



MEDIA STATEMENT

Tony Simpson MLA

Opposition Spokesperson for Information
and Communication Technology

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Government unable to manage ICT

A scathing Auditor General's report has criticised the implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) projects by State Government agencies.

These criticisms have included the implementation of ICT projects and the neglect of network security.

Opposition Spokesperson for IT and Communications Tony Simpson has expressed concerns that the Government is unable to properly implement important and expensive ICT projects on time or on budget.

"Western Australian public sector agencies have signed up for 151 major projects¹ with a total value of at least \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

"By far the largest of these is the ICT reforms being undertaken by the Department of Health, which has so far cost \$335 million.

"ICT projects are important. They can increase productivity of a given department or agency.

"However, like any major project, they must be carefully implemented and competently run.

"It appears that the Carpenter Government is not ensuring that either are happening.

"The Auditor General's Report found that some projects took up to three times longer than was originally estimated and cost more than double what was budgeted.

"It was found that the main causes of this included inadequate costing and over-optimistic scheduling, as well as poor management of changes.

"This inadequate management can allow the projected timeline and budget to drift.

"What major ICT projects need, like all projects do, is strong executive management, which can actively address problems as they emerge.

The Key Findings of the Auditor General's Report are that:

- ICT projects will cost at least \$1.5 billion over 10 years.
- Public sector agencies have difficulties in delivering ICT projects.
- The same reasons for project difficulties recur.
- Projects experiencing difficulties share common characteristics.

¹ Those with a budget of more than \$1 million



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“The State Government must ensure that all Government agencies adopt the Auditor General’s recommendations.

“These must include developing proper business for projects, active executive governance and better accountability.

“Synergies must also be found between agencies.

“Those implementing ICT projects should adopt lessons and experienced learnt from other agencies who have successfully completed similar projects.

“If the Government does not encourage the adoption of these recommendations, taxpayers money will continue to be wasted on inefficient management.

“It is a worry that it has not already implemented many of these common sense processes.

“As a taxpayer myself, I am concerned that the Government cannot even manage its own agencies.

“If this is Government cannot manage itself in economic good times, what is going to happen when Eric Ripper’s V8 economy stalls?”

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