



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL

CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), TARA CHEYNE MLA,
NICOLE LAWDER MLA, JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management

In relation to: Engineers

1. What actions have the government undertaken to make sure that all engineering work in the ACT is safe and of standard?
2. What plans has the government undertaken to create a registerer of engineers in the ACT?
 - a. When will this be adopted?
 - b. Why has there been such a slow roll out?
3. Why did the government leave it so long to decide not to litigate for the Gungahlin Drive Extension bridge collapse?
 - a. Why were the statutory timeframes allowed to elapse before a decision made?
 - b. What will the Government do to ensure this never happens again?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. As part of the Building Regulatory Reform program, we will be examining options around the registration and regulation of engineers, as well as other reforms to address building safety.
- 2a As part of the reform program, we are exploring the potential role of an ACT Chief Engineer and registration, and this will continue in 2018. The reforms are much wider ranging, and complex, and are being undertaking in consultation with other States as part of the overall reforms.
- 2b This work takes time due to the complexity of the reforms and the need to undertake consultation with other States as part of the overall reforms.
- 3a This incident occurred in 2010. There were a number of factors that contributed to the timeliness of the investigation; including a number of unrelated fatal accidents which occurred during the course of the investigation, the complex and technical nature of the matter, and the timing on gaining expert engineering opinion.

Following WorkSafe becoming part of Access Canberra in 2015, the matter was presented to the DPP for consideration of prosecution action. The DPP advised that given the lapse of time since the incident a prosecution would not be pursued.

3b WorkSafe ACT has undergone a series of policy, structural and governance changes since it became part of Access Canberra in 2015 which have improved the agency's ability to respond to such incidents and to ensure that prosecutions, where appropriate, can be made for unsafe work practices. Close monitoring of all investigations in relation to their statutory time limitations is undertaken with regular reports to the Work Safety Commissioner.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal

Signature:



Date: 18/12/17

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA