

**From:** [Jaggers, Andrew](#)  
**To:** [Browne, Chris](#)  
**Cc:** [Hirschfeld, Michael](#); [Thompson, Phoebe](#)  
**Subject:** brief and draft letter for consideration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 September 2017 6:31:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [doc03347520170913182836.pdf](#)  
[Attach B - letter from Barry O'Sullivan.pdf](#)  
[Attach A - Response to Barry O'Sullivan.docx](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED

Hello Chris – please see a briefing from Michael and draft correspondence.  
Regards  
Andrew.

UNCLASSIFIED

**PDR Number:**  
MC17-001725



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Finance**

## MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

Copies to:  
Secretary  
Mr Hirschfeld  
Ms Thompson

**Minister for Finance**

September 2017

### **Response to Mr Barry O'Sullivan MP - Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd**

**Timing:** Routine

**Recommendation:**

That you **sign** the letter to Mr Barry O'Sullivan MP (Attachment A).

SIGNED / PLEASE DISCUSS

**Key Issues:**

Senator O'Sullivan wrote to you on 12 September 2017, requesting confirmation that the Commonwealth has not engaged in any direct or indirect contracts with Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd (Attachment B).

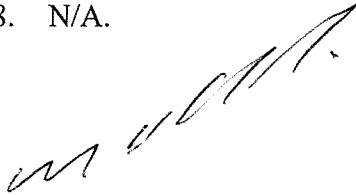
2. Finance has conducted a search on AusTender, the Australian Government's procurement information system to determine whether Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd is recorded as having being awarded any Commonwealth contracts.
3. It is a requirement that all contracts entered into by Commonwealth entities, that meet certain reporting thresholds, are recorded on AusTender. AusTender has been the Australian Government's procurement information system since July 2007 and shows details of contracts entered into since that time.
4. As at 13 September 2017, AusTender shows:
  - (a) no direct contracts with Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd, valued at \$10,000 or above, with any non-corporate Commonwealth entity; and
  - (b) no direct contracts with Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd, valued at \$400,000 or above, with any prescribed corporate Commonwealth entity
5. Finance is not able to provide details of any contracts valued below the reporting thresholds outlined above, any indirect contracts such as subcontracting arrangements, or any contracts with non-prescribed entities, as these are not captured on any whole-of-government reporting systems.
6. Senator O'Sullivan's letter notes his intention to table your response letter in the Senate.

**Financial Implications:**

7. N/A.

**Consultation:**

8. N/A.



Michael Hirschfeld  
First Assistant Secretary  
Procurement and Insurance Division  
02 6215 3852

Contact Officer:	Phoebe Thompson
Job Title/Level:	Assistant Secretary
Telephone:	02 6215 3814
PDR Number	MS17-001725

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**Mathias Cormann**

Mr Barry O'Sullivan MP  
Senator for Queensland  
Liberal National Party  
Suite SG.109 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator O'Sullivan

Thank you for your letter of 12 September 2017 concerning Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd (ABN 133 339 778).

In response to your letter I asked the Department of Finance (Finance) to conduct a search of AusTender, the Australian Government's procurement information system, to determine whether Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd is recorded as having being awarded any Commonwealth contracts.

It is a requirement that all contracts entered into by Commonwealth entities, that meet certain reporting thresholds, are recorded on AusTender. AusTender has been the Australian Government's procurement information system since July 2007 and shows details of contracts entered into since that time.

Finance has completed its searches and advised me that as at 13 September 2017:

- AusTender shows no direct contracts with Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd, valued at \$10,000 or above, with any non-corporate Commonwealth entity; and
- AusTender shows no direct contracts with Newlands Civil Construction Pty Ltd, valued at \$400,000 or above, with any prescribed corporate Commonwealth entity.

Finance is not able to provide details of any contracts valued below the reporting thresholds outlined above, any indirect contracts such as subcontracting arrangements, or any contracts with non-prescribed entities, as these are not captured on any whole-of-government reporting systems.

Kind regards

Mathias Cormann  
**Minister for Finance**

September 2017