



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **1 March 2022**

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 1 MARCH 2022: CHRIS STEEL MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 1 March 2022, Page 2]

In relation to: Procurement exemptions

THE CHAIR: So I will kick off with the first question today. I would like to chat about procurements. The Auditor-General's report into the procurement exemptions and value for money from June 2021 referenced 14 per cent of all ACT government procurement in the ACT government has exemptions, with a total of 119 million. What are the equivalent numbers for 2021 and 2022?

Mr Steel: Chris Steel, Special Minister of State, and I have read and understood the privilege statement. Because the financial year actually has not finished, I am not sure that we could provide a holistic number for the year.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Yes. I just am keen to understand if you have got even just a finger in the wind of the agencies or directorates that have had the highest dollar value of the exemptions to date for this first six-month period.

Mr Steel: We can certainly have a look at the six-month period, but there is a reason why we look into and inquire into the annual reports from the previous financial year. That is because we have actually reported on those activities and we have not yet done that for this financial year, but I can see whether we can get a six-month figure on notice.

THE CHAIR: All right. Well, with regard to the 2020-2021 period, are you able to tell me which company received the highest dollar value of exemptions?

Mr Steel: We can certainly see whether we can get that information. I might hand over to Procurement ACT just to give a bit of—just to see whether they have any advice on whether they can provide that information or whether that is something that would come from a directorate.

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 there were 60 contracts executed with exemptions, with a total combined value of \$69,049,272.40. However, this figure includes a single contract of \$40.7 million for non-contestable utility works as outlined below. Removing this contract, the total value of contracts executed with exemptions for this period is \$28,349,272.

The Directorate with the highest value contract with an exemption for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 was the Suburban Land Agency. The highest value contract was executed with Icon Distribution Investments Limited and Jemena Networks (ACT) PTY LTD trading as ACTEW AGL Distribution for the provision of Molonglo 3 - 132kV relocation for \$40,700,000.

The company that received the highest dollar contract that used an exemption from the Quotation and Tender Thresholds in financial year 2020-2021 was Varian Australasia for the Replacement of Linear Accelerator (LINAC) 1 and 4 at Canberra Hospital for a total contract value of \$7,358,494.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender Equality

Signature:



Date:

10/3/22

By the Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA