



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
22 February 2022

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 22 February 2022: Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 22 February 2022, pg 14

In relation to: Whole of Government Procurement Practices

MS LEE: I do, thank you. Mr Edghill, you referred in your answer to Mr Cain's previous question about whether the directorate overrides the tendering process and you said that you would not categorise it as a practice. Do you have actual figures of instances where that has occurred and are you able to provide that information to the committee?

Mr Edghill: I do not have figures to hand. I am happy to take it on notice.

MS LEE: That is fine, yes.

Mr Edghill: I would note that in terms of Major Projects Canberra's role, we do assist with infrastructure capital works procurement processes. We do not do all infrastructure procurement within the ACT. So you have got the likes of the SLA and so forth. We do not do all capital works procurement. So when it comes to IT systems or equipment, we are not involved in those procurement processes, and of course we are not involved procurement processes for goods and services and anything else that the ACT government does.

MS LEE: Sure. So in terms of MPC, are you able to—

Mr Edghill: So I think any answer that we provide would be quite narrow.

THE CHAIR: Sorry, who was speaking?

Mr Edghill: Sorry, I was just finishing my answer. I think any response that we provide on notice would be through a very kind of narrow procurement lens of what we are involved in.

MS LEE: I understand that. So in terms of the follow up, next question being, Chief Minister, as head of the government are you able to provide that across your government, those figures?

Mr Barr: I will take that on notice. It might require—over what timeframe? Since the history of self-government?

MS LEE: No, no. Perhaps in the last five years.

Mr Barr: I will see what resources would be necessary beyond what is already published in annual reports.

MS LEE: Yes. So what I am just asking for is instances where there has been an overriding as—it is just literally following on from Mr Edghill's response about he would not categorise it as a practice, but obviously was not able to rule it out. Thank you, Chair.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The outcome of delegate decision-making in relation to each procurement activity across the Territory is not captured at a whole of government level.

The procurement framework provides scope for delegates to make a decision that differs from the recommendation of the evaluation team if circumstances warrant. This discretion is specifically allowed because the delegate is expected to use their expertise and judgment, within clearly set out parameters, to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of procured projects. A delegate may also request that an evaluation team respond to queries or further consider aspects of its initial report before a final recommendation is considered by the delegate.

There is no specific requirement to report information on cases where delegates depart from a panel's recommendation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 17. 3. 22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA