



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MS FIONA CARRICK MLA

Addressed to: Mr CHRIS STEEL MLA, TREASURER

In relation to: REVIEW – BUDGET

Hearing: 13 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 37

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025

Mr Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question:

Ms Carrick: I appreciate that. I just asked when was the last time there was an independent line-by-line review of the budget.

Mr Steel: So you were asking about an independent review. We can provide that on notice.

Mr Campbell: Yes, we will do it.

MR CHRIS STEEL MLA, TREASURER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Auditor-General and the ACT Audit Office provide independent assurance on whether public money is being efficiently and effectively spent and whether financial and performance reports for the Territory and its agencies present a true and fair view of their performance.

Each year the ACT Audit Office provides opinions on the annual financial statements and statements of performance of around 70 public sector entities. This audit program includes government agencies, authorities and directorates; utilities; education institutions; transport providers; and corporations.

The Audit Office publishes an annual performance audit program in June each year. This program includes information on audits that are currently underway, audits planned for the following year and proposed topics for the two out years. This program is prepared in accordance with the *Auditor-General Act 1996* and is prepared via consultation with the relevant Legislative Assembly Standing Committee, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), the Head of the ACT Public Service and ACT Government directorates and other agencies.

The performance audit program is flexible and responsive to new and emerging issues, including those from representations or public interest disclosures from the Legislative Assembly or broader community.

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In addition to this independent whole of Government approach, ACT Treasury also has a small team dedicated on expenditure review that supports ERC and Cabinet on issues of specific immediate interest.

Furthermore, ACT Treasury, along with relevant directorates and agencies regularly assesses performance of existing policies and programs and potential new initiatives as part of assessments made regarding submissions to Expenditure Review Committee and Cabinet, including resourcing prioritisation and funding decisions taken as part of the annual budget process. Agencies may also from time to time undertake reviews and evaluations of specific programs and services, which may be supported by external expertise or by Treasury.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature: 

By the Treasurer, Mr Chris Steel MLA

Date: 28/2/25