



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 20 November 2023: Mr Ben McHugh took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard proof transcript 20 November 2023, Page 67

In relation to: Battery electric bus charger contract

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Cain. Minister, I want to go back to the battery electric bus chargers, but just the contracts themselves. So in September 2023 there was a contract for 198,000 from a supplier for two battery electric bus chargers at Belconnen and then earlier in the year we had, in February, a contract signed for 199,100 with the same supplier to install six battery electric chargers in Tuggeranong. Those contracts were almost the same amount—they were both just under the 200,000 threshold—and one was for two chargers and one was for six chargers. We are interested in our office as to why one output that looks three-time higher costs about the same as the other one.

Mr Steel: Do you want to take that one?

Mr McHugh: Yes, so Ben McHugh. I would have to look at the actual elements of the contract to understand the detail. It could relate to the supply of the chargers being provided through a separate contract and the installation of those chargers being applied to this contract. I suspect that is the case, but I will have to look into that. It might just be that those two contracts were for civil works, cabling, conduiting, to get the inside the fence works to the chargers and the chargers were provided through a separate contract, but I will need to confirm that.

THE CHAIR: So you can take that on notice?

Mr McHugh: I will.

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

The Tuggeranong depot contract with Simeco was for the installation of six chargers. This included:

- the manufacture, supply and installation of two large switchboards;
- supply and installation of required cable trays;
- supply and installation of conduits;
- labour to install supplied cable; and

- the physical installation and commissioning of the chargers.

It did not include civil works such as excavation, concreting or supply of pits. These items were delivered by separate contracts.

The charger units were procured as part of the leasing arrangements for the 12 Yutong battery electric buses.

The civil works component was undertaken by two other contractors:

- Brindabella Construction for excavation and concreting; and
- Ox group for under-boring.

The Belconnen depot contract with Simeco was for the following:

- cutting slabs and removal;
- excavations;
- spoil removal;
- sub-base supply and install;
- under-boring;
- concreting;
- switchboard manufacture and installation;
- installation and commissioning of the two chargers; and
- repairs to roadway and footpaths.

The two charger units were procured as part of the leasing arrangements for the 4 Custom Denning battery electric buses.

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

Signature:



Date:

28 / 11 / 23

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA