



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

Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **20 November 2023**

Asked by Ms Castley and Mr Cocks on 20 November 2023: Ms Cheyne took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript, 20 November 2023 pages 50 and 54

In relation to:

The Chair: The intelligent regulator project, can I ask some questions about that on page 68 of the CMTEDD annual report volume 2.1. There is a footnote that explains the amount of capital works in progress that have been written off.

Ms Cheyne: Can you say that page again, 66?

The Chair: 68, 2.1, volume 2.1.

Ms Cheyne: I am not sure this is us. Ask your question, Ms Castley, and I will—

The Chair: Sure. I was just wondering why the intelligent regulator project had been written off and what outcomes did it seek to achieve. No idea?

Mr Cocks: This is what I was interested in as well. So, maybe you can—

Ms Cheyne: Yes. Let us, in the time that we have got, see if this is us. I do not think so but we will check and we will find out who it is.

[...]

Ms Cheyne: Intelligent regulator. I have also got an answer on WWVP as well for Mr Cocks. Intelligent regulator is Access Canberra, so we apologise. However, we understand it to be a project from before when I was minister and before Ms McKinnon was in her job. That is why we do not know. You can put those questions to us, but we will have to take them all on notice, if that is all right?

The Chair: Yes, okay.

Ms Cheyne: Happy to receive them as on notice questions, or we can take them on notice here and now.

The Chair: Yes. I will pop them on notice.

[...]

Mr Cocks: Just as a supplementary on the intelligent regulator project. Who made the decision to scrap the project, was it you or was the former minister?

Ms Cheyne: Take it on notice.

Minister Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Access Canberra received capital funding of \$2.510 million in the 2016-2017 Budget for the Intelligent Regulator project to investigate the feasibility of building a replacement licensing system for occupational licensing. The investigation found that technical issues meant that time, scope and cost increases put the project completion beyond the available budget.

In November 2019, Access Canberra's Chief Operating Officer communicated the intended termination of the contract to the implementation partner.

Subsequently, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and government priorities meant that Access Canberra's focus was shifted to critical business continuity measures to support community safety and uphold regulatory protections, with further progress on outstanding capabilities stalling.

The Intelligent Regulator project lasted four years with \$2.272 million spent of the total funding. The remaining funding of \$0.238 million was returned to the Government in June 2022. However, due to there being no transferrable asset as a result of the project, the Acting Deputy Director General Access Canberra agreed in July 2023 to the capital write off and recognition as an expense.

While unsuccessful at the time this work has proved foundational for the initial work on the new common licensing capability and learnings from the project were incorporated into a range of other projects delivered by Access Canberra in the intervening time.

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

Signature: 

Date: 1/12/23

By the Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA