



Inquiry into the CIT CEO recruitment process

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: MR THOMAS EMERSON

Addressed to: MINISTER FOR SKILLS, TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Redirected to: NA

Reference: CMTEDD- ECODEV

Hearing: 30 March 2026

In relation to: Governance Reform

Question received: 03/04/2026

Answer Due: 14/04/2026

(1) Since governance reforms made the board responsible for CIT's operational matters in 2015, including CEO appointments, one CIT CEO has been found to have engaged in serious corrupt conduct while in the role, and her successor has been found to have engaged in misconduct in her previous role. Are you taking any steps to reform the governance arrangements at CIT, or considering doing so, noting that current arrangements do not appear to be working?

Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The CIT is an independent territory authority with a governing Board. The CIT Board are responsible for the governance arrangements at CIT. Per s77(1) of the *Financial Management Act 1996* (FMA), the governing board has the following functions:

- (a) setting the authority's policies and strategies;
- (b) governing the authority consistently with the authority's establishing Act and other relevant legislation.
- (c) ensuring, as far as practicable, that the authority operates in a proper, effective and efficient way;
- (d) ensuring, as far as practicable, that the authority complies with applicable governmental policies (if any).

The Government continues to work closely with the CIT Board to strengthen governance, risk management and leadership practices within the existing framework, including through the appropriate use of legislative instruments such as ministerial directions such as the *Canberra Institute of Technology Ministerial Direction 2022 (No 1)* issued in 2022 under section 7 of the *Canberra Institute of Technology Act 1987*. The Direction required the CIT and its Board to strengthen governance, financial management and procurement oversight arrangements, including improved Board visibility of high-value procurements.

The CIT Board has provided advice on the work undertaken to improve governance processes. This advice is detailed in my response to a question taken on notice (QTON 10).

In relation to the current CIT CEO, in December 2025 I asked the Head of Service to undertake an independent review of the CEO selection process undertaken by the CIT Board. I will consider the outcomes of that review, and the recommendations of report of this Inquiry, before determining whether any further action is required.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and AdministrationPublic Accounts and Administration

Signature:



Date: 12.4.26

By the Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations, **Michael** Pettersson MLA