

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Questions on Notice

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

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QTON - projects completed on time and within budget while Minister Corbell Min for ESA

Asked by Mr Smyth on 25 May 2010 : Mr Corbell took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 25 May 2010 Page 1128

“What have you delivered on time and on budget in Emergency Services since you became the minister?”

Mr Corbell : The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

On a yearly basis, the ESA undertakes a Capital Upgrade Program. Over the past four financial years, the ESA has delivered on numerous station upgrades. From 20 April 2006, the following Minor New Works Upgrades and Capital Works projects have been delivered on time and on budget:

1. Fuel tank removal and remediation (addressing significant environmental issues and future issues relating to Station Relocation Program)
2. Asbestos Removal at 15 ESA sites
3. Water saving shower heads, low flow spouts and dual flush toilets at all sites not fed from water tanks
4. Completion of new SES facility at Hackett
5. Security access control systems at all ESA sites
6. Personal Protective Equipment storage at all ACT Fire brigade facilities
7. Exhaust extraction systems in all ACT Fire brigade and ACT Ambulance facilities
8. Heating and cooling plant upgrade at all sites
9. New kitchens at Fyshwick, Belconnen, Phillip, Chisholm and Charnwood Fire Stations, along with new kitchens at Woden SES Depot and Phillip Ambulance Station
10. Fire Indicator Panels, Emergency Warning Systems, emergency lighting, detector upgrades and emergency exit lights at all sites where required under Building Code of Australia and Fire Code

11. New Building Management System at Gungahlin Joint Emergency Services Centre
12. New vehicle bay doors at various sites
13. Electrical upgrades to accommodate new equipment and increased capacity at sites
14. Improved office, vehicle and accommodation for staff at various sites
15. A third appropriation budget of \$1million was allocated in March 2009. ESA delivered capital works on time and on budget by mid December 2009 as follows:

Stations	Works done
Hall RFS Station	Electrical, heating cooling, plumbing and painting
Tidbinbilla RFS Station	Electrical, plumbing, roadside lighting, concreting and provision of drinking water
Guises Creek RFS Station	Plumbing, concreting and painting
Southern Districts RFS Station	Provision of training room and associated electrical, heating cooling, sheeting and floor coverings
Fyshwick Joint Emergency Services Centre	New mechanical engine bay doors
Ainslie Fire Station	New mechanical engine bay doors, and heating upgrade
Greenway Fire Station	Boiler and electrical upgrade
Belconnen Fire Station	Heating cooling and trip hazard and OH&S reduction and rectification
Chisholm Fire Station	Electrical and joinery
Training Building	Plumbing, heating cooling, joinery and provision of new training props
Woden SES Depot	Floor coverings and vehicle bay doors
Hackett SES Depot	Security upgrades
Gungahlin JESC	Heating cooling, storage, painting and joinery
ESA Fairbairn	Hazard identification
Molonglo RFS/SES Station	Electrical, plumbing, security, concreting and vehicle bay doors
Rivers RFS/SES Station	Electrical, painting and security
ACT Ambulance Stations	Security, electrical, joinery, heating cooling and OH&S reduction
All Volunteer Sites	Rekeying on master key system all sites
All Stations	Dual flush toilets, low flow spouts and water saving shower heads
Various Sites	Anchor and harness points (compliance)

QTON - Cost to ACT of US Presidential visit

Mr Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

In relation to: What will the cost of the president's visit be to the people of the ACT?

Mr Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

ACT Policing is still planning for the visit of President Barack Obama and his family. For this and operational security reasons, ACT Policing is unable to provide a budgetary projection at this time.

ACT Policing will lead the coordination and provision of policing services for the visit. The responsibility for protection around visiting dignitaries lies within the state/territory jurisdiction, hence ACT Policing is responsible for delivering this outcome.

AFP National will supplement ACT Policing with specialist and general resources, at no cost to the ACT Government.

At the completion of the visit, ACT Policing will provide a full costing including the number of staff and resources dedicated to the visit.

Financial statements

Brendan Smyth: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

[Ref: Emergency Services, Budget paper 4, Page number 285, output class 4.1]

In relation to the financial statements for the Emergency Services Agency:

1. Why is the ESA estimating to record a deficit of \$13.4 million for 2009-10.
2. Why was the ESA facing a deficit of \$7.3 million without the effect of the decision to reclassify intensive care paramedics.
3. Why have you not been able to eliminate the deficit budgets for the ESA.

Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The ESA's estimated deficit for 2009-10 of \$13.375 million largely relates to the following non-cash items:
 - \$7.113m depreciation and amortisation; and
 - \$6.444m recognition of accrual impact of the ACT ICP Workvalue outcome.
2. As mentioned above, the deficit excluding the ACT ICP Workvalue outcome relates to depreciation and amortisation of capital items.
3. The ACT Government's financial framework provides appropriation funding for operating purposes on a cash needs basis and up-front funding for capital purchases through capital injection appropriation. Consequently, consistent with the ACT's financial framework, ESA will continue have an operating loss where it has non-cash items such as depreciation and accrual of employee expenses where it differs from the timing of the cash payment.

Use of motor vehicles by the ESA

Brendan Smyth: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

[Ref: Emergency Services, Budget paper 4, Page number 256, output class 4.1]

In relation to the use of motor vehicles by the Emergency Services Agency:

1. Is there an overall ESA policy covering home garaging of the Agency's motor vehicles.
2. (a) If so, what does this policy prescribe. (b) If not, why not.
3. (a) Are there any motor vehicles to which this policy does not apply. (b) If so, why is this so.
4. (a) Are there any motor vehicle policies that are specific to any of the four emergency services. (b) If so, which service has such a policy. (c) What is provided in each specific policy.

Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows.

5. The guidelines which apply to home garaging of vehicles in the ESA are those detailed in the *Public Sector Management Standards 2006, Chapter 7, Non-executive Vehicles* and the *ACTPS non-Executive Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicle Management Guidelines*.
6. These documents provide that approval for home garaging of non-executive vehicles must be approved by the relevant Chief Executive (or delegate) in accordance with the whole of government policy.

To maintain an operational response capacity after hours there are arrangements in place for home garaging of vehicles by senior command roles in the services. Home garaging in ESA is approved on the basis of improving operational effectiveness by enabling immediate response/recall to emergency incidents.

7. Yes. The arrangements above do not apply to operational response vehicles including ambulances, pumpers, water tankers and other operation fleet vehicles (eg HAZMAT; Bronto). Subject to operational response requirements all other ESA fleet vehicles comply with the ACT Government policy on use and vehicle capacity.

The use of executive motor vehicles are prescribed by *Guidelines for the Management and Use of Executive Vehicles* issued by the Chief Minister's Department.

8. The ACT Fire Brigade (ACTFB) has an instruction which outlines the arrangements for the use of ACTFB vehicles. All services have vehicle policies specifically relating to "urgent duty driving" and their operational response and backup requirements.

Communications in the ESA

Brendan Smyth: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

[Ref: Emergency Services, Budget paper 4, Page number 264; 266, output class 4.1]

In relation to communications in the Emergency Services Agency:

1. What is the objective of the mobile data solution project.
2. What will the provision of \$3.8 million in 2010-11 budget fund.
3. (a) What business case, cost-benefit analysis or equivalent assessment of mobile data and associated communications requirements has been made of this project prior to the allocation of the funds. (b) Please provide a copy of this assessment.
4. Has there any beneficial information gained from the Firelink project that has assisted in planning for the mobile data solution project.
5. What organisation or people provided expertise to the ESA to assist in the preparation for this project.
6. (a) Will the project assist all the services within the ESA. (b) If so, will they all benefit at the same time. (c) If not, which service will have priority and why.
7. What communications connectivity will there be between the ESA and ACT Policing as a result of this project being implemented.
8. Will there be connectivity between ACT and NSW emergency service entities as a result of the implementation of this project.
9. What consideration has been given to developing and implementing a whole of government solution to mobile data communications.

Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The project will progress the replacement of the mobile data system (MDS) in the ACT Fire Brigade and the ACT Ambulance Service, and implementation of the system in the ACT Rural Fire Service and the ACT State Emergency Service.
2. Increased funding in the 2010-11 budget provides the scope to extend the provision of the MDS to the ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT State Emergency Services and meet increased capital and recurrent costs associated with the project.
3. a) and b)
A copy of the "Mobile Data System with Automatic Vehicle Location Statement of Requirements" is provided at [Attachment 1](#). The negotiations with Procurement Solutions and the preferred tenderer are still underway and the report has not been finalised.
4. Recommendations made by the ACT Auditor-General in the 2007 Performance Audit Report (the Firelink Project) informed project governance for the MDS project. These recommendations included:
 - Project sponsorship
 - Robust project governance

- Rigorous Business Case development
- Appropriate Risk Management approach
- Legal scrutiny of all major contracts
- The need for detailed consultation with all stakeholders, and
- The requirement for a common technical solution across all services.

5. Project Governance

- ESA ICT Steering Committee
- MDS Upgrade Project Steering Committee
- Membership including:
 - Project Sponsor Chief Officer – ACTFB (Chair):
 - Senior Users:
 - Chief Officer – ACTAS;
 - Chief Officer - RFS; and
 - Chief Officer – SES.
 - Senior Technical:
 - ESA ICT manager (InTACT); and
 - Fujitsu Service Delivery Manager.

Project Resources included

- ESA Project Manager (InTACT)
- Fujitsu Service Delivery Manager
- Fujitsu Project Manager
- Sigtec Project Manager
- Sigtec Engineering Manager
- Sigtec Design and Development Team
- Sigtec System Integration and Test Team
- Sigtec Subcontractors
- ESA Trainers
- ESA User Acceptance Testers
- ESA Workshops, and
- ESA / InTACT Technical Support.

6.

- a) Yes.
- b) No.
- c) Phase 1a and 1b will replace the end of life MDS from the ACTFB and ACTAS. Phase 2 will roll the technology to the ACTRFS and ACTSES. This approach was taken to ensure a continuum of services to the ACT community.

7. The new MDS will not provide any additional connectivity between the ESA and ACT Policing. In the event of a major incident ESA's terminal equipment is programmed with various channels used by the AFP including the ACT Whiskey net. Two ESA Trunk Radio Network (TRN) radios are connected to the Centracom system within the AFP Winchester Centre allowing access to any ESA channel from any AFP channel. This capability is at the discretion of the AFP ComCen manager.

8. The new MDS will not provide any additional connectivity between the ESA and NSW emergency service entities. In the event of a major incident, the TRN would provide interoperability with the NSW emergency services entities. The TRN provides seamless interoperability with NSW Emergency Services. ACTSES, ACTAS, ACTRFS and ACTFB have service specific agreements with their NSW counterparts to share predefined TRN talk groups.
9. The ESA's MDS is an emergency services grade technical solution which would not be cost effective for whole of government application. The ESA is not aware of any consideration being given to developing and implementing a whole of government solution to mobile data communications.

Report on Govt Services 2010

Brendan Smyth: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

[Ref: Emergency Services, Budget paper 4, Page number 256, output class 4.1]

In relation to the Report on Government Services 2010 – Emergency Management:

1. Why is the ACT the only jurisdiction to record a reduction in real funding of fire services over the past five years.
2. Who is responsible for this decline in funding.
3. What increased risks does this reduction in funding pose for the ACT.
4. What action is being taken to rectify this decline.
5. Why is the ACT the only jurisdiction to record a decline in the number of ambulance officers/paramedics during 2008-09.
6. Why is the ACT the only jurisdiction to have less of these officers than were on staff in 2004-05.
7. Who is responsible for this decline in funding.
8. What increased risks does this reduction in funding pose for the ACT.
9. What action is being taken to rectify this decline.
10. Why have ambulance response times in the ACT increased by more than in any other jurisdiction over the period since 2004-05.
11. Who is responsible for this decline in performance.
12. What action is being taken to rectify this decline
13. Why does the ACT a much higher rate of attrition of ambulance staff than does any other jurisdiction.
14. Who is responsible for this high rate of attrition.
15. What action is being taken to rectify this poor performance.

National Emergency Warning system

Shane Rattenbury : To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Emergency Services, Budget paper 4, page number 264, output class 4.1

In relation to : Stage 2 of the roll out of the National Emergency Warning System and the commitment that the contracted service provider (Telstra) has made to enable the system to send text messages to mobile phones physically in a defined geographical area at a point in time:

- (a) did Telstra commit to adding that capability to the National Emergency Warning System by a certain date?
- (b) if so, what date?
- (c) if not, does the contract with Telstra contain the ability to renegotiate if that capability is not able to be implemented?

Simon Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

Phase 2 of NEWS includes the ability to send NEWS messages to mobile telephones based on the location of the telephone at the time the message is sent. A decision was made at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Meeting in April 2009 to separate this function from the original project. As such it was not part of the contract engaging Telstra to develop NEWS.

Phase 2 is being managed by the Victorian Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner, and is funded by the Commonwealth Government. The ACT Government through the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) continues to work with the Victorian Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner on the development of Phase 2.

The Project Team is required to report to COAG on the feasibility of this phase by 31 July 2010. If the proposal is accepted, the planned implementation date for Phase 2 is 30 November 2010.

Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council

Shane Rattenbury : To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Emergency Services, Budget Paper 4, page 264

In relation to the arson research conducted by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council:

- (a) does the ACT Government contribute expertise or resources to the research? If so, what is contributed?
- (b) What information or data does the ACT Government receive from the Council?
- (c) How does the ACT Government use that information in implementing programs included in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan?

Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- (a) Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) currently has a Fire Investigation and Analysis Working group, which has ACT Rural Fire Service representation.

The ACT Rural Fire Service also has an officer currently seconded to the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department to assist in:

- Training program development for arson investigation; and
 - Providing expert advice to the National Bushfire Arson Reduction Strategy, which is part of the National work plan to reduce bushfire arson.
- (b) The AFAC Fire Investigation Working Group meets on a regular basis and is used nationally to disseminate information and latest trends in investigation from the States and Territories.
 - (c) The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Version Two sets out broad strategies and actions for the management of bushfire arson in the Territory, that provides for:
 - The use of targeted community education and awareness programs;
 - The use of statutory powers to control the use of fire, for example declaration of total fire bans; and
 - The investigation the cause and effect of bushfires when they occur.

Under these actions, ACT Fire Services consider fire occurrence in the Territory against latest national trends in deliberate lighting of fires to analyse potential bushfire arson incidents. This analysis may be used to initiate specific investigation of fires, particularly where patterns or groupings of fires occur.

The ACT is currently preparing a MOU with ACT Policing to provide for a consistent approach to the investigation of fire across the Territory that involves the ACT Rural Fire Service, the ACT Fire Brigade and ACT Policing.

This MOU will include mechanisms for information sharing and community information and advice relating to bushfire arson, which will be incorporated as part of the seasonal bushfire awareness and education programs undertaken by the ESA.

On-the-spot fines

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA: To ask the Minister for Police

In relation to On-the-spot fines:

1. How many on-the-spot fines have been issued by ACT Policing since new regulations were introduced in March 2008 to allow for such fines to be issued in relation to minor street offences?
2. What offences are included as part of the regulation and outline the number of each type of offence to have an on-the-spot fine issued?

Mr Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. ACT Policing has issued 208 Criminal Infringement Notices (CIN).
2. ACT Policing can issue a CIN for the following offences:

Defacing premises – 120(1) Crimes Act 1900 (private property)	\$200
Defacing premises – 120(2) Crimes Act 1900 (public property)	\$200
Urinating in public place – 393A Crimes Act 1900	\$200
Fail to comply with noise abatement direction – 394 (2) Crimes Act 1900	\$200
Consume liquor in prescribed public place – 139 (1) Liquor Act 1975	\$200

Of the 208 CIN’s issued as at 24 May 2010, 148 CIN’s were issued for urinating in a public place, 50 CIN’s for consuming liquor in a public place and two for defacing premises. Eight CIN’s are currently being processed.