



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **22 February 2022**

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 22 February 2022: Duncan Edghill took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 22 February 2022 PAGE 11]

In relation to: Fraud Prevention

MS LEE: Thank you, Chair. Can I take you to page 39, where there is the topic of fraud prevention. It says on that page that the senior executive responsible for business integrity risk, with the very long acronym of SERBIR—there were two assessments done and determined that there was a lack of judgment, but those issues were not sent to the integrity commissioner. When were those assessments done throughout the year? Do you have those dates?

Mr Edghill: Thank you. I may have to take that on notice. I understand that they were of a relatively minor nature. If we may take that on notice, please.

MS LEE: Okay. And in terms of the person or persons responsible in terms of the lacking of judgment, if you like, what level were they in the public service?

Mr Edghill: Again, if I might take the specifics of those cases on notice. I would need to talk to the SERBIR.

MS LEE: Okay, no worries. And will you also take on notice—because it actually says in the report that the matters were referred to human resources for management. If you can confirm what the actual consequences or what the action that was taken by human resources were. Will you need to take that on notice too?

Mr Edghill: If I could, yes, please.

MS LEE: Just finally, were there any external legal or any other advice sought in respect of managing, I suppose, the outcome of the assessments and how the decision was made not to refer them to the integrity commissioner?

Mr Edghill: Without having the specifics of the cases to hand, I would need to take that on notice as well, if I may, please.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. May and June 2021.
2. Infrastructure Officer 5 and Infrastructure Manager/Specialist 1.
3. Preliminary assessments were undertaken by the Major Projects Canberra (MPC) SERBIR in accordance with *Section H of the ACT Public Sector Technical and Other Professional Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021*. It was determined that both matters were deemed to be management issues and not appropriate for SERBIR or referral to the Integrity Commission. Both employees were counselled and received letters of direction regarding their obligations and responsibilities and were provided with information regarding appropriate training.

Training has also been provided across MPC regarding fraud and corruption so that staff are more familiar with the types of matters that should be reported to the MPC SERBIR and/or the Integrity Commission.

4. For one matter the Human Resources team spoke to the Professional Standards Unit within Workforce Capability and Governance before completing the preliminary assessment under *Section H of the ACT Public Sector Technical and Other Professional Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021*.

Following the completion of preliminary assessments there was no evidence to suggest that these matters met the threshold for referral to the Integrity Commission.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 3.3.22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA