



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 6

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA
(Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Member)

Inquiry into Auditor - General's Performance Audit Reports January - June
2023

Question Taken on Notice (Committee)

Asked by:

Addressed to: Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Reference: UPT p6 & 16

Hearing date: 09/11/2023

In relation to: AG Performance audit report 4/2023 and Feasibility study

Question Lodgement Date: 09/11/2023

MR BRADDOCK: So, my next question is the business case stated that ESA had conducted a feasibility study however the audit report went on to say, "There were no reports of artifacts produced in relation to the feasibility study as described." So, again my question is why not?

Mr Gentleman: Well, again, that is happening now.

MR BRADDOCK: No. The business case said it is conducted.

Ms Barrett: So, the business case that was put forward included provision for a feasibility study. It was not funded and the procurement of the hybrid fire truck was facilitated through the procurement process for pumpers with a single select exemption. The actual feasibility study was not completed because it was not funded through that business case. And the procurement proceeded through a different methodology of activity so that is why the feasibility study was never completed.

MR BRADDOCK: The problem being is the business case stated that ESA had conducted the feasibility statement.

Ms Barrett: My understanding was the business case would be conducted but I am happy to take that on notice and confirm.

MR BRADDOCK: And also I would like you to take this following the document on notice where we had that disagreement as to whether ESA had conducted a feasibility study at that point in time. If, as per the Auditor-General report it had conducted, could you please answer the questions to why not that had been provided to the Auditor-General? Thank you.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Auditor-General's report advises that:

The Business Case also stated that the ESA had 'conducted a feasibility study into the viability, suitability and sustainability of introducing an electric hybrid vehicle into the fire appliance fleet'...

The initial work undertaken to conduct a feasibility study was used to inform the Business Case. The Business Case then sought funding for further feasibility assessments. This is reflected in the Auditor-General's report as follows:

The Business Case sought funding to allow ESA to:

... work with Rosenbauer on the specifications and development of the Australian prototype vehicle and ... purchase the completed vehicle as an operational prototype, allowing for further feasibility studies into the use of electric hybrid fire appliances as alternatives to traditional diesel vehicles.

The Business Case was not approved; therefore, the further feasibility assessments were not conducted as part of the Business Case.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 15.3.24

By the Acting Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Andrew Barr MLA