



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Braddock MLA on 8 November 2022: Ms Bianca Kimber took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 8 November, Page 138

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: Yes, just a question going to page 59 of the JACS annual report which is about the Parliamentary Counsel's Office back capture.

Mr Rattenbury: This is the first time, in several days of hearings, I have been referenced an actual page in an annual report, in the annual report's hearings.

MR BRADDOCK: I shall endeavour to do so more in the future. The way I have set everyone scrambling to find the relevant page.

Mr Rattenbury: Happy to take the question now, Mr Braddock, thank you.

MR BRADDOCK: The question basically is, what is the backlog we are facing and how long, at the current rate of progress, will it take to actually address that backlog?

Ms Kimber: Thank you, Mr Braddock, Bianca Kimber, Parliamentary Counsel, I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. I will have to take that question on notice, Mr Braddock, because it is a project that has been running for many years, I believe that while it is ongoing, it is largely—it is a very comprehensive statute book at the moment but I can take that question on notice.

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Back capture of ACT laws

The ACT Legislation Register was launched on 12 September 2001 with all current versions of Acts and subordinate laws electronically published on the site. It is a requirement of the *Legislation Act 2001*, section 19 that the register contain (among other things) authorised republications of laws currently in force and as made.

Since the launch of the register, the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) has undertaken various back capture projects to publish old legislation (including Acts, Ordinances, subordinate laws, instruments, forms, gazettes, bills and explanatory statements) on the register. Although this information is not required to be contained on the register, the projects enhance accessibility to legislation and establish the register as a comprehensive source of authorised current and repealed ACT legislation.

PCO's focus has been on progressively republishing earlier (superseded) versions of Acts and subordinate laws, making it easier for anyone to find the law as it was in force at any particular time. The program has prioritised the most popular or regularly-used legislation titles, for example, the *Crimes Act 1900*.

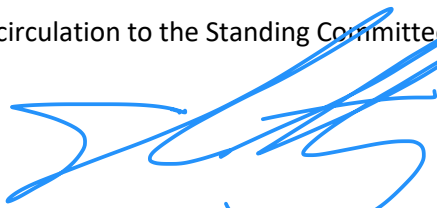
At present, there are 76 current Acts and 17 current subordinate laws that require some earlier versions to be back captured. The process for this kind of back capture is resource intensive and requires the skills of experienced legislation officers. It is prioritised having regard to other important legislative publishing projects, such as back capturing legislative events (for example, commencement, amendment and repeal information), which is the foundation of the register subscription service, and quality assurance checks of existing data, which is critical for maintaining the integrity of the register.

For details of back capture work undertaken to date, see [Attachment 1](#).

Given the complexity of the back capture project and the need to prioritise other important legislative publishing work, we expect that the project will be ongoing for some years and do not currently have a date by which we anticipate the project will be completed.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date:

16/11/22

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA

Attachment 1 PCO legislation back capture projects

- 1 12 September 2001 - Launch of ACT Legislation Register website
 - All current versions of Acts and subordinate laws were electronically published on the site.
- 2 FY2002-03
 - All 'as made' Acts and subordinate laws (including their explanatory statements) back to self-government.
 - Various superseded point-in-time republications.
- 3 FY2003-04
 - All disallowable instruments and their explanatory statements back to self-government.
- 4 FY2004-05
 - All bills as presented to the ACT Legislative Assembly and their explanatory statements back to self-government.
- 5 FY2005-06
 - All notifiable instruments, including approved forms back to self-government.
 - 112 superseded point-in-time republications.
- 6 FY2006-07
 - 54 superseded point-in-time republications.
- 7 FY2007-08
 - 190 superseded point-in-time republications.
 - Gazettes back to self-government.
- 8 FY2008-09 - FY2012-13
 - All Ordinances and subordinate laws pre self-government.
- 9 FY2013-14 - FY2016-17
 - Various superseded point-in-time republications.
- 10 FY2017-18
 - 38 superseded point-in-time republications.
- 11 FY2018-19
 - 56 superseded point-in-time republications.
- 12 FY2019-20
 - 76 superseded point-in-time republications.
- 13 FY2020-21
 - 17 superseded point-in-time republications.
 - 76 titles full lifecycle information back captured.
- 14 FY2021-22
 - 21 superseded point-in-time republications.
 - 123 titles full life cycle information back captured.