



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
20 October 2021

Asked by ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA on 20 OCTOBER 2021: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript [20 October – Page 14

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I refer to page 34, of the Budget Statement B. One of the financial management outputs is reviewing government programs and functions, is this undertaken in a regular structured program of review or an ad-hoc basis as problems emerge?

Mr Barr: Both.

THE CHAIR: Both?

Mr Barr: That is correct, yes. There is obviously regular review of government expenditure each year through the budget, and then there is also the capacity to undertake periodic or targeted reviews in particular areas.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Could you outline maybe, perhaps a question on notice, what are those reviews and what was the problems behind those reviews in the last 12 months, actually two years?

Mr Barr: Yes, we can do that.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Regular comprehensive reviews of government expenditure are undertaken through the Budget and Budget Review processes. In addition, more targeted reviews are often undertaken considering specific policy or service areas.

Policy and service reviews over the past two years have included a Review of Legislation Policy and Programs Branch within JACS and a Review of Funding Arrangements for Environmental Offsets.

The Review of Legislation Policy and Programs Branch within JACS was to consider ongoing funding requirements of the area based on current workloads, emerging priorities, existing funding arrangements and options to manage future demand. This review was completed in 2019-20 and has been used to inform budget processes.

The Review of Funding Arrangements for Environmental Offsets considered how and when obligations related to environmental offsets arise and available options to ensure they are planned and sustainable. The review was completed in 2020-21, with the report and findings provided to the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to assist with planning for current and future offset sites.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Signature: 

Date: 5.11.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA