



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

Application Details	
Ref. No.	CMTEDDFOI 2026-174
Date of Application	2 July 2026
Date of Decision	2 September 2026
Processing time (in working days)	45
Fees	Waived
Decision on Access	Partial Release
Information Requested (summary)	Information on Question on Notice 1185 (29 May 2026) response re Canberra Innovation Network and GRIFFIN Accelerator.
Publication Details	
Original application	☒ Published ☐ N/A
Decision notice	☒ Published ☐ N/A
Documents and schedule	☒ Published ☐ N/A
Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
Decision made by ACAT	N/A
Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMTEDD FOI](#)
Subject: CMTEDDFOI 2026-174 - Question on Notice 1185 (29 May 2026) concerning the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and GRIFFIN Accelerator.
Date: Thursday, 2 July 2026 9:24:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Morning

Freedom of Information Application

Applicant: [REDACTED]

Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
(Economic Development)

Documents Requested

Pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 2016 (ACT)*, I seek access to the following documents relating to **Question on Notice 1185 (29 May 2026)** concerning the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and GRIFFIN Accelerator.

Specifically, I seek:

1. All correspondence, including emails, letters, meeting invitations, meeting notes, file notes, Microsoft Teams messages and any other communications between officers of Economic Development, the Chief Minister's Office, the Office of the Chief Minister, and representatives of CBRIN relating to the preparation of the response to Question on Notice 1185.
2. The request made by Economic Development to CBRIN seeking advice, information or comment for the purposes of answering Question on Notice 1185.
3. All responses received from CBRIN, including emails, attachments, letters, briefing material, draft responses and supporting documents provided in response to that request.
4. All internal briefing notes, emails, memoranda, file notes and draft responses prepared by Economic Development or any other ACT Government agency relating to the preparation of the response to Question on Notice 1185.
5. Any legal advice, legal briefing, internal legal memorandum or advice obtained from the ACT Government Solicitor or any other legal adviser concerning:
 - clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement between the ACT Government and CBRIN;
 - whether information requested in Question on Notice 1185 could be released; or
 - confidentiality obligations arising from the Funding Agreement.
6. All documents recording consideration of whether CBRIN's consent to release information was required under clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement,

including:

- requests for consent;
 - responses granting or refusing consent;
 - discussions regarding whether consent should be sought; and
 - records explaining any decision not to seek consent.
7. Any records confirming whether further advice from CBRIN was received following the tabling of the response to Question on Notice 1185, including any subsequent correspondence or briefings.
 8. Any documents recording consideration of actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest associated with GRIFFIN Accelerator or persons associated with CBRIN during preparation of the Government's response.

Date Range

From **1 May 2026** to the date this request is processed.

Format

I request that documents be provided electronically where possible.

Kind regards,





FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 2 July 2026. Specifically, you have sought the following information:

“Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2016 (ACT), I seek access to the following documents relating to Question on Notice 1185 (29 May 2026) concerning the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and GRIFFIN Accelerator. Specifically, I seek:

- 1. All correspondence, including emails, letters, meeting invitations, meeting notes, file notes, Microsoft Teams messages and any other communications between officers of Economic Development, the Chief Minister's Office, the Office of the Chief Minister, and representatives of CBRIN relating to the preparation of the response to Question on Notice 1185.*
- 2. The request made by Economic Development to CBRIN seeking advice, information or comment for the purposes of answering Question on Notice 1185.*
- 3. All responses received from CBRIN, including emails, attachments, letters, briefing material, draft responses and supporting documents provided in response to that request.*
- 4. All internal briefing notes, emails, memoranda, file notes and draft responses prepared by Economic Development or any other ACT Government agency relating to the preparation of the response to Question on Notice 1185.*
- 5. Any legal advice, legal briefing, internal legal memorandum or advice obtained from the ACT Government Solicitor or any other legal adviser concerning:*
 - clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement between the ACT Government and CBRIN;*
 - whether information requested in Question on Notice 1185 could be released; or*
 - confidentiality obligations arising from the Funding Agreement.*
- 6. All documents recording consideration of whether CBRIN's consent to release information was required under clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement, including:*
 - requests for consent;*
 - responses granting or refusing consent;*
 - discussions regarding whether consent should be sought; and*
 - records explaining any decision not to seek consent.*

7. *Any records confirming whether further advice from CBRIN was received following the tabling of the response to Question on Notice 1185, including any subsequent correspondence or briefings.*
8. *Any documents recording consideration of actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest associated with GRIFFIN Accelerator or persons associated with CBRIN during preparation of the Government's response.*

Date Range From 1 May 2026 to the date this request is processed.”

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the CMTEDD Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 days.

As this matter required third party consultation, the decision due date was extended by 15 working days, in accordance with section 40(2) of the Act.

Therefore, a decision is due by **3 September 2026**.

Decision on access

Searches within **CMTEDD** records have identified 20 documents within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant full access to nine documents.

I have decided to grant partial access to 11 documents.

The records identified as relevant to your application are listed in the schedule enclosed at **Attachment A**. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

I have decided to grant **partial access** to the information within the document.

Release of documents

The information being released to you is provided at **Attachment B**.

Additional information within some documents does not relate to the requested topic and have been redacted as outside scope of this request. This includes meeting minutes (documents 17 and 18) and the internal ACT Government – Questions on Notice Tracker (document 20). As per ACT Ombudsman Freedom of Information Guidelines, where out of scope information is the only reason for redacting information within a document, this is considered release in full for that document.

Statement of Reasons

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below. In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your request
- *Information Privacy Act 2014*
- *Human Rights Act 2004*

- third party views
- publicly available information

As a decision maker, I am required to determine whether the information within scope is in the public interest to release. To make this decision, I am required to:

- assess whether the information would be contrary to public interest to disclose as per **Schedule 1** of the Act.
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring nondisclosure in **Schedule 2** of the Act.

Exemptions claimed

Schedule 1: Information taken to be contrary to the public interest

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the information or components of information found are as follows:

- *No relevant sections identified.*

Public Interest Test

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interest lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and nondisclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when ‘used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from “the subject matter and the scope and purpose” of the enactment in which it appears’. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Schedule 2: Factors to be considered when deciding the public interest

Taking into consideration the information within scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the ‘public interest’.

Factors favouring disclosure (Sch 2, s 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(i) - promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(ii) - contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(iv) - ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds.*

The documents you have requested could reasonably promote discussion of public affairs and contribute to positive and informed debate on matters of public interest including backing by the ACT government of the *Canberra Innovation Network* and the flow on this has for Canberra-based companies. Having considered the factors identified as relevant in this matter, I consider that release of information contained in these documents carry significant weight regarding the public interest.

I am satisfied that these factors favouring disclosure carry some weight. However, these factors are to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Sch 2, s 2.2)

- *Section 2.2(a)(ii) - prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.*

Having reviewed the documents, I consider the protection of an individual's right to privacy is a significant factor. I have decided that their right to privacy in relation to their personal information has a higher weighting not to disclose, than the public interest has in disclosing this information. I am of the view that disclosure of contact information for CBRIN personnel (mobile numbers and direct email addresses) could prejudice their right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

The ACT Government frequently deals with businesses, and while information relating to those businesses is subject to information access legislation, third parties should not be adversely affected by the operation of the FOI Act. I have considered that some third-party information could cause harm to the third party if disclosed. I weight this factor significantly and have exercised these redactions sparingly.

Release of information concerning individual employees who are working within the ACT Public Service is generally not considered to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy. However, where mobile phone numbers may be used for home and work purposes, this information is redacted, as it could or would reasonably be expected to prejudice an individual's right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*. I have also redacted ACT government staff profile photos within document 19.

Having applied the test outlined in section 17 of the Act and deciding that release of some information contained in the documents is not in the public interest to release, I have chosen to redact this specific information in accordance with section 50(2). Noting the pro-disclosure intent of the Act, I am satisfied that redacting only the information that I believe is not in the public interest to release will ensure that the intent of the Act is met and will provide you with access to the majority of the information held by CMTEDD within the scope of your request.

Charges

Under section 107(2)(e) of the Act, a fee must be waived if the applicant is a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a [disclosure log](#).

Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CMTEDD disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact the CMTEDD FOI Team by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Emma Hotham
Information Officer
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
2 September 2026



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	Reference NO.
<i>"Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2016 (ACT), I seek access to the following documents relating to Question on Notice 1185 (29 May 2026) concerning the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and GRIFFIN Accelerator.</i> <i>Specifically, I seek:</i> <i>1. All correspondence, including emails, letters, meeting invitations, meeting notes, file notes, Microsoft Teams messages and any other communications between officers of Economic Development, the Chief Minister's Office, the Office of the Chief Minister, and representatives of CBRIN relating to the preparation of the response to Question on Notice 1185.</i> <i>2. The request made by Economic Development to CBRIN seeking advice, information or comment for the purposes of answering Question on Notice 1185.</i> <i>3. All responses received from CBRIN, including emails, attachments, letters, briefing material, draft responses and supporting documents provided in response to that request.</i> <i>4. All internal briefing notes, emails, memoranda, file notes and draft responses prepared by Economic Development or any other ACT Government agency relating to the preparation of the response to Question on Notice 1185.</i> <i>5. Any legal advice, legal briefing, internal legal memorandum or advice obtained from the ACT Government Solicitor or any other legal adviser concerning:</i> <i>○ clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement between the ACT Government and CBRIN;</i> <i>○ whether information requested in Question on Notice 1185 could be released; or</i> <i>○ confidentiality obligations arising from the Funding Agreement.</i> <i>6. All documents recording consideration of whether CBRIN's consent to release information was required under clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement, including:</i> <i>○ requests for consent;</i> <i>○ responses granting or refusing consent;</i> <i>○ discussions regarding whether consent should be sought; and</i> <i>○ records explaining any decision not to seek consent.</i>	CMTEDDFOI 2026-174

7. Any records confirming whether further advice from CBRIN was received following the tabling of the response to Question on Notice 1185, including any subsequent correspondence or briefings.
8. Any documents recording consideration of actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest associated with GRIFFIN Accelerator or persons associated with CBRIN during preparation of the Government's response.

Date Range

From 1 May 2026 to the date this request is processed."

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1-2	Signed Answer - Question on Notice (QON) 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator	29 May 2026	Full release	N/A	Yes
2	3-4	Draft Response With Mark Up - Question on Notice (QON) 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator	29 May 2026	Full release	N/A	Yes
3	5-6	Draft Response - Question on Notice (QON) 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator	29 May 2026	Full release	N/A	Yes
4	7	Template - Question on Notice (QON) 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator	29 May 2026	Full release	N/A	Yes
5	8	Email Correspondence: Internal ACT Government - Content Manager Notification of Allocation of Question on Notice	4 June 2026	Full release	N/A	Yes
6	9	Email Correspondence: Internal ACT Government - Content Manager Notification of Matter Finalised of Question on Notice	16 June 2026	Full release	N/A	Yes
7	10-11	Email Correspondence: Internal ACT Government - Notification of Questions on Notice	3 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
8	12-13	Email Correspondence: Internal ACT Government - Notification of Questions on Notice	3 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
9	14-16	Email Correspondence: Internal ACT Government - Approach to Question on Notice (QON) 1185	3 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
10	17-20	Email Correspondence: ACT Government to CBRIN - Notification of Questions on Notice	4 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes

11	21-23	Email Correspondence: ACT Government to CBRIN - Notification of Questions on Notice	9 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
12	24-25	Email Correspondence: CBRIN to ACT Government - Response Timeframe	11 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
13	26-27	Email Correspondence: ACT Government to CBRIN - Response Timeframe	11 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
14	28-32	Email Correspondence: ACT Government to CBRIN - Draft Response to QON 1185	11 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
15	33-36	Email Correspondence: CBRIN to ACT Government - Acknowledgement of Draft Response to QON 1185	11 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
16	36-39	Email Correspondence: ACT Government to CBRIN - Formal Request for CBRIN's Input to QON 1185	3 July 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
17	40-42	Meeting Minutes - Contract Management - Fortnightly Meeting - 15 June 2026	15 June 2026	Full release	Outside scope	Yes
18	43-45	Meeting Minutes - Contract Management - Fortnightly Meeting - 29 June 2026	29 June 2026	Full release	Outside scope	Yes
19	45-47	Internal ACT Government - Teams Messages	10 June 2026 – 19 June 2026	Partial release	Schedule 2.2 a (ii)	Yes
20	48-49	Internal ACT Government - Questions on Notice Tracker	Undated	Full release	Outside scope	Yes
Total No of Docs						
20						

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. CBRIN is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. As CBRIN is not a government agency, the ACT Government does not have access to the information requested.

I have asked Economic Development to seek advice from CBRIN on the questions posed. CBRIN may consider that some of the information requested is confidential. Clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement between the ACT Government and CBRIN requires that the ACT Government seek written consent prior to release of information deemed confidential. I will forward any advice that comes to hand separately.

2. Refer to answer 1.
3. The ACT Government notes CBRIN has in place policies and practices to manage Conflict of Interest.

act.gov.au

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date: 1.7.26

This response required 3hrs 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$447.57.

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. CBRIN's Company Constitution provides that its Principal Object is to provide a network linking businesses and entrepreneurs to services, facilities and stakeholders that will accelerate their innovation and growth and to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT.

The Constitution also provides the Company will take a central role in growing the innovation ecosystem in the ACT and building individual and corporate capability. The Company will also consider and develop innovative approaches to provide services to support the growth and diversity of the ACT economy.

Clause 2.3 (g) of the Constitution states that CBRIN will provide facilities such as a co-working space, an incubator and accelerator, supported by programs that will enhance the success of start-ups and entrepreneurs attending these facilities.

~~The Government has confidence in the propriety of the CBR Innovation Network and how it is engaging in key partnerships and collaborations to meet its stated objectives. The Government has confidence in the CBRIN's governance framework that includes conflict of interest policies requiring declaration and management of interests, Board oversight and internal controls and compliance with relevant accounting and reporting controls.~~

CBRIN has previously advised that it employed the senior staff member to which you refer in the full knowledge of the association with the Griffin Accelerator. The staff member brings critical innovation ecosystem knowledge and experience to the CBRIN team.

Commented [KS1]: Can we discuss the answer? Isn't the issue that it is a matter for CBRIN and ACT Gov is aware of policies to address COI etc?

Commented [KS2]: This is a matter for CBRIN

Commented [KS3]: ACT Gov notes policies and measures manage COI etc

Commented [KS4]: I think this goes beyond the response required

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The Griffin Accelerator has been a key platform in the Canberra innovation ecosystem that has mobilised local capital, knowledge and networks. The Griffin Accelerator is made up of a multitude of local mentors and investors that give their time, energy and expertise at the earliest stages of start-up journey. The Griffin Accelerator is open and accessible to new mentors and investors.

Startup accelerators are not commodities that can be procured through a standard tender—they are locally embedded networks of capital, trust, mentorship, and risk appetite that develop organically. Start-up accelerators are generally regionally motivated that depend on local trust networks and social capital. Effective start-up accelerators are generally built on:

- Relationships between founders, mentors and investors;
- Informal trust and reputation; and
- Willingness of experienced successful entrepreneurs to give time and capital.

The Government’s approach reflects both established economic policy and the practical realities of how innovation ecosystems develop. Early-stage innovation is subject to a well-recognised market failure, where private capital underinvests due to high risk, limited information, and long-time horizons. Targeted public funding addresses this gap by catalysing private sector participation, particularly at the pre-seed and seed stages.

I would encourage you to accept the invitation that the CBRIN CEO and Board Chair have made to you in good faith to receive a full briefing on how the partnership works in practice.

2. Refer to answer 1.
3. Refer to answer 1.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As previously advised, CBRIN's Company Constitution provides that its Principal Object is to provide a network linking businesses and entrepreneurs to services, facilities and stakeholders that will accelerate their innovation and growth and to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT.

The Constitution also provides the Company will take a central role in growing the innovation ecosystem in the ACT and building individual and corporate capability. The Company will also consider and develop innovative approaches to provide services to support the growth and diversity of the ACT economy.

Further, Clause 2.3 (g) of the Constitution states that CBRIN will provide facilities such as a co-working space, an incubator and accelerator, supported by programs that will enhance the success of start-ups and entrepreneurs attending these facilities.

The Government has confidence in the propriety of the CBR Innovation Network and how it is engaging in key partnerships and collaborations to meet its stated objectives. The Government has confidence in the CBRIN's governance framework that includes conflict-of-interest policies requiring declaration and management of interests, Board oversight and internal controls and compliance with relevant accounting and reporting controls.

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CBRIN has previously advised that it employed the senior staff member to which you refer in the full knowledge of the association with the Griffin Accelerator. The staff member brings critical innovation ecosystem knowledge and experience to the CBRIN team.

The Griffin Accelerator has been a key platform in the Canberra innovation ecosystem that has mobilised local capital, knowledge and networks. The Griffin Accelerator is made up of a multitude of local mentors and investors that give their time, energy and expertise at the earliest stages of start-up journey. The Griffin Accelerator is open and accessible to new mentors and investors.

Startup accelerators are not commodities that can be procured through a standard tender—they are locally embedded networks of capital, trust, mentorship, and risk appetite that develop organically. Start-up accelerators are generally regionally motivated that depend on local trust networks and social capital. Effective start-up accelerators are generally built on:

- Relationships between founders, mentors and investors;
- Informal trust and reputation; and
- Willingness of experienced successful entrepreneurs to give time and capital.

The Government’s approach reflects both established economic policy and the practical realities of how innovation ecosystems develop. Early-stage innovation is subject to a well-recognised market failure, where private capital underinvests due to high risk, limited information, and long-time horizons. Targeted public funding addresses this gap by catalysing private sector participation, particularly at the pre-seed and seed stages.

I understand that the CBRIN CEO and Board Chair have invited you to meet to discuss your line of question regarding the CBRIN Griffin Accelerator partnership, but you have not accepted that offer. I would encourage you to accept the offer to meet to receive a full briefing on how the partnership works in practice.

2. Refer to answer 1.

3. Refer to answer 1.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

[Answer]

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

act.gov.au

From: "CM Notifications 23.4 (ACTPRD)" <noreply@messaging.cm.kapish.cloud>
Sent: 04/06/2026 10:29 AM
To: "Hassett, Glen" <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>
Subject: HPRM Notification - Action Reassigned. Draft ministerial documents - CMTEDD2026/2074 - Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - ECODEV
Attachments: GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Government & Assembly Matters - Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - ECODEV.tr5

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CMTEDD2026/2074 - Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - ECODEV

Action: Draft ministerial documents

Responsible Location: Hassett, Glen

Due Date: 06/16/2026 at 12:24 PM

This Action has been recently reassigned to you and is due to be started on 06/03/2026 at 12:24 PM. Could you please ensure that it is completed by 06/16/2026 at 12:24 PM.

Action Notes:

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This E-mail Message has been automatically generated by WhoGRM HP Records Manager.

From: "CM Notifications 23.4 (ACTPRD)" <noreply@messaging.cm.kapish.cloud>
Sent: 16/06/2026 11:03 AM
To: "Hassett, Glen" <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>
Subject: HPRM Notification - Action Reassigned. Matter Finalised - CMTEDD2026/2074 - Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - ECODEV - Due to MO 19 June
Attachments: GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS - Government & Assembly Matters - Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - ~ Due to MO 19 June.tr5

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CMTEDD2026/2074 - Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - ECODEV - Due to MO 19 June
Action: Matter Finalised
Responsible Location: Hassett, Glen
Due Date: 06/18/2026 at 4:53 PM
This Action has been recently reassigned to you and is due to be started on 06/18/2026 at 4:52 PM. Could you please ensure that it is completed by 06/18/2026 at 4:53 PM.

Action Notes:

--

This E-mail Message has been automatically generated by WhoGRM HP Records Manager.

From: "Stewart-Moore, Karen" <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>
Sent: 03/06/2026 2:55 PM
To: "Hassett, Glen" <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>; "Fulton, Michelle" <Michelle.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: Assembly Questions on Notice - due 15 June 2026

OFFICIAL

I'm so sorry there are more!
I'll get the Activate Salaries one moved to PSP.
Thanks
Karen

Karen Stewart-Moore (she/her) | Executive Branch Manager,
Communications and Engagement | Business programs and Sector development
Phone: 02 6205 2855 | Mobile: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: O'Toole, Isabelle <Isabelle.O'Toole@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** CMTEDD, Economic Development MECT
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2026 2:50 PM
To: Hilton, Debbie <Debbie.Hilton@act.gov.au>; Lawrence, JenniferM <JenniferM.Lawrence@act.gov.au>
Cc: Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; Wilson, Stephanie <Stephanie.Wilson@act.gov.au>; CMTEDD, Economic Development MECT <ecodev@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: Assembly Questions on Notice - due 15 June 2026

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

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QTON No. & Title	TRIM Reference	Assigned To
Assembly QON 1180 - Cain to Barr - Related to QON 297 CBRIN financial statements	CMTEDD2026/2072	BCE - Deb
Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator	CMTEDD2026/2074	BCE - Deb
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Assembly QON 1201 -Emerson to Pettersson - CIT Deputy CEO Recruitment Process	CMTEDD2026/2081	ED - Jen

EBM cleared responses and costing tools are due to EGM COB 15 June 2026

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Isabelle

Isabelle O'Toole | Senior Coordination Officer
Minister and Executive Coordination Team
Phone: Via TEAMS | Email: ecodev@act.gov.au



I acknowledge the Ngunnawal People as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



From: "Hassett, Glen"
Sent: 03/06/2026 3:10 PM
To: "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: Assembly Questions on Notice - due 15 June 2026

Here's the new QONs

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**
Business, Engagement and Communications, Economic Development Division
☎ 02 6205 5346 | **Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate** | ACT
Government
220 London Circuit | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au



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Artist: Richie Allan

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Cc: "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: Assembly Questions on Notice - due 15 June 2026

On the QONs – I am of the thinking that we don't ask CBRIN to respond to the latest questions but go back with a new narrative that talks about the significance of Griffin in the ecosystem and that these are not the types of initiatives that can be purchased or procured. Here's a sample narrative for thought.

The Government has full confidence in the propriety of the CBR Innovation Network and how it is engaging in key partnerships and collaborations to meet its stated objectives. The Government has full confidence in the CBRIN's governance framework that includes conflict-of-interest policies requiring declaration and management of interests, Board oversight and internal controls and compliance with relevant accounting and reporting controls. The Griffin Accelerator has been a key platform in the Canberra innovation ecosystem that has mobilised local capital, knowledge and networks. The Griffin Accelerator is made up of a multitude of local mentors and investors that give their time, energy and expertise at the earliest stages of start-up journey. The Griffin Accelerator is open and accessible to new mentors and investors.

Startup accelerators are not commodities that can be procured through a standard tender—they are locally embedded networks of capital, trust, mentorship, and risk appetite that develop organically. Start-up accelerators are generally regionally motivated that depend on local trust networks and social capital. Effective start-up accelerators are generally built on:

- Relationships between founders, mentors and investors
- Informal trust and reputation
- Willingness of experienced successful entrepreneurs to give time and capital

These types of regionally focussed start-up accelerators are by definition deeply local, built over time and not transferable via traditional government purchasing policies. You can procure a service provider but you cannot procure trust, networks, or locally motivated investor conviction, those need to be grown locally. It is also true that high net-worth investors that participate in start-up accelerators invest locally for non-financial reasons. Angel and early-stage investors invest for a multitude of reasons including they:

- Want to give back to their local community;
- Are motivated by regional pride and impact;
- Prefer proximity to founders and opportunities;
- Value mentoring as much as any long term investment opportunity.

The ACT Government provides funding to the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) under a broader innovation ecosystem framework. Funding is provided to CBRIN as an entity to deliver ecosystem-wide capability, rather than directed exclusively to any individual accelerator or investment vehicle.

Through this funding, CBRIN may provide:

- program delivery and operational support
- access to shared workspace and facilities
- coordination of workshops, events and mentoring
- founder development and ecosystem engagement activities

These services are typically delivered on an open-access basis, supporting a range of founders, investors and programs across the ecosystem, including but not limited to activities associated with GRIFFIN. CBRIN's financial reporting, including the allocation of resources, is governed by audited financial statements and reporting obligations under its funding agreement.

The Government's approach reflects both established economic policy and the practical realities of how innovation ecosystems develop. Early-stage innovation is subject to a well-recognised market failure, where private capital underinvests due to high risk, limited information, and long time horizons. Targeted public funding addresses this gap by catalysing private sector participation, particularly at the pre-seed and

seed stages. Importantly, startup accelerators and early-stage investment ecosystems are not services that can be readily procured through a conventional tender process. Their effectiveness depends on:

- locally embedded networks of investors, mentors and founders
- trust, reputation, and informal relationships built over time
- the willingness of high-net-worth individuals to invest and mentor within their own region

These characteristics mean that accelerators are not interchangeable service providers, but rather locally grown ecosystems. Attempting to establish such capability through external procurement models has generally been less effective, as it does not create the underlying investor networks or sustained engagement required for long-term success.

Accordingly, the Government's role is to:

- support and catalyse locally led initiatives
- reduce barriers to early-stage investment
- build critical mass in founder and investor communities
- create conditions for private capital to emerge and scale

This approach ensures that publicly funded support:

- crowds in private investment, rather than displacing it
- builds enduring capability within Canberra
- aligns with international best practice in innovation policy

The broader public benefits include:

- economic diversification beyond government employment
- creation of high-value jobs
- attraction and retention of skilled talent
- development of export-oriented businesses

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**

Business, Engagement and Communications, Economic Development Division

☎ 02 6205 5346 | **Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate** | ACT Government

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Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: Assembly Questions on Notice - due 15 June 2026

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Karen Stewart-Moore (she/her) | Executive Branch Manager,
Communications and Engagement | Business programs and Sector development
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Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Isabelle

Isabelle O'Toole | Senior Coordination Officer

Minister and Executive Coordination Team

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Economic Development | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

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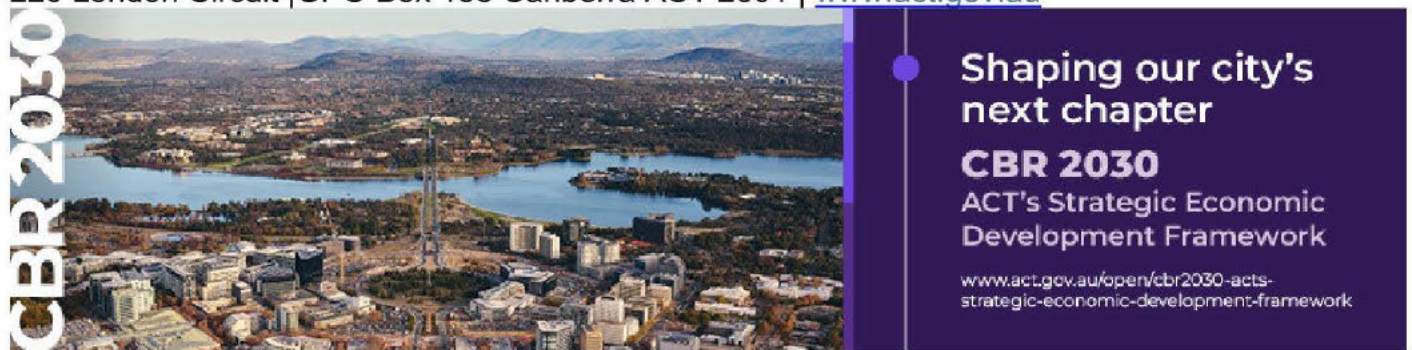


Artist: Richie Allan

From: "Hassett, Glen"
Sent: 04/06/2026 2:03 PM
To: "Sharyn Smith" Sch 2.2(a)(ii) @cbrin.com.au>
Subject: QONs
Attachments: Assembly QON 1180 - Cain to Barr - Related to QON 297 CBRIN financial statements.docx, CM26 67022 Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator.docx

Hi there – here are the two new Griffin related QONs for discussion this afternoon with one again singling out Craig – I don't think we are going to ask CBRIN for advice on these but lets talk first. G

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Business, Engagement and Communications, Economic Development Division
☎ 02 6205 5346 | **Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate** | ACT Government
220 London Circuit | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au



Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1180

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to the answer to question on notice No 297 relating to the Canberra Innovation Network's (CBRIN) financial statements, (a) can the Minister provide full details of all payments, benefits or support provided since 1 July 2022 to GRIFFIN Accelerator-related entities or persons associated with GRIFFIN Accelerator, including (i) direct funding, (ii) staff costs, (iii) office space, (iv) IT support, (v) marketing, (vi) events, (vii) workshops and (viii) any other in-kind assistance (b) how does the Government justify the use of taxpayer-funded resources to support what is effectively a private investment ecosystem, (c) since commencing work with CBRIN, what total (i) payments, (ii) salaries, (iii) consulting fees, (iv) grants, (v) reimbursements or (vi) other financial benefits have been paid to Mr Craig Davis personally or to any company, trust or other entity in which he has held a direct or indirect interest, (d) for each payment can the Minister identify (i) the procurement method used, (ii) whether the payment was disclosed as a related party transaction and (iii) whether any conflict management measures were applied, (e) what (i) safeguards, (ii) audits or (iii) independent reviews has the Government undertaken to ensure taxpayer-funded resources, information and relationships are not being used to provide preferential commercial or investment opportunities to private investors or related parties associated with the GRIFFIN Accelerator, given CBRIN has confirmed it provides operational support, founder access, workspace, workshops, promotion and funding support to GRIFFIN Accelerator-related activities while also acknowledging investment participation by persons connected to CBRIN.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

act.gov.au

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

[Answer]

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

act.gov.au

From: "Hassett, Glen"
Sent: 09/06/2026 3:12 PM
To: "'Sharyn Smith'" Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>; Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au"
Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>
Cc: "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: QON 1180
Attachments: Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator.DOCX

Hi there - Yes there is also 1185 which I've attached – I will draft answers for these which I will share with you for feedback before submitting.

G

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Business, Engagement and Communications, Economic Development Division
☎ 02 6205 5346 | **Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate** | ACT
Government
220 London Circuit | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au



From: Sharyn Smith Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 11:44 AM
To: Hassett, Glen <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: QON 1180

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Thanks
Glen.

Wasn't there a 2nd question?

Sharyn Smith

Chief Operating Officer
Canberra Innovation Network

p: Sch 2.2(a)(ii) w: cbrin.com.au

E: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au

From: Hassett, Glen <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 11:28 am

To: Petr Adamek [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[\[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)\]@cbrin.com.au](mailto:[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au)>; Sharyn Smith [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[\[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)\]@cbrin.com.au](mailto:[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au)>
Cc: Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; Warren, EmmaX <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
Subject: QON 1180

OFFICIAL

Dear Petr and Sharyn

As discussed with Sharyn on Friday and this morning, please find attached further questions from Mr Peter Cain MLA to the Minister for Economic Development and Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA regarding CBRIN support for the Griffin Accelerator. We are working on a timeline to have the draft answers to the questions posed with the Acting Deputy Director-General by COB Monday 15 June 2026. Could you please let me know if that provides enough time for CBRIN to provide formal advice on the questions posed.

Kind regards

Glen

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ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

[Answer]

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Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

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From: "Petr Adamek" [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[redacted]@cbrin.com.au>
Sent: 11/06/2026 2:27 PM
To: "Hassett, Glen" <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>; "Sharyn Smith" [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[redacted]@cbrin.com.au>
Cc: "Stewart-Moore, Karen" <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>; "Hala Batainah (CBRIN)" [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[redacted]@cbrin.com.au>
Subject: Re: QON 1180

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Dear Glen,
thank you

for forwarding the two sets of Questions on Notice (1180 and 1185) regarding Griffin Accelerator support by CBRIN.

We had a chance to review them and discuss them at a meeting of the CBRIN CEO, CBRIN Chair and COO/Company Secretary.

We take the situation very seriously because of the way the questions are targeted and sequenced, because of their repeated character and naming of our employees on public record. This may give rise to (1) psychosocial hazards for our people and (2) significant risk for the reputation of CBRIN. The ACT Government will be informed about our response through participation in the Board observer process with appropriate conflict of interest management.

This means we will not be able to provide requested advice within the timeframe you are working towards.

Regards,

Petr

From: Hassett, Glen <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 11:27
To: Petr Adamek [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[redacted]@cbrin.com.au>; Sharyn Smith [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] <[redacted]@cbrin.com.au>
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Kind regards

Glen

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | Minister's Office [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]
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Subject: RE: QON 1180

Dear Petr

Thanks for this advice. We will respond to QON 1180 accordingly, and forward any advice from CBRIN on the questions posed when they come to hand.

Thanks again

Glen

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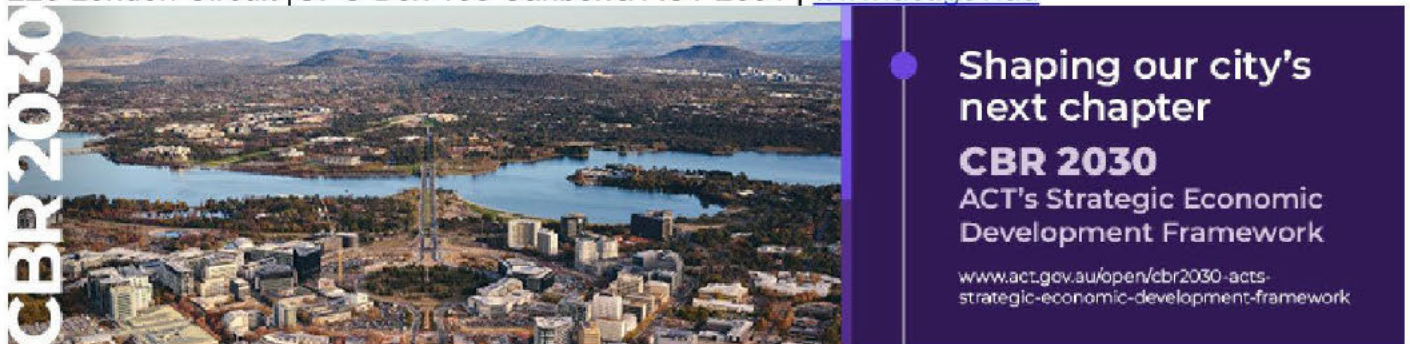
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Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M <[Sch.2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Sch.2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au)>

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Sch 2.2(a)(ii) @cbrin.com.au>
Cc: "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: QON 1180
Attachments: Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator.docx

Hi Petr and Sharyn

Please find attached draft answers to QON 1185 Mr Peter Cain MLA to Mr Andrew Barr MLA which I intend to move through executive clearance tomorrow – happy to receive feedback on the draft answers.

Kind regards

Glen

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Business, Engagement and Communications, Economic Development Division
☎ 02 6205 5346 | **Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate** | ACT
Government
220 London Circuit | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au



From: Hassett, Glen
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 3:13 PM
To: 'Sharyn Smith' Sch 2.2(a)(ii) @cbrin.com.au> Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au
Cc: Warren, EmmaX <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: QON 1180

Hi there - Yes there is also 1185 which I've attached – I will draft answers for these which I will share with you for feedback before submitting.

G

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From: Sharyn Smith <Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 11:44 AM

To: Hassett, Glen <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: QON 1180

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks
Glen.

Wasn't there a 2nd question?

Sharyn Smith

Chief Operating Officer
Canberra Innovation Network

P: Sch 2.2(a)(ii) W: cbrin.com.au

E: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au)

From: Hassett, Glen <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>

Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 11:28 am

To: Petr Adamek <Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>; Sharyn Smith <Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>

Cc: Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; Warren, EmmaX <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>

Subject: QON 1180

OFFICIAL

Dear Petr and Sharyn

As discussed with Sharyn on Friday and this morning, please find attached further questions from Mr Peter Cain MLA to the Minister for Economic Development and Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA regarding CBRIN support for the Griffin Accelerator. We are working on a timeline to have the draft answers to the questions posed with the Acting Deputy Director-General by COB Monday 15 June 2026. Could you please let me know if that provides enough time for CBRIN to provide formal advice on the questions posed.

Kind regards

Glen

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M <Sch 2.2(a)(ii)>

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Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As previously advised, CBRIN's Company Constitution provides that its Principal Object is to provide a network linking businesses and entrepreneurs to services, facilities and stakeholders that will accelerate their innovation and growth and to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT.

The Constitution also provides the Company will take a central role in growing the innovation ecosystem in the ACT and building individual and corporate capability. The Company will also consider and develop innovative approaches to provide services to support the growth and diversity of the ACT economy.

Further, Clause 2.3 (g) of the Constitution states that CBRIN will provide facilities such as a co-working space, an incubator and accelerator, supported by programs that will enhance the success of start-ups and entrepreneurs attending these facilities.

The Government has confidence in the propriety of the CBR Innovation Network and how it is engaging in key partnerships and collaborations to meet its stated objectives. The Government has confidence in the CBRIN's governance framework that includes conflict-of-interest policies requiring declaration and management of interests, Board oversight and internal controls and compliance with relevant accounting and reporting controls.

act.gov.au

CBRIN has previously advised that it employed the senior staff member to which you refer in the full knowledge of the association with the Griffin Accelerator. The staff member brings critical innovation ecosystem knowledge and experience to the CBRIN team.

The Griffin Accelerator has been a key platform in the Canberra innovation ecosystem that has mobilised local capital, knowledge and networks. The Griffin Accelerator is made up of a multitude of local mentors and investors that give their time, energy and expertise at the earliest stages of start-up journey. The Griffin Accelerator is open and accessible to new mentors and investors.

Startup accelerators are not commodities that can be procured through a standard tender—they are locally embedded networks of capital, trust, mentorship, and risk appetite that develop organically. Start-up accelerators are generally regionally motivated that depend on local trust networks and social capital. Effective start-up accelerators are generally built on:

- Relationships between founders, mentors and investors;
- Informal trust and reputation; and
- Willingness of experienced successful entrepreneurs to give time and capital.

The Government’s approach reflects both established economic policy and the practical realities of how innovation ecosystems develop. Early-stage innovation is subject to a well-recognised market failure, where private capital underinvests due to high risk, limited information, and long-time horizons. Targeted public funding addresses this gap by catalysing private sector participation, particularly at the pre-seed and seed stages.

I understand that the CBRIN CEO and Board Chair have invited you to meet to discuss your line of question regarding the CBRIN Griffin Accelerator partnership, but you have not accepted that offer. I would encourage you to accept the offer to meet to receive a full briefing on how the partnership works in practice.

2. Refer to answer 1.

3. Refer to answer 1.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date:

This response required XXhrs XXmins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$XXX.

From: "Petr Adamek" <[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au>
Sent: 11/06/2026 4:02 PM
To: "Hassett, Glen" <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>; "Sharyn Smith" <[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au>
Cc: "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>; "Hala Batainah (CBRIN)" <[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au>
Subject: Re: QON 1180

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Glen,
thank you

for sharing, we acknowledge receipt and understand you are responding in your own right as ACT Government.

Petr

From: Hassett, Glen <Glen.Hassett@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2026 14:53
To: Sharyn Smith <[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au>; Petr Adamek <[Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]@cbrin.com.au>
Cc: Warren, EmmaX <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
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Wasn't there a 2nd question?

Sharyn Smith

Chief Operating Officer

Canberra Innovation Network

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Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 11:28 am

To: Petr Adamek [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au); Sharyn Smith [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au)

Cc: Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; Warren, EmmaX <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>

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OFFICIAL

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From: "Hassett, Glen"
Sent: 03/07/2026 3:16 PM
To: "Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au" <Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>; "Sharyn Smith" <Sch 2.2(a)(ii)@cbrin.com.au>
Cc: "Stewart-Moore, Karen" <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; "Warren, EmmaX" <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>; "Fulton, Michelle" <Michelle.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: QON 1180
Attachments: Assembly QON 1185 - Cain to Barr - Support for GRIFFIN Accelerator - SIGNED.PDF

Dear Petr and Sharyn

I have delayed forwarding this request while you were working through the significant disruption caused by the closure of CBRIN's 1 Moore Street office following the discovery of asbestos in the building's plant room. I hope things have settled somewhat for your team, partners and clients, and that suitable alternative accommodation and operational arrangements have been established while the building remains inaccessible.

As discussed during the week, please find attached the Chief Minister's holding answer to Assembly QON 1185 from Mr Peter Cain MLA to the Minister for Economic Development and Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, regarding CBRIN and the Griffin Accelerator.

Along with Assembly QON 1180, we now seek CBRIN's formal advice on the matters raised in QON 1185. We understand that these matters have been considered by the Board and that CBRIN is obtaining legal and human resources advice.

Your formal advice will be incorporated into an updated response for the Chief Minister's consideration and signature once received.

Kind regards

Glen

Glen Hassett | Senior Director | M Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Business, Engagement and Communications, Economic Development Division
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Cc: Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>; Warren, EmmaX <EmmaX.Warren@act.gov.au>
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Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 20

29 MAY 2026

Question No. 1185

PETER CAIN MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

1. Why did the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) embed and support GRIFFIN Accelerator, an entity associated with a senior CBRIN staff member, rather than undertake an open expression of interest, tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator, incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT, NSW and Australia.
2. What assessment was undertaken to determine whether this arrangement represented value for money and avoided any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or coincidental that a taxpayer-funded organisation embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator associated with one of its own senior staff members.

ANDREW BARR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. CBRIN is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. As CBRIN is not a government agency, the ACT Government does not have access to the information requested.

I have asked Economic Development to seek advice from CBRIN on the questions posed. CBRIN may consider that some of the information requested is confidential. Clause 21.1 of the Funding Agreement between the ACT Government and CBRIN requires that the ACT Government seek written consent prior to release of information deemed confidential. I will forward any advice that comes to hand separately.

2. Refer to answer 1.
3. The ACT Government notes CBRIN has in place policies and practices to manage Conflict of Interest.

act.gov.au

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr'.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Date: 1.7.26

This response required 3hrs 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$447.57.

CBRIN/ACT Government Fortnightly Meeting

Minutes

2:00pm, 15 June 2026

Location – Teams

Attendees

Glen Hassett (GH), Senior Director, Business Programs

Emma Warren (EW), Senior Program and Policy Officer, Sector Development

Petr Adamek (PA), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CBRIN

Sharyn Smith (SS), Chief Operating Officer, CBRIN

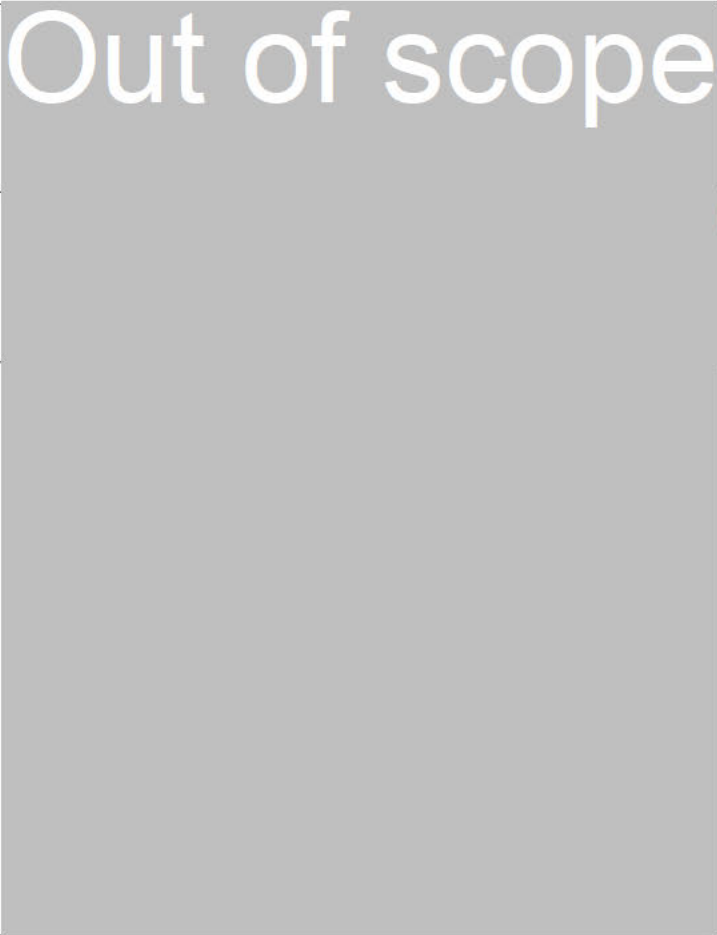
Agenda Topics

Item	Issues/Key Discussion	Action required
1	CBRIN Update - Questions on Notice (QON) - PA advised that the ongoing QON matter was discussed by CBRIN's Governance Committee. The Committee resolved to engage lawyers to provide advice on the matter and review the CBRIN's responses. - PA advised that Craig Davis invested in the 2022 GRIFFIN Accelerator cohort though no investments have been made in subsequent cohorts. - PA advised that a review of the partnership with GRIFFIN Accelerator Limited, including whether the arrangement continues, may become a standing item at the February Board meeting. PA expressed the view that the partnership is likely to continue through 2026 - 2027, given the lack of alternatives within the ecosystem. - SS raised concerns regarding potential reputational and brand risks, including the possibility that ongoing scrutiny could negatively affect the organisation's ability to attract and retain staff.	

- PA observed that the matter has continued for an extended period and that the current approach does not appear to be achieving its intended outcome. Legal advice has been sought as a result.
- GH advised that psychosocial risks of CBRIN staff associated with the matter remain under consideration and continue to be monitored.
- PA stated that there is no indication of wrongdoing, however, the wording, targeted nature and repeated questions may create a perception that there is an underlying issue.
- PA noted that, irrespective of CBRIN's involvement with GRIFFIN Accelerator Limited, investors would continue to engage with the ecosystem through CBRIN events and investment activities. The current arrangement formalises those interactions and relationships.
- PA expressed a concern regarding the competitive pressures involving Craig Davis, PA and SS, with the effect of potentially reducing CBRIN's capability.
- GH advised that any amendments or updates to previous QONs will need to be submitted through formal channels.

Out of scope

Out of scope



Out of scope

Out of scope

End time: 2:30pm

CBRIN/ACT Government Fortnightly Meeting

Minutes

2:00pm, 29 June 2026

Location – Teams

Attendees

Glen Hassett (GH), Senior Director, Business Programs

Michelle Fulton (MF), Director, Sector Development

Emma Warren (EW), Senior Program and Policy Officer, Sector Development

Petr Adamek (PA), Chief Executive Officer, CBRIN

Sharyn Smith (SS), Chief Operating Officer, CBRIN

Agenda Topics

Item	Issues/Key Discussion	Action required
1	Out of scope	
2	Questions on Notice (QON) - PA reported that, at the Board meeting on 25 June 2026, there was no appetite for disclosing an individual's income over a 10-year period in response to the QONs. Responses should provide as much information as possible while protecting personal privacy. - GH advised that the approach to QON 1185 will be consistent with other responses meaning a holding response will be provided by the Chief Minister while additional information is sought from CBRIN. The narrative prepared by GH will be retained and used as the basis for the Budget Estimates response. - PA advised that the response to QON 1185 will be provided to legal advisers (Mallesons) for review prior to being sent to the ACT Government. QON 1180 has been updated since the Board meeting and is currently with Mallesons for advice.	

- GH noted correspondence from Mr Peter Cain MLA to the Chief Minister regarding the QONs. Within this correspondence ASIC records were provided that indicate a CBRIN staff member was listed as a director and secretary of one or both relevant organisations. The correspondence does not contain any new information but indicates that further questions may be forthcoming.
- PA advised that this CBRIN staff member was unaware he remained listed as company secretary and has requested removal from that role. It was also identified that one company continued to list 1 Moore Street as its address; this has now been corrected. This CBRIN staff member has historically resigned from the relevant companies.
- GH advised that Budget Estimates hearings are approaching and that Economic Development Executive would like to meet with CBRIN.
- PA noted that Mr Cain's actions are creating a significant governance burden, with Board and governance matters becoming increasingly consumed by these issues.

Out of scope

End time: 2:25pm

Internal ACT Government - Teams Messages

Exchange between Karen Stewart-Moore, Executive Branch Manager, Business, Communications and Engagement and Kate Starick, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development.

Friday, 5 June

05/06 1:56 PM

Hi there. All going well over here in Orange. I meant to ask your thoughts. We have 2 more Griffin and CBRIN questions on notice again, one of them naming Craig. Do you think we just keep working with CBRIN and keep answering as best we can? I don't suppose there is anything we can do.

Starick, Kate 05/06 1:59 PM

KS yes I think so.

may need to do holding responses if CBRIN need to consult lawyers. Do you know, are CBRIN engaging legal advice on these QONs? and is it a cost impact?

05/06 2:30 PM

I think they may have for some of them. I will get Glen to ask re cost impact.

Exchange between Karen Stewart-Moore, Executive Branch Manager, Business, Communications and Engagement and Jonathan Kobus, A/g Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy, Economic Development.

Monday, 22 June

22/06 12:28 PM

Hello there. Are you still planning to speak to Matt Mison about those CBRIN qONs? I believe their response to the latest is on the agenda for the Board meeting on Thursday.

Kobus, Jonathan 22/06 3:16 PM

JK Yes I am

Exchange between Karen Stewart-Moore, Executive Branch Manager, Business, Communications and Engagement and Glen Hassett, Senior Director, Business Programs, Business, Communications and Engagement.

Wednesday, 10 June

10/06 9:47 am

KSM - I have drafted answers to QON 1185 Cain to Barr Support for Griffin Accelerator at CMTEDD2026/2074 - want to get a read from you on the approach

Friday, 12 June

12/06 12:39 pm

iCBR has provided edits to the CBRIN lease brief which I've highlighted - I've just work flowed to you KSM @ CMTEDD2026/1516

Stewart-Moore, Karen 12/06 12:39 pm

Sch 2.2(a) Thanks Glen.

Message from Glen Hassett, Senior Director, Business Programs, Business, Communications and Engagement to Karen Stewart-Moore, Executive Branch Manager, Business, Communications and Engagement.

Hassett, Glen 10/06 9:47 am

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

KSM - I have drafted answers to QON 1185 Cain to Barr Support for Griffin Accelerator at CMTEDD2026/2074 - want to get a read from you on the approach

Message from Glen Hassett, Senior Director, Business Programs, Business, Communications and Engagement to Michelle Fulton, Director, Sector Development, Business, Communications and Engagement and Emma Warren, Senior Program and Policy Officer, Sector Development, Business, Communications and Engagement.

Hassett, Glen 09/06 4:07 pm

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Ok I've drafted some words for QON 1185 drawing from the narrative stuff I sent Karen last week - let me know what you think CM26/67022



Exchange between Glen Hassett, Senior Director, Business Programs, Business, Communications and Engagement and Emma Warren, Senior Program and Policy Officer, Sector Development, Business, Communications and Engagement.

Friday 1:59 pm Edited

Everyone see meeting minutes from this fortnights meeting with CBRIN: [10. CBRIN Fortnightly Meeting - 29 June 2026.docx](#). Feel free to make any changes you'd like.

Hassett, Glen did you send CBRIN QON 1185 for their input? Also, who will be organising the mtg between CBRIN and Economic Development Executive ahead of Estimates? Will that be on us to coordinate?



Hassett, Glen Friday 2:06 pm

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

thanks Emma for reminder - i'll send QON this afternoon and also ask for some times meet to discuss estimates - been leaving them be while they organise around building closure



Message from Glen Hassett, Senior Director, Business Programs, Business, Communications and Engagement to Michelle Fulton, Director, Sector Development, Business, Communications and Engagement and Emma Warren, Senior Program and Policy Officer, Sector Development, Business, Communications and Engagement.

I changed the sensitivity section to this:

- In recent months, Mr Peter Cain MLA, has lodged a series of CBRIN focussed Questions on Notice (QON). These QONs have largely concentrated on CBRIN's relationship with GRIFFIN Accelerator Limited and the partnership in place to deliver the GRIFFIN Accelerator Program. Some of the questions refer directly to CBRIN's Growth Program's manager Dr Craig Davis.
- The persistent line of question was discussed as a matter of urgency at the CBRIN Board meeting on Thursday 25 June 2026. The Board is concerned that the persistent line of question implying impropriety risks both CBRIN's brand and the wellbeing of its staff. The Board has sought legal advice on the issue and is considering releasing a public statement.



1518		CM100309020	Questions: 1. Why did the Carbanta Innovation Network (CBIN) embed and support GBSIN Accelerator as an entity associated with a senior CBIN staff member rather than undertake an open expression of interest / tender or equivalent market process, given there are numerous accelerator / incubator and startup support programs operating across the ACT / NSW and Australia. 2. How was it determined whether this strategic investment represented value for money and satisfied any actual / intended or potential conflicts of interest. 3. Does the Government accept reasonable members of the public may perceive it as inappropriate or as contradicting the corporate-funded organization embedded and provided financial and non-financial support to an accelerator.	20-May-20	26-Jun-20	With CBIN
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Outside Scope