



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: Duncan Edghill took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 22 February 2022 PAGE 14-15]

In relation to: CIT Woden Project Board Membership

MS LEE: Yes. Can I just take you to the projects boards, just in relation to a couple of vacancies that we noticed in the annual reports for the independent member for the CIT Woden and the Canberra Hospital expansion. Can you just give us an update of why there is a vacancy, for how long, and what the status is in terms of replacing that member?

Mr Edghill: Yes, certainly. So with the CIT project, that second independent member has now been filled, and that independent member, she was able to join our first project board meeting last month. So there are no vacancies on the CIT board. With the Canberra Hospital expansion project board, when we set up that board in the first place, a deliberate decision was taken to bring the independent chair on first and then run for a period of time and determine what, if any, skill sets we may need for that second independent member. So the independent chair, Tony Michele, has been on board in that hospital expansion project for a period of time now.

There is an active discussion underway at the moment as to whether a second independent member is actually required on that board. So with other of our projects, typically independent members might have quite different skill sets and lend different skills and experiences to the board. I think what we are finding on the hospital expansion project is that—and I do not want this to come out the wrong way and sound like I am denigrating any other independent members on any of the other boards—but the ACT government is very, very lucky to have a very accomplished and knowledgeable independent chair on that project, and that independent chair, I think the consensus around—and I do not speak for the board—but the consensus around the board table is that the board has not felt like it is missing any skills or experience around the table given the strength of the independent chair. So there is an active conversation going on at the moment around whether that second independent board member is actually required or otherwise.

MS LEE: In terms of the CIT Woden one, you mentioned that the independent vacancy has now been filled. How long was that vacant?

Mr Edghill: I would have to take the exact time on notice.

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

From January 2020 to January 2022, the CIT Project Board comprised an Independent Chair, a Deputy Chair and five members who successfully guided the project through its initial planning phase, with provision for an additional Independent Member during this period. To support the CIT project moving into its design and construction phase, a board recruitment process was finalised at the end of 2021 to appoint an Independent Member with relevant expertise in design and sustainability, to provide advice that extended the views and thinking of the Project Board at this stage of the project. This resulted in the appointment of the Independent Member on 17 January 2022.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 33.22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA