



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA,
SUZANNE ORR MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**



Asked by MR COE MLA:

Chief Minister, Treasurer and Economic Development Directorate 2016/17 Annual Report,
Coordinated Communications and Community Engagement, Output 1.3

In relation to Emergency Communications:

1. Please outline the emergency communications training provided to staff.
 - a. What was involved in the training with the Rural Fire Service?
 - b. What was involved in the terrorism training with the Commonwealth AG Department?
 - i. What process in these situations?
2. Please provide a consolidated list of what emergency communications each directorate will or has received and what the subject matter is?

Chief Minister : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Communications staff from across the ACT public service were provided with multiple opportunities for training in the delivery of public information in the event of a Territory emergency in 2016-17.

A key way to deliver ongoing training is through Public Information Communication Centre (PICC) familiarisation for all communications staff at ESA Fairbairn. PICC familiarisation is an opportunity for staff to visit the PICC at ESA Fairbairn and, while there, run through the standard operating procedures as outlined in the ACT Community Communications and Information Plan (CCIP). This is run as required throughout the year but most especially in the lead up to bushfire season.

Additionally, staff receive on the job training by working alongside experienced staff at the PICC when it is formally operational, such as communications support for a potential energy blackout and total fire ban days (February 2017) and to support the switchboard incident at the Canberra Hospital (April 2017).



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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- a. Communications staff from across ACT public service directorates were involved in an Incident Management Exercise at ESA Fairbairn alongside the ACT Emergency Services Agency, Rural Fire Service and NSW Rural Fire Services in December 2016. This was a cross-border training exercise focussed on ensuring all staff were prepared to deliver a coordinated approach to communication in the event of a bushfire that crossed between both the ACT and NSW in a real time scenario.
 - b. CMTEDD and ACT Policing staff participated in a national whole of Australian government's workshop facilitated through the Commonwealth Attorney General's department designed to evaluate coordination between jurisdictions and agencies.
 - (i) This coordination is governed by the National Security Public Information Guidelines. The Guidelines are managed by Commonwealth Attorney-General's and any further questions relating to those guidelines should be directed to the Attorney-General's Department.
2. All emergency communication from the ACT Government is published on the ACT Emergency Services Agency website as the single point of truth. All emergency communication can be found at esa.act.gov.au

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 23.11.2017

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA