



Inquiry into Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MS DEBORAH MORRIS

Addressed to: MINISTER FOR FINANCE

Redirected to: CHIEF MINISTER

In relation to: Fitzroy Pavillion procurement

Hearing: 22 April 2026

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Answer Due: 06/05/2026

MR RUSS CAMPBELL took on notice the following question(s):

MRS MORRIS: I had another one, if that is all right. Thank you. I just want to go to some concerns that Mr Cocks has raised in his submission in relation to the Fitzroy Pavilion. The original funding provision in the 2023-24 budget was withheld, and the Chief Minister explained that it was withheld so that it would not predetermine the market price. But Mr Cocks has raised concerns over a work order that was issued which included the funding provision. Why was the Assembly and the public left in the dark over that funding provision that was within the budget, withheld in the budget, but that was privately given to the contractor?

Ms Potter: So the availability of the information about the dollar value of the proposed refurbishment contract was given to a supplier under a work order from the panel in order for them to be able to value and provide costings associated with whether they could take on that project because they were the project manager for the they would have been, and they then were engaged on being the refurbishment provider. So the dollar value attached to the project is relevant in them understanding whether they could deliver the project within the available budget. So the procurement process that was used to engage that potential supplier was the panel. So it is a panel process that we had that they had access to and the work order being issued was then the mechanism by which they were engaged. So for project managers it is relevant information for them to understand whether they can deliver a project, to understand what associated budget would be available to do that. So it was through the procurement process that that was done.

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MRS MORRIS: So again to the point of that information being withheld from the Assembly and the public but given to the contractor, Mr Cocks in his submission has said that this does raise concerns around value for money and the integrity of the procurement process, with that confidential information being given to one provider. Do you have a response to that?

Ms Potter: Well, the procurement process that was undertaken was the use of the panel, and the documents that would support the procurement would be linked to that as the procurement process. The correlation between the dollar value being provided as evidence that there is not value for money is not a logic that I can follow. But I can just say that the usage of the panel by Infrastructure Canberra, there is nothing suggestive that there is an irregularity in them deciding to do that. It is a procurement that was done by Infrastructure Canberra. It is not a PACT procurement so in that sense I cannot speak with authority about the procurement activity in and of itself. But from seeking to understand from colleagues at Infrastructure Canberra what the context of the provision of that information was, it is that it was used to engage the services of a project manager.

Mr Campbell: Yes, look, I think given we are not the actual responsible agency I would like to take that on notice to see if there is any further that can be provided as a response ...(indistinct)...
[11.01.13] Mr Cocks's submission.

MR ANDREW BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Fitzroy Pavilion refurbishment project was delivered via the Project Management Agreement (PMA) Panel: a project delivery mechanism that include a list of pre-approved Project Managers (established by a separate procurement process). PMA Project Managers act on behalf of the Territory to deliver projects which may have time or operational constraints, and require site investigation and design to define the extent of works.

The construction budget for the Fitzroy project was given to the PMA Project Manager in accordance with the conditions of the Panel. This occurs with all Panel engagements to inform Project Managers and to give them the opportunity to ensure all works contracts are in accordance with budgets.

Specific Project Managers are selected from the PMA Panel based on their experience, resources and skill set to align with the works to be delivered. In the case of the Fitzroy Pavilion refurbishment, the Project Manager selected was experienced with similar works and had the capacity and resources to meet the completion timeline.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Financial Management and Government Procurement

Legislative Compliance

Signature:



By the Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA

Date: 6.5.26