



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

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

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 5 November 2018

Asked by MR COE MLA:

In relation to the Government Procurement Boards consideration of Auditor-Generals report:

MR COE: Okay. Did any issues regarding the Dickson tradies go before the procurement board?

Ms Whitten: The annual report is for the period for 2017-18 and I would have to go back and check in relation to Dickson tradies.

MR COE: Right, but has the procurement board in the last 12 months if you want to keep it to that period—has the issue of Dickson tradies come up in the procurement board?

Ms Whitten: Not that I am aware.

MR COE: What about with regard to recommendations by the auditor general that are relevant to the procurement board?

Ms Whitten: Not that I am aware. It is—recommendations come before—

MR COE: Right. Well, the auditor general has had several reports that are, I think, pretty scathing about procurement. So has the procurement board not taken upon themselves to look into the findings of the auditor general's reports to look at ways that improvements can be made?

Ms Whitten: The board is always very interested in how best to manage its responsibilities. But once again, I go back to what the legislation requires of the board and that has been our key focus.

MR COE: Right. Minister, have you sought any—

MS ORR: Sorry, can I just double check? With the Riverview project, it would not have—the reason it did not come under the procurement board is that this is under the SLA? Is that—potentially? Might be. I am just—I think it might be better placed asking the relevant party. Yes.

Ms Stephen-Smith: The party. Probably good. We will take on notice anyway the—

MS ORR: Yes. Okay.

Ms Stephen-Smith: —role of the procurement board in relation to that historically.

MR COE: So Minister, have you raised with the procurement board any of the issues outlined by the auditor general?

Ms Stephen-Smith: I have not specifically. No. I am happy to go back and have a look at that. And as Ms Whitten says, also look at on notice what the procurement board has done and what procurement ACT has done in terms of responding to those recommendations.

MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Question Regarding the Auditor General's Recommendations:

The 2018 ACT Auditor-General's Report, *Tender for the Sale of Block 30 (Formally Block 20) Section 34 Dickson*, made recommendations to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, the City Renewal Authority and the Suburban Land Agency. The ACT Government tabled a whole of government response in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 7 June 2018.

The 2018 ACT Auditor-General's Report, *Assembly of Rural Land West of Canberra*, made recommendations to the Suburban Land Agency. The ACT Government tabled a whole of government response in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 20 September 2018.

In its consideration of procurement proposals, the ACT Government Procurement Board provides guidance on the risk identification and mitigation identified in risk plans provided by Directorates and agencies. Recommendations and findings of audit reports from time to time provide a particular context to inform guidance provided by the Board.

Procurement ACT takes into consideration relevant audit report findings and recommendations as part of leading continuous improvement of ACT Government procurement activity.

Question Regarding Riverview:

On 28 November 2017, the Suburban Land Agency attended the ACT Government Procurement Board to provide an overview of the joint venture between the ACT Government and Riverview Developments Pty Ltd (Riverview) at West Belconnen. The current Chair of the Board was not in attendance at that meeting.

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

Signature:



Date: 9/11/18

By the Minister for Government Services and Procurement, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA