



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MRS ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

Ref: Portfolio area, Transport Canberra and City Services, Budget Statement H, William Hovell Drive, page 32

Hearing Date: 18/07/2023

In relation to: William Hovell Drive Duplication

- 1) What was the original estimated cost of the William Hovell Drive Duplication and what was the original completion date?
- 2) What is the new estimated cost of the William Hovell Drive Duplication and what is the current intended completion date?
- 3) Did the government already have a preferred tenderer to build the duplication?
 - a. If so, who was that tenderer?
- 4) How was it determined that the cost of the duplication had risen?
- 5) How much was the Commonwealth government originally intending to contribute?
 - a. Has the Commonwealth government increased their contribution to the project in light of the increased cost?
 - i. Will the ACT Government lobby the Commonwealth government to increase their contribution?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- 1) The original estimated cost to construct the William Hovell Drive Duplication was \$63.25 million.
 - a. The indicative project pipeline included in the 2019 ACT Infrastructure Plan included William Hovell Drive to be considered over the next five years.
- 2) The total funding for the duplication of William Hovell Drive is \$109.55 million.
 - a. The estimated completion date is late-2026, weather permitting.
- 3) No. A construction contractor will be engaged through a public tender process.
 - a. See above.
- 4) The cost of the duplication was determined based on the detailed design of the project by undertaking an updated cost estimate. The costs have increased as a result of a number of factors, including global instability causing higher costs and demand for raw construction materials, global demand on international freight, particularly on materials and goods to and from China which has reduced output during the post-pandemic market and the high level of post-pandemic construction work being undertaken nationally and globally to progress a backlog of infrastructure works. Further, additional cost increases on this project are due to the alignment of the shared path which was required to be changed in response to community concerns. This came with significant additional cost, due to the site

constraints (between two nature reserves) primarily around the need for significant additional retaining walls to support the new shared path alignment.

5) \$26.5 million.

a. No.

i. Yes. I wrote to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on 10 February 2023 highlighting the increase in cost for a number of projects, including this project, and seeking additional funding. The Commonwealth is currently undertaking a review and has indicated that this review needs to conclude before additional contributions are considered.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

2/9/23

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA