



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Government Services and Regulatory Reform

Redirected to: Special Minister of State

Reference: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Hearing Date: 30 July 2024

In relation to: Access Canberra (CMTEDD) and Digital licensing

QON lodgement Date: 31 July 2024

Answer Due date: 8 August 2024

Digital licensing

- (1) At any time, has the NSW Government offered the ACT Government the framework, code, and/or design for digital driver licences?
- (2) Has the ACT Government undertaken any estimate of the costs to implement digital driver licences?
- (3) If so, what was the costing methodology and total cost?
- (4) Why has the government not implemented digital driver licences?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Yes, the NSW Government has previously offered the ACT Government access to the bespoke designs and frameworks for the digital driver licence available in their jurisdiction. At the time, it was noted the NSW's digital driver licence did not completely align with relevant international standards that would support interoperability and acceptance of the NSW digital driver licence across Australian jurisdictional borders. The ACT Government participates in a range of cross-jurisdictional forums investigating technical options and standards for digital driver licences. Agreed standards is an essential step in ensuring digital driver licences issued in one jurisdiction will be accepted and operate the same way across all Australian jurisdictions. This will ensure that as the ACT moves to digital driver licences,

we can meet the needs of Canberrans, including those who travel interstate, as well as interstate visitors.

- (2) Yes, the ACT Government has engaged in preliminary assessments of the options and models applicable to the implementation of digital verifiable credentials such as a digital driver licence and has identified high level estimates of indicative costs based on comparable solutions developed in other states and territories.
- (3) A costing methodology for the implementation of a digital driver licence in the ACT would be the outcome of a subsequent phase of work which includes:
- Analysis of current digital driver licence designs in other jurisdictions and technology compatibility with the various relying functions in the ACT environment,
 - ACT community and industry engagement and consultation, to ensure that once any digital driver licence is implemented, it will be accepted by the widest range of organisations.
 - Establishment of a preferred concept design for an ACT digital driver licence that is interoperable and aligned to a nationally agreed standard, and
 - Determination of costs and timeframes for detailed design, testing and implementation, including any supporting technology platforms that may be required, and costs for ongoing maintenance of the solution.

The approach for this work will follow the ACT Government's *Guiding Best Practice Design and Delivery* guidance to build human centred products and services.

- (4) Like other small jurisdictions, the ACT Government is assessing the implementations in other larger jurisdictions before investing in its own digital driver's licence system.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

6/8/24

By the Minister for Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA