



# Working with Government

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Former CIO Ministry for the  
Environment

# Who am I?

Government sector background

Australia & NZ

- Transport sector in WA and NSW

17 years in NZ public sector

- Ministry of Transport (1.5 years); Office of the Auditor-General (6 years); Ministry of Economic Development (1.5 years); Ministry of Education (3 years); Ministry for the Environment (5 years) and DIA (1 year)

9 years at CIO level

- Information Management, Document & Records Management functions, Classic IT functions; Library/Information Centre services; Web team; Ministerial Correspondence.

# Caveats

Excludes anything about panel suppliers

Doesn't represent DIA's view – an  
amalgamation of my experience for the  
past 17 years

Things change.....

# Show me the money!



## Government sets Budget in May

- Lead in time for budget bids variable
- Some agencies might not know their exact budget until the Vote is tabled
- Once identified, I've known some agencies to take until August/September to get an approved budget.

## Baseline updates – October & March

- Treasury's mechanism for finding out how things are going
- Internal mechanisms probably in place and reporting on progress
- October: Little change in approach or plans
- March: last opportunity to fine tune and identify new spending – leads to the perennial “hockey stick” expenditure activity

# Show me the money!



## Certainty, prices and other pressures...

- Contracts – disclose budget?
- Fixed price vs. Time & Materials – my view
- Deliverables
  - Specific
  - Time bound
  - Linked to payment
- Intellectual property rights (*State Services Commission work “**New Guidelines for Treatment of Government Intellectual Property Rights**”*)  
<http://www.e.govt.nz/resources/news/2008>
- Liability clauses!

# Accountability Framework

Front page of the Dom/Press/Herald

**Ministry of the Environment first  
level cuts**

**Clark feels 'let down' by  
Environment Ministry**

*Did ministry flout its own  
policies?*

**Ministry apologises for  
Leigh misinformation**

AT LARGE – SIMON UPTON

**Hugh Logan resigns**

**Ministry takes  
steps to green  
policies**



**Ministry botched Curran  
hiring - report**

**Ministry releases**

**Ministry jumps gun on**

# Accountability Framework cont'd

## Transparent – Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS)

- Internal policies and processes
- Legal sign off
- Auditors and other parties
  - State Services Commission
  - The Treasury
  - Internal auditors
  - IQA

# Accountability Framework cont'd

## Level playing field

### (Process, process, process....)

- What one knows - everyone has to know
- Give me the answer to my question (s) – then include added value options
- I prefer group briefings & sharing all questions. No subsequent 1:1s

# Accountability Framework cont'd

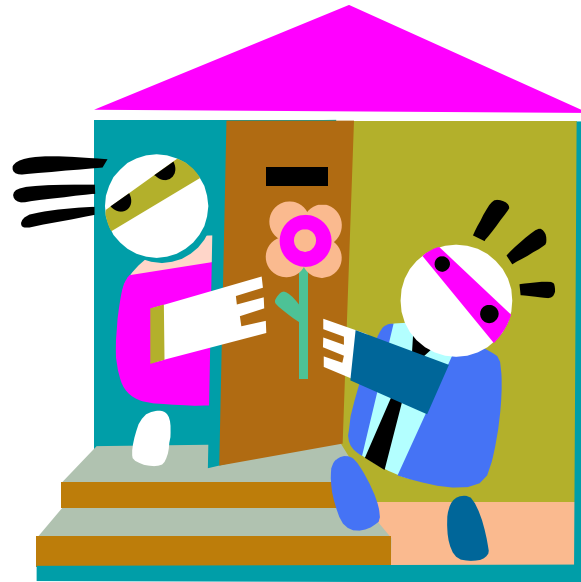
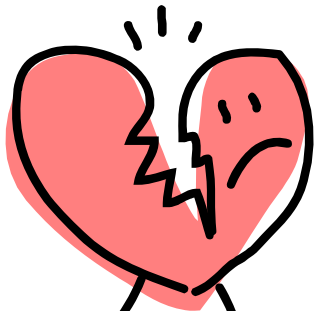
## Ministers and Official Information Act requests

- OIA: Premise - Release unless a good reason to withhold
- Commercial in confidence (Well.....)
- Reviews of decision to release information – Ombudsman
- Select Committees – the power to request anything

# Our relationship

I know what you want ...but it's not what I  
can give you = Divorce?

Should we just be friends?



# Questions?

