

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

Private sector to deliver business functions of Lands Services

A range of transactional land services functions will be commercialised by the State Government.

Expressions of interest will now be sought from the private sector to provide transaction processing services to South Australian homeowners and home purchasers.

The proposal, set out in State Budget 2016/17, offers a long term outsourcing contract (e.g. 40 years) to the private sector to deliver transactional processing services on behalf of the Government.

They would also acquire the right to utilise data related to property transactions and valuations. This information is extremely valuable to the property sector, and is expected to generate strong interest from potential purchasers.

Key legal and policy functions will continue to be regulated by the Registrar-General, the Valuer-General and the Surveyor-General which will remain within government.

Government will also continue to set fees and charges for land services and maintain current consumer protections.

Background

The successful tenderer's role would include responsibility for transactional land services functions, such as the processing of mortgage documents and property valuation services.

The State Government will retain key legal and policy functions of the Registrar-General and the Valuer-General within government, including guarantee of title, protection of the privacy of personal information, the setting of fees and charges and the maintenance of service standards.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The business case for the commercialisation of some of the transactional functions of Lands Services is undeniably strong.

Other States, including New South Wales are currently looking at commercialising elements of their lands titles functions along similar lines.

The private sector is very well equipped to deliver lands title registry functions like the processing of mortgages and other documents and to provide property valuation services.

Data relating to sales and valuation history is incredibly valuable to real estate agents and developers, so we expect the ability to utilise this data will generate strong interest.



2016-17 STATE BUDGET

We are modernising the South Australian economy and to do that we need to give businesses the freedom to grow, access new markets and employ more staff.

Our homes are often our most precious material possessions, which is why the government will retain responsibility for key aspects of Lands Services, such as guarantee of title, protection of privacy and the setting of fees and charges.

People buying and selling property who use the Lands Services will notice little difference once the transaction has occurred – much like the State Government’s successful privatisation of the Motor Accident Commission.

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