



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business and Industry

In relation to: Economic Development and Digital Account for Business

Hearing: 04/08/2026

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Transcript provided: 05/08/2026

Answer Due: 12/08/2026

Mr Michael Petterson MLA took on notice the following questions:

MR MILLIGAN: An early riser. My question is relation to the digital account for business that was meant to be established. I have got here in 2025:

Progress for the update for the ACT small business strategy identified action 1.12 to explore a digital account for business that would allow businesses to manage their transactions with government through a single account. Sounds great. Where is that up to? Is there money in the budget for it? Has it been actioned? Has there been any consultation?

Mr Petterson: Very important initiative, Mr Milligan. Does not sit with me. It is best directed to Digital Canberra.

MR MILLIGAN: Digital Canberra? Why would it sit with Digital Canberra, not—if it is focused sort of around business and small business and setting up an account for them to, obviously, communicate and work with Access Canberra in relation to business activities, you know, why does it sit there and not here?

Mr Petterson: Change in government IT systems, I would put it to.

MR MILLIGAN: Will it come to you once it has been developed? Will you be then responsible for the management and operation of that?

Mr Petterson: Not on the current AAs, that is for sure.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes. Okay. Well, where is the—or can you give a bit of an update in terms of the small business strategy? I think it is meant to expire this year, is that correct?

Mr Pettersson: We can do that. But noting where we are in the estimates process, if you have any further questions from the previous line, I am happy to take them on notice for you and we can get that answer.

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government recognises the benefits to local industry of simpler and more streamlined engagement with government through digital services.

Action 1.12 of the *ACT Small Business Strategy 2023-2026* has been progressed. Foundational design for businesses to digitally access government services has been developed. Work is continuing during 2026-27 to assess opportunities to leverage existing Commonwealth digital identity solutions, including MyID and the Relationship Authorisation Manager (RAM). This work aims to determine whether existing national capabilities can accelerate delivery and reduce implementation effort for a Territory-wide digital business account.

Consultation is underway with relevant Commonwealth agencies and ACT Government Directorates to assess potential models and implementation approaches. Future phases of work will include consultation and co-design with businesses to ensure any solution meets the needs of the ACT business community.

Future implementation costs will be informed by the assessment and consultation work, and any further delivery would be subject to a government funding decision.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: 

Date: 13.8.26

By the Minister for Business and Industry, Michael Pettersson MLA