



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

MR CAIN: Thank you. I want to talk, minister, about the value of union contracts, and also subcontractor arrangements with the union as the head contractor. Since the 2016 election, can you tell this committee how many ACT government contracts or subcontractor arrangements under 25,000 have gone to unions or to entities owned or controlled by unions?

Mr Steel: We would have to take that question on notice.

MR CAIN: Okay. On light rail stage 1 and stage 2A, have any contracts or subcontracts been awarded to unions or to entities owned or controlled by unions?

Mr Steel: We would have to take that on notice.

MR CAIN: Sorry, my reference to 25,000 was contracts above 25,000. I might have said “under” for some reason.

Mr Steel: Okay. Got you. Yes.

MR CAIN: Above 25,000. You are taking all that on notice. There is no-one here who can answer anything to do with those arrangements?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

According to the Notifiable Contracts Register, which publishes contracts with a value of \$25 000 or more, since the 2016 ACT elections, three ACT Government contracts have been awarded to registered trade unions or trade union affiliated organisations.

I am advised by my directorate that identifying contracts which have been awarded to entities owned or controlled by unions requires conducting a manual search to identify the related entities of each union, and as such, represents an unreasonable diversion of resources. The Territory does not centrally collect data on subcontracting arrangements.

Regarding Light Rail Stage 1 and Light Rail Stage 2A, the ACT Government has not entered contracts with unions or, to the best of its knowledge, entities owned or controlled by unions. The ACT Government does not manage contracts entered into with subcontractors by the initial contracting entity.

Major Projects Canberra Light Rail Stage 2A workers have attended training sessions that may have been run by training entities owned or controlled by a union, which were engaged by the Major Projects Canberra directorate to facilitate mandatory construction certifications to enable attendance on site.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Steel', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

11/8/23

By Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA