

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Question No. [number] of 2023 Legislative Council

ASKED BY: Hon Meg Webb MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC, Leader of the
Government in the Legislative Council

QUESTION:

In regard to the Right to Information Uplift Project, please provide the following:

1. The Terms of Reference or parameters/scope of the Project;
2. Details of any resourcing, including staffing, allocated to the Project;
3. The expected timeframe by which the Project will be completed;
4. Noting the RTI Uplift Project webpage does not inform submitters whether or not surveys or submissions will be published, and further noting it is standard practice to publish submissions under the Department of Premier and Cabinet 2018 *Publication of Public Submissions Policy and Guidelines*, will submissions made to the Project be published?;
5. If there are no plans to publish survey data or submissions received by the Project, will a summary of input provided be compiled and released; and
6. Details of when, and how, any outcomes of the RTI Project will be released publicly?

ANSWER:

1. The Right to Information Uplift Project scope will centre on the uplift of capability and practice in the Tasmanian State Service through the provision of centralised training, building skilled RTI practitioners and reducing key person dependencies in agencies.
2. In the 2022-23 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed \$500 000 over two years to support the uplift of RTI capability and practice in the Tasmanian State Service, delivering further on the Government's Transparency Agenda.

Resourcing includes employment of a Project Manager to manage the project and provide policy advice solutions, and procurement for a training resource developer based on market research.

3. The RTI Uplift Project is on track and is expected to be completed by July 2024.
4. The RTI Uplift Project provided an opportunity for RTI delegates (officers assessing RTI applications) and RTI applicants to express views on their experiences of the RTI process through anonymous surveys.

The project did not call for submissions so is not subject to the *Publication of submissions received by Tasmanian Government Departments in response to consultations on major policy matters guidelines*.

5. The intent of both surveys is to gain an understanding of areas for improvement, including business processes and training requirements, from the perspective of key stakeholders. Data from both surveys is currently being collated and analysed. The survey for RTI applicants' experience was open from 28 July 2023 until 1 September 2023.

A summary of key themes from the survey will be made available publicly.

6. The RTI Uplift Project will introduce measures to improve processes, systems and skills within the \$500,000 budget and two-year timeframe and make recommendations at the conclusion of the project of how the Tasmanian RTI framework should be improved in the future.

Outcomes of the project will be available in July 2024 on the DPAC website's dedicated RTI Uplift page.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP

Premier

Date: