



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
21 October 2021

Asked by Mr Braddock on 21 October 2021: Mr Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Proof Transcript 21 October 2021 Page 68]

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: Yes. In paper E, page 36 under the budget technical adjustments, sorry to drill down right into the details, the second from the bottom has a line item called “termination of redundant Better Infrastructure Fund initiative” and I was wondering if someone can please enlighten me as to what that initiative might have been and why it was now redundant?

Mr Rattenbury: Mr Rutledge, I suspect—

Mr Rutledge: Yes, thanks, Mr Braddock. The Better Infrastructure Fund was a budget initiative a few years ago and that initiative has ended and that funding was used to just do minor upgrades to better infrastructure or to infrastructure projects. In our space, it is largely around parks and conservation, in EPSDD’s portfolio.

It has been reframed and it has still got the same acronym, but I cannot think of why we changed the name. But we are still roughly around \$2 million a year we put into general maintenance over and above the maintenance built into our capital works projects. So it is a technical adjustment, because it is the end of one full year initiative, but an additional initiative—additional funding has been taken up for that.

MR BRADDOCK: If I look halfway up the page, I see “revised funding profile, EPSDD 2020-21 BIF”. That just has about 500,000 moving around.

Mr Rutledge: Yes.

MR BRADDOCK: Where would I find the two million item that you are talking about?

Mr Rutledge: I will find that for you, Mr Braddon, and provide that on notice.

Minister Rattenbury: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

I have been advised that, in the hearing Mr Rutledge mistakenly referred to “roughly \$2m”, rather than “roughly \$1m”. Further details are provided below.

The Better Infrastructure Fund provides annual funding to improving existing Territory physical infrastructure assets, to extend their useful life or enhance existing service delivery capacity. Each year the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) receives approximately \$1.1 million in base allocation of this funding.

In the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Budget Statements there was an inconsistency between the Infrastructure Table and the amount appropriated to EPSDD for BIF Funding. This followed the incorrect inclusion of additional funding in the 2019-20 Budget Statement, Changes to appropriation – Capital Injections, Controlled, where an item titled “Better Infrastructure Fund” was included as a technical adjustment. This inconsistency was corrected through the “Termination of redundant BIF initiative” within the budget, as indicated on page 36 of the 2021-22 Budget Statement. This error had been identified and no excess funding had been spent by the directorate. Following the adjustment, the appropriation and Infrastructure tables align.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:



Date:

1/11/21

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Minister Rattenbury