



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: FOGO facility and Business case

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 3-4

Transcript provided: 26 November 2025

Answer Due: 3 December 2025

THE CHAIR: All right, thank you. That would be awesome and so my understanding is the government was ordered to produce a business case for the FOGO facility earlier this year. Are you able to—I think that this might have been what we have just discussed, but the FOGO order, the documents we got in the OPD(?) [12.50.33] had that different project value and it was redacted despite it being published in the annual report. Did the government request to have the total project value in the business case redacted and if it did, why, since it was in the annual report?

Ms Cheyne: That would not be a process that I was involved in, so I will go to officials.

Ms Geraghty: We will have to take the question on notice. I do not have the answer.

Ms Cheyne: So we claimed privilege, is that what you are saying?

THE CHAIR: Yes. It says redacted, so yes. If we would be able to release it unredacted if it I mean can you get exposed question on notice just give us a bit of an understanding of why it was redacted in one spot and then released in the business in the annual report. And that is all I have for FOGO.

Tara Cheyene MLA: The answer to the question is as follows-

The funding for the New Recycling Facility (NRF) and the Food Organics/Garden Organics (FOGO) program is sourced from multiple initiative lines. The variation in total project values between the Capital Works report, contained in the Annual Report, and the Budget papers is due to differences in presentation. In the Budget papers, there is one line for NRF and another combined line for FOGO and NRF, both the Capital Works report and the budget papers create a duplication of new funding across the total project values because the new initiative includes both FOGO and NRF combined.

As this is a presentation matter rather than a funding error, Infrastructure Canberra will revisit the presentation as part of the 2026–27 Budget process.

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An unredacted Business Case will not be released prior to the procurement of the project. The first stage of the procurement process, the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) was completed on 12 August 2025 and the second stage, the Request For Proposals (RFP), is expected to commence in Quarter 1 2026. The release of an unredacted business case, including development costs, will guide the market on the budget available to the Territory. This approach may influence pricing, as tenderers could align bids to the Territory's maximum budget rather than actual costs, potentially impacting the ability to demonstrate value for money in the procurement process.

The redactions applied related to information considered commercially sensitive – this claim was upheld by the independent arbiter appointed by the Legislative Assembly.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Transport and City Services

Signature:



By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

7/12/25