

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 9

05 September 2025

Question No. 557

Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Minister for the Public Service

1. What steps has the ACT Government taken to assess and publicly communicate the potential risks, both (a) short-term and (b) long-term, posed by artificial intelligence (AI) systems.
2. What educational or public awareness initiatives, if any, has the ACT Government undertaken to inform Canberrans about both the potential benefits and risks, including (a) safety, (b) ethical and (c) societal implications associated with the rapid development of AI.
3. Has the ACT Government sought advice from federal agencies, academic institutions, or industry experts regarding AI safety and regulation; if so, will this advice be made publicly available.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA - The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

1. The ACT Government is committed to the safe and responsible use of AI for its internal operations and has developed an Artificial Intelligence Policy and Assurance Framework that outlines its approach to governance, risk management ensuring transparency and accountability in AI adoption. The policy will soon be publicly available on the ACT Government website.

The ACT, along with all other jurisdictions, signed up to the [National AI Assurance Framework](#) on 21 June 2024. The ACT AI Policy and the ACT AI Assurance Framework align with Australia's AI Ethics Principles and National AI Assurance Framework, ensuring we meet key national standards and only utilise AI solutions that are well-designed, safe and appropriately governed.

2. The ACT actively contributes to the State and Territory AI Round Table and is working in partnership with the Commonwealth through the Department of Industry Science and Resources' National AI Centre on exploring options for community education on the risks and benefits of AI, to ensure the Australian community has access to information to support a balanced and risk-aware usage of these technologies. Initiatives supporting this objective will be outlined in the forthcoming [National AI Capability Plan](#), which is led by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

The ACT Government has also signed up to and plays an active role in the *AI CoLab* – an initiative of the Commonwealth Treasury, delivered in partnership with the Canberra Innovation Network.

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The *CoLab* is a multidisciplinary, cross-sector forum that promotes meaningful conversations about various aspects of AI, including safe and ethical use, collaboration to solve wicked societal problems. The *CoLab* brings together academia, government, industry, community organisations and practitioners.

To further support community education, the ACT promotes resources provided by the eSafety Commissioner, which include practical guidance on the safe use of generative AI, online safety codes, and digital wellbeing. The ACT community also has access to education initiatives led by the [Australian Academy of Science](#), which host public events and programs that explore the ethical, scientific, and societal impacts of AI.

Most recently, the ACT Government presented on safe and ethical use of AI, with a focus on environmental considerations, at an ACT Sustainability Commissioner forum on Regenerative Urbanism. The forum was attended by government, private sector, not-for-profit and community organisations.

The ACT Government will continue to monitor AI developments and work with partners to strengthen safeguards and ensure responsible implementation and use.

3. Yes – please see above answers.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for the Public Service**

Date: 21 | 10 | 25