

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Joint Public Accounts and Audit

**19 April 2024**

**QoN Number: 9**

**Subject: Details of funding request**

**Asked by:** Julian Hill

**Question:**

Mr Julian Hill MP: So, was a business case developed and put up to the government for funding for the foundational elements plus the two use cases in August 2020?

Mr Drew Layton: It sounds like...It sounds about right. Again, I would need to check. I don't have that information in front of me.

Mr Julian Hill MP: Could you take on notice, then, if you're checking that, how much funding was requested at the time, and why was the funding for the capability and use cases not approved then?

**Answer:** A short form business case, which included use cases, was provided to the Expenditure Review Committee and subsequently \$74.9m was provided in MYEFO 2020-21 measure titled *Whole-of-Government Permissions Capability* (announced December 2020) which included funding for the Permissions taskforce, Procurement, Business process and policy redesign, Biometrics anchoring and ICT integration and uplift.

The Government provided further funding in MYEFO 2021-22 measure titled *Permissions Capability – digital passenger declaration* (announced December 2021) to digitise permissions-based government services, including digitising the paper-based incoming passenger card to facilitate the safe reopening of Australia's international borders. The funding for this measure is not for publication due to commercial-in-confidence sensitivities. This measure built on the 2020-21 MYEFO measure titled *Whole-of-Government Permissions Capability*.

The information regarding the funding request cannot be provided as it is a longstanding practice of successive governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, as to do so could potentially reveal the confidential deliberations of the Cabinet.