(s) of these services?

The Department of Public Works routinely acquires building design services associated with the procurement of building projects for the Queensland Government and generally selects the service providers of these services from its register of prequalified building industry consultants. Details on the prequalification criteria and selection process are available on a departmental website through the link - <http://www.build.qld.gov.au/industry/industry04.asp>.

Could you supply the names of those individuals or firms whose building design services you are currently employing or have employed in the past five years?

We could supply the names of firms whose building design services we have used in the past five years, however in accordance with the privacy regime in Queensland, we cannot provide the names of individuals whose building design services we have used over this period.

Does your organisation use a pre-qualification process to select the providers of building design services?

Yes.

If "yes" (to the preceding question),

- ***on what basis does your organisation select the pre-qualifying service providers?***

Details on the prequalification criteria and selection process are available on a departmental website through the link - <http://www.build.qld.gov.au/industry/industry04.asp>.

- ***what benefits do you gain from pre-qualifying service providers?***

The key benefit associated with the prequalification of service providers is in the area of risk management. In the process of prequalifying building industry consultants, the Department of Public Works is able to identify each consultant's compliance with contractual and legislative requirements, the consultant's capabilities and commitment to continuous improvement and their experience against prescribed criteria.

The Prequalification (PQC) System also provides the Department with, among other things:

- confidence that there is a sufficient pool of competitive and capable consultants to deliver required services;
 - the required information to match consultant capability with service requirements;
 - an effective capacity and appropriate mechanisms to respond to any evidence of both superior consultant performance and less than adequate consultant performance;
 - access to a database of objective and quantifiable data on prequalified building industry consultants to support the invitation and selection process for these consultants; and
 - a mechanism to facilitate building industry development and long term sustainability.
- ***could you supply the names of those individuals or firms who are currently pre-qualified to supply your organisation with building design services?***

We could supply the names of firms who are currently prequalified on the Department's Register of building industry consultants, however in accordance with the privacy regime in Queensland, we cannot provide the names of individuals who are currently prequalified on this Register.

Has your organisation been provided with any fee guidance information by the Institute or any providers of building design services?

No.

Do you have any other comments about any aspect of this matter?

No.