

**INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION****STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Vika**

**PLACE:** Sydney  
**NAME:** Wendy Buckett  
**OCCUPATION:** Procurement Officer  
**DATE:** 22 May 2015

**States: -**

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1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in Court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
  
2. I am 45 years of age.
  
3. I started working as a Procurement Officer for the NSW Rural Fire Service (“RFS”) in 2008. My duties include;
  - The conversion of approved requisitions to purchase orders which are then sent to the vendor
  - Vendor relationship management
  - Maintaining procurement records held within the SAP system

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*WBuckett*

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

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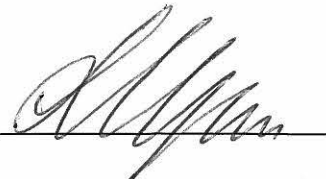
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4. There is another Procurement Officer, Mathew Lane. John Hacking (“John”) was a Contracts Officer which is a higher grade role than a Procurement Officer. John’s primary role was to manage tender and request for quotation processes.
5. I have known John since approximately 2002/2003 when he joined the Kurrajong RFS Brigade where my husband is also a volunteer. Over the last few years, my husband and I have socialised with Hacking, his wife others including Nathan Edrupt and his wife.
6. Paul Springett (“Paul”) was the Procurement Manager and he was responsible for the day to day operation of our unit and all procurement strategies. The procurement unit is based at the RFS head office. John, Mathew Lane and I all reported directly to Paul.
7. Procurement is undertaken in two distinct environments, emergency and non-emergency. The emergency environment is legislated under *s.44 of the Rural Fires Act 1997*. I have provided the below documents that are currently used as guides in the procurement unit. These documents, annexure A and B, are available to all RFS employees by way of the RFS intranet.

Signature



Witness



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**Exhibit: I produce and hereto attach an aide memoir titled ‘Procurement flowchart based on procurement value and type/methodology’ marked as Annexure A**

**Exhibit: I produce and hereto attach an aide memoir titled ‘RFS procure to pay process’ marked as Annexure B**

**Exhibit: I produce and hereto attach an aide memoir titled ‘S.44 workflow’ marked as Annexure C**

8. RFS has divided the state into regions and districts. In an emergency or s.44 environment, an incident controller (“IC”) is nominated in the relevant district/region. The Commissioner delegates his financial authority to the IC for the term of the s.44 declaration. A Logistics request is created at the district and processed by our unit as per **Annexure C**. All s.44 purchase orders are allocated a prefix of ‘S44L’ or ‘HP’, the latter stands for Heavy Plant. Non-emergency purchase orders are allocated a prefix of ‘45’ or ‘HP’. It is normal for purchase orders to contain, at least, an estimation of the projected cost. I am aware of occasions when no cost or estimated cost was included on purchase orders during an emergency environment.

Signature W Buckett


Witness [Signature]

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9. During a s.44 declaration one of the procurement unit is allocated as the 'Logistics Officer' as per the roster. This provides the IC with a direct connection to the procurement unit in order to streamline the procurement process.
10. John compiled a document called the 'Logistics Head Office User Guide' to help RFS staff with procurement during s.44 declarations.
11. The RFS has a central warehouse located at Glendenning. When products are received at that location they are noted as 'goods receipted' in SAP. When we organise for products to be disbursed to a region or district we require a completed/signed-form called 'Logistics Request to State Operations'.
12. I first became aware of Scott Homsey in approximately 2010 when he was involved in catering for some base camps. He later submitted a tender response for the RFS cafeteria.
13. I believe that Scott Homsey and Paul live in the Gosford area and I believe that they know each other outside of the RFS, but I have never had this confirmed. About a year ago Homsey may have provided catering to Paul for a family function. I am not sure if Paul knew Scott before he did work for the RFS or how the RFS came to use him for catering.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Witness \_\_\_\_\_



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14. Scott's companies provided two main services to the RFS, catering at fire ground base camps and the provision of snack packs for the volunteer fire-fighters. John assumed responsibility for the management of the commercial relationship with Homsey, especially the provision of snack packs.

15. Before the 2014/2015 fire season, John organised for products, including ration packs, to be pre-ordered so that RFS had them in stock during the fire season. John had to get this approved by Steve Yorke who is responsible for the operational response budget.

16. We did occasionally use Homsey's company to provide courier services, usually during an emergency environment. I cannot recall how this started. Although Homsey was not a courier by trade we used him as he was able to provide some of these services at short notice. I am not sure how it came about that we used Scott Homsey to provide courier services for the RFS. I recall one occasion when items were delivered to Head Office by one of Scott's employees using a van.

17. Another person we used for courier services is Nathan Edrupt. In emergency situations there is a need to get items anywhere in the state at short notice, the Logistics team has on many occasions wasted valuable time ringing around courier companies only to find out that the courier company cannot pick up until 2pm the next day and then not be delivered until the following day. John was

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aware that Nathan was available and had a ute that could transport items as urgently as needed.

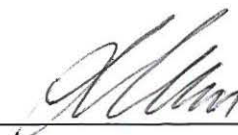
18. At about 2.30pm on Saturday 14 February 2015, I received a telephone call from John. He asked what was happening and what I knew. He sounded agitated. I didn't know what he was talking about and he said that he would come to my house.

19. A few minutes later he arrived at my house in his car. We walked to the rear of the house. He told me that ICAC had 'gone through his house and got him at the side of the road after he had been to Scotty's'. I knew that he was referring to Scott Homsey. He said words to the effect; 'I leant Scotty some money and I went there to get some back that he owed me and the ICAC pulled me over with the money'. He had no telephone and wanted to speak to Paul to see if he was being investigated. I called Paul using my mobile telephone and tried to see if Paul was aware of the situation without telling him anything. Paul said that he was not aware of anything then I gave John my handset. I heard the start of his conversation with Paul. He told Paul the same thing he had told me about the ICAC searches and 'Scotty' then I moved away from him and heard nothing more of the conversation. The mobile telephone number used by John to speak to Paul is [REDACTED]

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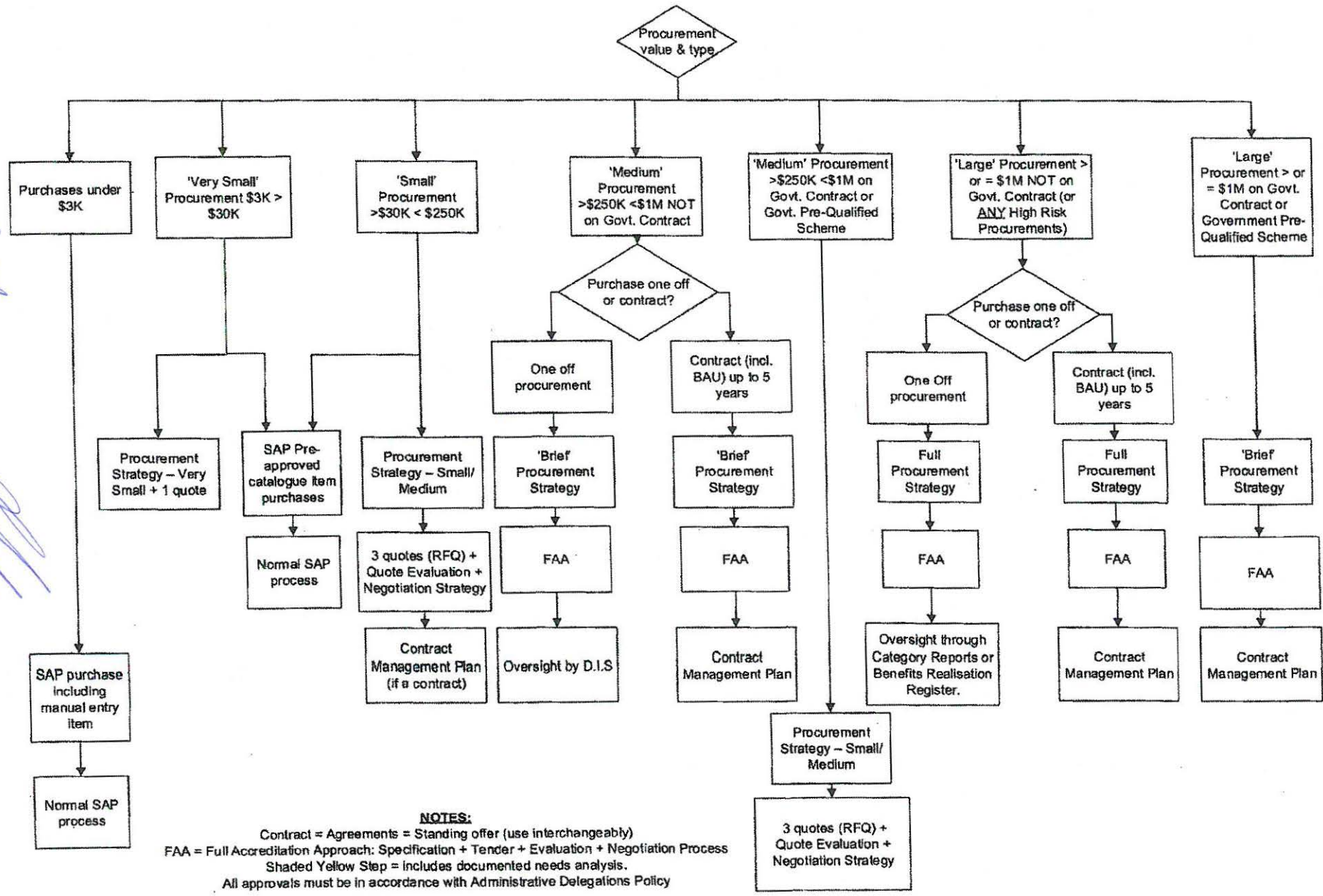
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**PROCUREMENT FLOWCHART BASED ON PROCUREMENT VALUE AND TYPE/ METHODOLOGY:**

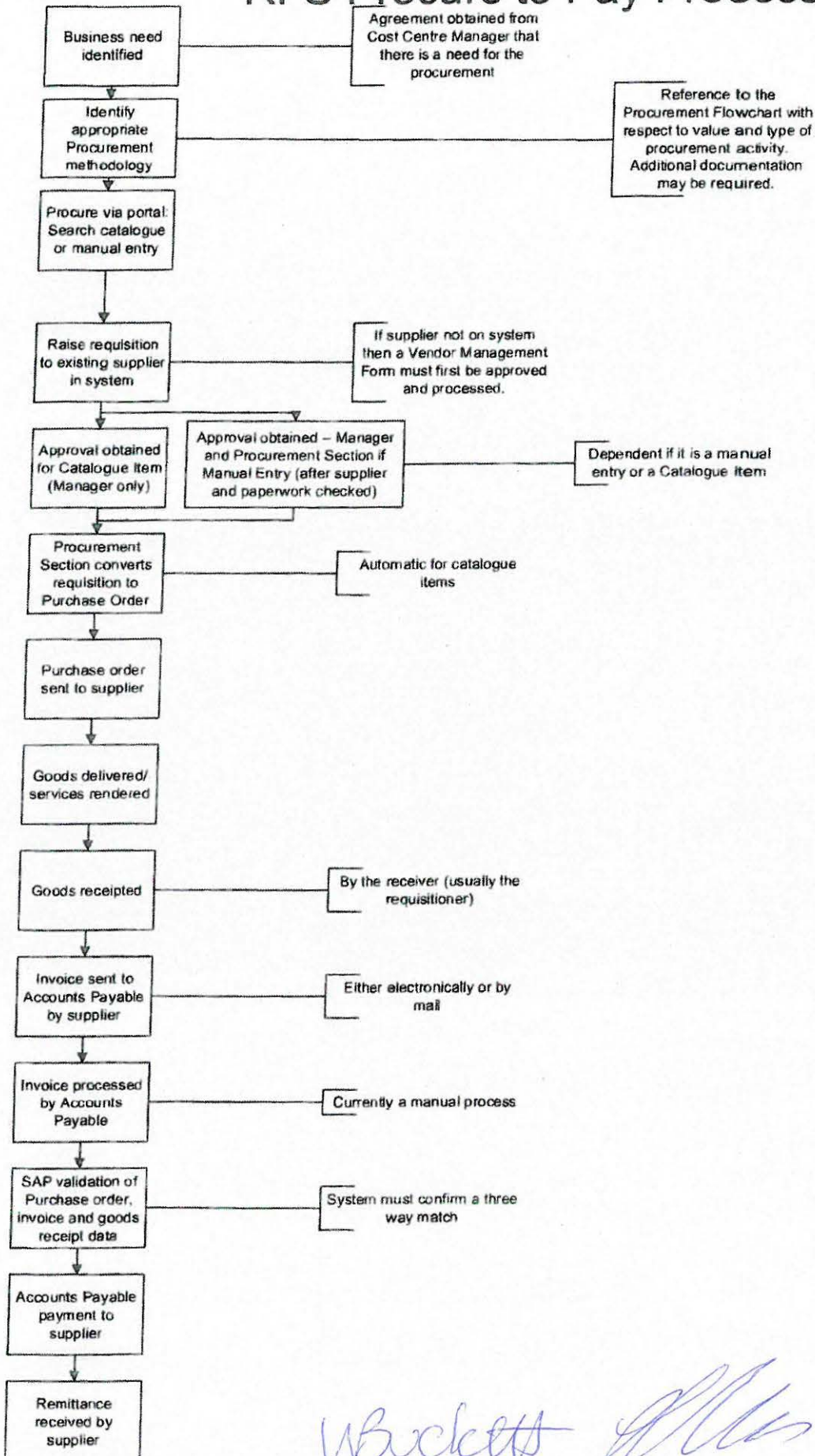
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ANNEXURE B

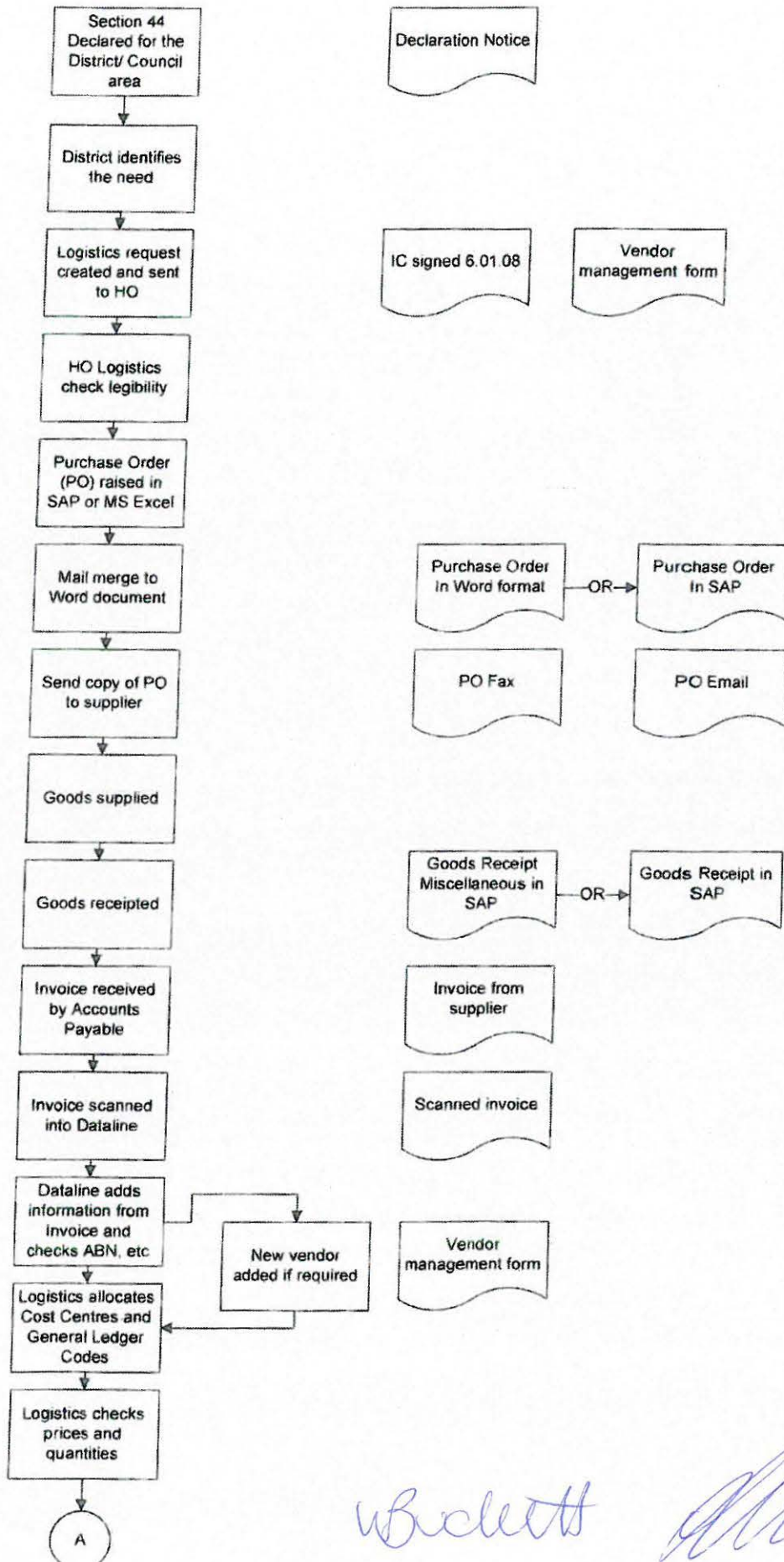
# RFS Procure to Pay Process



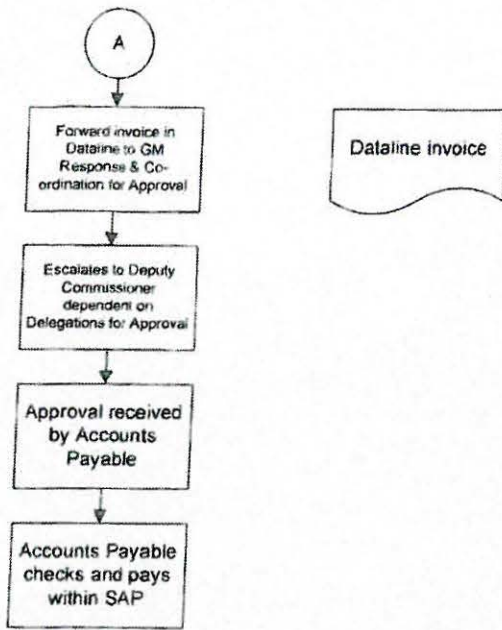


ANNEXURE C

# S44 Workflow



ANNEXURE C



*W Biclett*

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