

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1060

asked on Thursday, 15 October 2015

MR MCARDLE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (DR MILES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to High Risk IT Systems (HRITS) overseen by the Environment, Heritage Protection and Great Barrier Reef sections of the portfolio, will the Minister provide a breakdown of (a) all HRITS as at 13 February 2015 and 13 October 2015, (b) the reasons for any changes between these dates, (c) the number of FTE positions assigned to systems at the dates in (a), (d) the definition of a high risk system, (e) the number of contractors/consultancies associated with each of these projects that have been terminated, and the number that have not been renewed (f) the cost to agencies associated with each contractors/consultancies termination, (g) the revised or amended timeframe for project delivery resulting from the termination or non-renewal of an existing contractor/consultancy, (h) the number of FTE positions created within agencies to cover the termination or non-renewal of an existing contractor/consultancy agreement to ensure project delivery, and (i) the number of project contracts which were terminated/not renewed that have been re-advertised?

ANSWER:

There is no category of “high risk IT systems” (HRITS) as such under the Queensland Government ICT Profiling Standard.

For the purposes of this question, a HRITS is taken to mean an at-risk ICT system.

The following definition for an at-risk ICT system, is contained in the Queensland Government ICT Profiling Standard:

“An at-risk ICT system refers to a significant application, technology service or group of related technology assets assessed from a whole-of-department perspective as posing a ‘High’ or ‘Extreme’ risk to the business. An ICT system is typically an organised collection of hardware, software, equipment, policies, procedures and people that store, process, control and provide access to information. For example, this may include a Human Resource (HR) system used to process payroll, a radio network used to transmit public safety information, etc.

ICT risk refers to the business risk associated with the use, ownership, operation, involvement, influence and adoption of ICT within the department.”

The active management of risks within the Environment, Heritage Protection and Great Barrier Reef sections of my portfolio is an integral part of good governance.

The profile of at-risk ICT systems is dynamic. During the lifecycle of most ICT systems, it can be expected that each system's risk profile will vary over time. For example, as the system nears end of life.

At-risk systems are reported as a snapshot based on the conditions of the system at that time.

Risks can be mitigated in a number of ways, including remediation or decommissioning.

The Queensland Government Chief Information Officer has advised that individually identifying and publishing details of at risk systems could unnecessarily increase the risk of further threats from third parties exploiting potential vulnerabilities.

In addition, in 2014 the Directors-General ICT Council requested that all payroll systems that have an end of support date that has passed or falls within the next two years should be rated with at least a high overall risk. The payroll system for EHP does not fall into this category.