

ENVIRONMENT ONLINE

**466. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the minister's media statement confirming that the government has entered into a \$23 million contract to build the Environment Online approvals portal.

- (1) Noting that the government has promised the development of Environment Online for years and funded the program in the 2020–21 budget, why has it taken the government this long to appoint a contractor?
- (2) Noting that the last budget funded the Environment Online project to a level of \$28 million, what has happened to the residual \$5 million?
- (3) Is it correct to interpret the minister's statement as confirming that the project will not be fully functional until the 2023–24 financial year, as opposed to the 2022–23 target date referred to in last year's budget?
- (4) What level of functionality is anticipated for each development phase of Environment Online until the project is completed?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Environment.

- (1) Environment Online is a significant investment that required detailed planning and evaluation of potential contractors via a procurement process overseen by the Department of Finance. A request for tender was issued in October 2020 and the evaluation of proposals involved testing the performance of the preferred respondent via a capability pilot project. The contract was awarded on successful completion of that pilot.
- (2) The amount of \$23 million represents the value of the contract for the system integrator, or build partner, for Environment Online. A separate contract valued at \$4.5 million was awarded on 31 March 2021 for program management services.
- (3)–(4) Environment Online is designed to be delivered in seven distinct phases over the next three years with additional functionality available at the conclusion of each phase. Each phase will deliver full functionality for the relevant regulatory activities as outlined: phase 1, environmental impact assessment; phase 2, industry regulation; phase 3, native vegetation regulation and offsets; phase 4, incidents and investigations; phase 5, waste regulation; phase 6, contaminated sites regulation; and phase 7, water regulation.