

Minister for Finance
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for State Growth
Minister for Science and Technology
Leader of the House

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Hon Tania Rattray MLC
Chair
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee B
By email: natasha.excel@parliament.tas.gov.au

18 DEC 2020

Dear Ms Rattray

Thank you for your letter requesting additional information following Metro's appearance before the Government Business Scrutiny Committee on 15 December 2020.

Please find following the information requested.

1. Will the Government consider the concept of enabling commuter bicycles to be transported on Metro buses

A previous trial in 2013 revealed low uptake, with 21 bikes carried on ten buses over the five week duration, despite an extensive public communications campaign.

In addition to the low demand indicated by the trial, Metro did not pursue the "Bikes on Buses" concept beyond the trial due to rostering and scheduling costs, and Federal and State Regulatory Issues.

2. The total cost of amending the *Metro Tasmania Act 1997*

Metro provided feedback on the drafting of the proposed amendment. Whilst this incurred an in-kind cost to Metro in the form of employee time, this was the extent of Metro's contribution.

3. Provide an overview of the process for recruiting Members of Metro Board from interstate

All Members have been appointed in accordance with the Guidelines for Tasmanian Government Businesses – Board Appointments (January 2016).

In regard to the two interstate members' appointments, Metro established a Director Selection Advisory Panel, including an independent panel member and engaged an Executive Search Agent to assist with the recruitment. Role statements for the position specifically sought out relevant skills required.

4. **Provide an overview of the process for engaging consultancies over \$50,000**

Metro's purchasing is conducted by encouraging fair and open competition between suppliers with the objective of achieving best value for money.

CEO approval is required prior to engaging a consultant to undertake a service or provide advice, regardless of the cost.

Any consultancy that is greater than \$100,000, or would result in the Corporate Plan consultancy budget being exceeded, must be approved by the Board.

An external consultant or contractor will only be engaged when options for sourcing the required services within Metro have been considered.

For purchases expected to be greater than \$50,000, a competitive procurement process would usually be required.

The CEO may waive the requirement to conduct a competitive procurement process, and will only do so in exceptional circumstances.

Metro has complied with the Tasmanian Government's Buy Local Policy since its inception in 2015.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson'.

Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport