



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Waste collection and Bulky waste collection contract process

Hearing: 13 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 3-4

Transcript provided: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

Mr Cocks: Yes, can I just supplementary on that? When you were going through the competitive tender process, were there any other tenderers that came in at a lower cost overall? And how does it compare to the previous contracts?

Mr Fitzgerald: I would have to take the detail as to how it compares to previous contracts on notice. I would not be inclined to talk about what we received through the procurement process. I would say what we achieved through the tender process was the best value for money outcome for the territory.

Mr Cocks: I am not asking for a breakdown of tenderer by tenderer. Were there any tenders that came in at a lower cost than this contract?

Ms Cheyne: We will take that on notice, Mr Cocks. I think we just need to think about how we frame the information because it is in terms of overall value for money and what is provided. My understanding is that different tenderers offer different things and so there is quite a few new aspects as part of this new contract with JJ's and different tenderers may not have offered exactly the same, and so the price they had offered then may not translate so it might not be comparing apples with apples.

Mr Cocks: Okay. So how did we get to a place where you had, rather than a clearly defined requirement that had all tenderers submitting apples for consideration, why have we got different tenderers providing a different scope?

Ms Cheyne: Well, I think the scope overall, although the bulk of the scope was clearly defined but then there is what are the other valuable aspects that might be offered on top of that. Mr Fitzgerald knows better than me.

Mr Fitzgerald: It is a fair point, minister. What we also see is that the way that the response schedules are provided is there still is a level of variability and that can be assumptions based on population and each response will set out those variables. So we try to bring it back to an apples-to-apples scenario and that can

take some analysis and some detailed understanding of what those variables are. There are options that are included, there are parts of the tender also sort innovation through the process and so all of those different items factor in.

Mr Cocks: Okay. Well, because my understanding is the value of these contracts is —or the cost of this contract is quite high compared to the cost of delivering under the previous arrangements. That is my understanding, that is what I have been told.

Mr Fitzgerald: That's correct, yes.

Mr Cocks: I would really like to understand how if we had others tendering at a reasonable cost, particularly given the budgetary pressure we have, what was that value you are saying we get. Would you be able to take along with the other information that you have got on notice, could you actually provide the measurements that you use to assess the tender. What were the criteria and weightings?

Mr Fitzgerald: Certainly, that has been released publicly previously.

Mr Cocks: I know it has. It would be useful if it could be provided along with this.

Ms Cheyne: Yes, but we will give it to you as a pack. Let us try and respond to this set of questions all together with as much information as we can that does not breach any rules or legislation.

Mr Cocks: That would be helpful.

Ms Cheyne: I think that we can certainly talk about the changes overall in waste contracts across the market and we can also talk about why JJ's ultimately had the best value for money proposition for government.

Mr Cocks: Perhaps if you could also provide some background as to what the rationale was to condensing down to the single provider approach as well. I know there are plenty of people waiting to ask questions, so happy if ...(indistinct)... [9.09.25]

Mr Fitzgerald: Sure. No, Mr Cocks, I appreciate the questions you are asking and we will try to be as helpful as we can.

Ms Tara Cheyne: The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

This response is provided in relation to the Household Waste Collection contract, which incorporates the bulky waste collection service.

Did any responses to the tender offer a lower cost than the successful tenderer?

Under ACT Government procurement requirements, individual tender pricing is commercial-in-confidence and cannot be disclosed.

The evaluation process was undertaken in accordance with the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and the Charter of Procurement Values. The successful supplier was selected on a value for money basis, which considered not only price but also capability, risk management, compliance with specifications, and capacity to deliver reliable outcomes. This ensures the chosen supplier represents the best overall result for the Territory and the community.

What criteria/measurements are used to assess tenders, and how are these weighted?

Tender evaluation followed ACT Government procurement principles, with the core objective of achieving value for money.

In accordance with ACT Government procurement principles the responses were assessed in the following stages:

- Compliance assessment.
- Mandatory criteria including Secure Local Jobs Code Certificate, and Fair and Safe Employment Criteria Response Schedule & Labour Relations, Training and Workplace Equity Plan, attendance at mandatory industry briefing and offers of employment.
- Weighted criteria (refer to Table 1) covering capability, safety, environment, workforce, transition, innovation, and local participation.
- Non-weighted criteria including price assessment and risk assessment.
- Value for money assessment which considers whole of life costs (pricing), weighted and non-weighted criteria.

Weighted Criteria:

Criterion	Weighting
Capability, capacity and methodology to deliver services	25%
Environmental management	10%
Work health and safety	20%
Workforce and industrial relations management plan	10%
Transition management	15%
Innovation	10%
Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) / Secure Local Jobs (SLJ)	10%

What rationale is behind the single provider approach?

Household waste collection services including recycling, general waste, garden organics, food organics and garden organics and bulky waste are the main interface for ACT households and the waste system.

These contracts were consolidated to streamline contract administration, providing a single point of contact for all household waste and recycling matters and a better customer experience for Canberrans.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tara Cheyne', with a stylized, flowing script.

Signature:

Date: 25/11/25

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