



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA



Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

Answer to Question Taken on Notice

The Committee asks ministers to provide Answers to Questions Taken on Notice within 5 working days of receipt of the Uncorrected Proof Transcript, where Day One is the first working day after the hearing.

Question taken on notice by Nicole Lawder MLA on 2 March 2020, p.80 of Proof Transcript:

MS LAWDER: What was the original allocation in the budget for meeting future ACT government accommodation needs?

Mr Nicol: The answer to that question is very complex.

MS LAWDER: I am interested to know what sort of a percentage \$10 million is? Is it a 10 per cent addition, a one per cent addition?

Mr Nicol: I will take that on notice in terms of the specifics. But, in general, some of our existing accommodation, where the leases are coming up, the landlords have informed us that they will not be renewing those leases, so we have to find alternatives. For others we could have potentially negotiated a renewal and then the questions would have come up as to whether we would have had to renew the fit-out in those buildings, because some of them are quite dated. Every now and again, although I know governments do not like to spend money on public servants and the fit-out of their accommodation, you have to fit out office buildings, if only for occupational health and safety reasons et cetera.

The Answer to Question Taken on Notice by Suzanne Orr MLA as Minister for Government Services and Procurement in connection with meeting future ACT Government accommodation needs, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development, considered in hearings of 2 March 2020 is as follows:

In 2017-18 Budget, Capital funding of \$39.544 million was provided for the fit-out of the new Civic office building with \$26.0 million capital funding provisioned for the fit-out of the new Dickson office building. This provision was later accessed in the 2017-18 Budget Review.

In 2019-20 Budget, Capital funding of \$9.884 million and expense funding of \$20.531 million was then provided for other costs relating to the new Civic and Dickson office buildings, including ICT infrastructure fit-out cost, that were not previously funded.

The 2019-20 Budget Review provided \$9.138 million capital funding, \$924,000 expense funding and provisioned funding in forward years for the fit-out of a third office building that is to be located in the city and which is proposed to be leased. This building is separate to the new Civic and Dickson office buildings and is proposed to accommodate Government agencies and offices that will not be accommodated in the new Civic and Dickson office buildings. The provisioned funding has not been published for commercial reasons.

It is difficult to provide a comparison of these costs to existing costs because fit-outs occur infrequently. By way of comparison, the fit-out of Winyu House in Gungahlin was completed at a cost of \$17.3 million, provided in the 2014-15 Budget. This building houses 715 staff.

Signed



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Government Services and Procurement

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18/03/20