

**Question on Notice
No. 1393
Asked on Tuesday, 14 November 2023**

MR P WEIR ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the Digital Enterprise Building Blocks (DEBB) IT upgrade—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the initial budget was \$239m as stated in the ETU's press release dated 5 July 2022, (b) if the scope of the project has changed at any point and (c) if yes to (b), (i) what exactly changed, (ii) when did it change and (iii) what was the cost implication of the scope change?

ANSWER

Energy Queensland have advised the following:

(a)

The initial budget for what has become a portion of the ICT portfolio of works in 2017 was \$239 million. This portion of work included the replacement of workforce IT systems including core human resource functions in addition to recruitment, training, and talent management solutions, procurement systems, travel and expense systems and project management tools.

(b)

As ICT has evolved, so too has Energy Queensland's need to expand its ICT portfolio. Following the merger of Energex and Ergon Network, additional programs were added to the portfolio of works relating to distribution management systems, content management, mobility services, geographic information systems and other projects to enable Energy Queensland's digital transformation and modernisation of outdated systems.

To compare the original portfolio of works to what it has now evolved to, is to compare apples to oranges. During this time, additional cybersecurity uplift investments have also been required to meet the evolving global cyber security environment and new legislative requirements under the Commonwealth's *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*.

(c) (i)(ii)

Three sizable programs were added to the portfolio of works in mid-2020 including:

- the Asset and Works Management project (\$235.95 million) is designed to optimise the value of data, streamline work processes, and increase access to quality information for employees in the office and field;
- the Unified Geographical Information System and Design Tools (\$116.02 million) has transformed the way Energy Queensland works by implementing aligned Geographic Information Systems, and lines and substation Design Tools; and
- the Unified Distribution Management System (\$70 million) has delivered a single system to manage each of Energy Queensland's electricity distribution networks.

(c) (iii)

The addition of these sizable programs to the ICT portfolio of works increased the portfolio budget to \$717 million (as at 17 November 2023).