



30 May 2008

Geoff Penton
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Murray Darling Committee
PO Box 6243
TOOWOOMBA WEST QLD 4350

Dear Geoff,

CONSOLIDATED PROBITY REPORT BushTender 2007 Biodiversity Hotspots Tender Project

Introduction

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts engaged PSI Consulting Pty Ltd to provide probity advisory services for the BushTender 2007 Biodiversity Hotspots Tender Project. The probity advisory and review processes are to ensure that the tender and selection processes to purchase management agreements from landholders prepared to manage under-represented vegetation communities for conservation and reduce fragmentation is carried out in an open and fair way.

This letter constitutes the consolidated report on the tender processes up to and including the provision of final approvals.

PSI has provided probity advice and assistance for the tendering process outlined above, in accordance with our proposal to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

In providing advice to support project activities, PSI deliverables included, but were not limited to:

- discussions with the Project Manager as requested;
- Development and provision of the project Probity Plan;
- Development and provision of the project Evaluation Plan;
- review and provision of advice regarding other project documentation and evaluation methodologies throughout the process;
- provision of probity briefing for field officers and other project staff to provide advice on probity issues
- probity briefing to the Evaluation Panel in the conduct of the evaluation;
- attendance at the meeting of the Evaluation Panel where final selection decisions were made;
- review and provision of advice regarding the Evaluation Report of the Evaluation Panel meeting; and

Document Review

PSI, in addition to providing ad hoc probity advice, reviewed and provided comment on the tender documents and concluded that:

- the documentation was impartial and unbiased, including any conditions and constraints that applied;

- sufficient time was provided to allow all parties to respond adequately to information requests;
- the evaluation methodology intended for use was viable; and
- the landholder response requirements accurately reflected the evaluation criteria.

Based on the information provided to PSI, attendance at the evaluation meeting and discussions with the Project Team, we have concluded that:

- the process for receipt, recording and secure storage of bids reflected probity requirements;
- the approval process to release tender documents was followed;
- the Evaluation Plan fully covered the evaluation process;
- all persons were given equal access to information and responses;
- once finalised there were no changes to tender documentation;
- information provided in response to questions from potential bidders clarified the situation; and
- communication with potential bidders occurred through proper channels.

Bid Evaluation

During the bid Evaluation Stage, PSI developed and provided a briefing at the meeting of the Evaluation Panel where final selection decisions were made and provided ad hoc probity advice. Based on attendance at the evaluation meeting, discussions with the Project Manager and review of documents, PSI concluded that:

- the tender evaluation proceeded in accordance with the Evaluation Plan;
- the evaluation team has properly documented its analysis of tenders;
- there appears to have been no interference from outside parties with the evaluation team deliberations; and
- the evaluation team report provided a recommendation consistent with the evaluation process.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided, PSI concludes that the tender processes for the BushTender 2007 Biodiversity Hotspots Tender Project have been conducted fairly and with due and proper regard to good tendering processes. PSI further concludes that the requirements of probity were observed during the tendering and selection stages and that the outcomes were achieved through processes that were visible, defensible and auditable.

If you have any questions, please contact Denzil Flood on 9642 4512 or 0409 730 225.

Yours sincerely



Roger Warr
Executive Director

DISCLAIMER

This probity review has been based upon a review of the documentary evidence provided by QMDC. Where such documentary evidence was not available, the review has drawn upon oral advice provided by QMDC staff. Although PSI has sought to verify the material provided and/or the claims made in that material, we are not able to provide a warranty as to its accuracy or reliability. However, nothing came to our attention during our review of the material provided that indicated the information provided was misleading, or that material has been withheld.