



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Meegan Fitzharris MLA

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into 2013–14 Annual reports

Treasury portfolio (part 1)

Responses to questions taken on notice at public hearing of 10 November 2014



QTON # 1 - 10 NOV 14  
Treasury part 1



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Yvette Berry MLA



**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

Asked by: Mr Smyth

In relation to: In 2013-14, what was the cost to Treasury of providing support to Capital Metro?  
[Ref: Hansard Transcript [10 November 2014] [PAGE 20]]

Minister Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

As Treasury does not utilise an activity based costing model, the cost of providing support to Capital Metro cannot be determined.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.2014

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

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Asked by: Mr Smyth

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [10 November 2014] [PAGE 21-22]]

In relation to: Could the Committee be provided with a list of all asset sales to support the infrastructure program, sales undertaken to date and what is intended?

Minister Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Government is considering the sale of assets under the Commonwealth's Asset Recycling initiative. Under this initiative, the Commonwealth will provide financial incentives to State and Territory governments to divest assets and reinvest the proceeds in additional productive infrastructure.

The ACT Government is assessing the eligibility and appropriateness of a range of assets against the implementation guidelines for the Asset Recycling Initiative. Potential options include ACTTAB; ageing public housing stock; government office buildings; street lights and surface car parks.

Of these potential asset sales, ACTTAB is the only one to have been sold as at 24 November 2014.

Once the government has agreed on which asset sales should be included in our Asset Recycling initiative bid, a detailed sales schedule will be developed.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: *1.12.2014*

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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Yvette Berry MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**



Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA:

In relation to: Maintenance costs for parking machines

What is the ongoing maintenance costs for the newly installed/upgraded 300 pay parking machines and more generally all parking meters

Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The responsibility for this matter falls under the Attorney-General's portfolio and the answer to the Member's question is as follows: -

The annual costs for 300 parking machines are as follows (GST inclusive):

- Comprehensive maintenance contract, including reactive maintenance, inspections and online support \$316,800.
- Central Management System hosting \$142,560.

Total of \$459,360.

In addition to this cost there are consumables such as ticket rolls, batteries. The cost of these products is dependent upon demand.

With regard to the parking meters, two FTE's currently maintain and collect coins from the parking meters at a cost of approximately \$170,000.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Date:

2.12.14

By the Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

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**Asked by Mr Smyth:**

In relation to: In regard to the Capital Metro contract, who will sign the contract for the PPP? [pages 29 -30]

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

A decision has not yet been made; however, this is currently being examined as part of the development of the project agreement for the Capital metro light rail project.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA

Q To N # 5 - 10 Nov 14  
Treasury part 1



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**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

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Asked by Mr. Coe on 10 November 2014:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [10 November 2014] [PAGE 33-34]]

In relation to: Capital Metro:

In terms of the tax loss scheme for designated infrastructure projects—what moves has Treasury made to ensure the light rail project gets recognised as a priority project by Infrastructure Australia?

Mr Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The *Tax Loss Incentive for Designated Infrastructure Projects* (the Incentive) came into effect on 11 July 2013 and offers concessional treatment for tax losses of entities undertaking nationally significant infrastructure projects. The scheme targets private sector funding of Designated Infrastructure Projects (DIP), which must be listed on Infrastructure Australia's (IA) *Infrastructure Priority List* (the List) as being at the 'Threshold' or 'Ready to Proceed' stage and must be approved by the Infrastructure Coordinator.

The Capital Metro project does not currently meet these requirements as it is currently considered at the 'Early Stage' within the National Priority List (as the Canberra Transit Corridor).

Procurement of the Capital Metro project will be undertaken in accordance with the National PPP Guidelines and the ACT Partnerships Framework. Tax and corporate structuring matters associated with the project will be addressed at the project's request for proposal stage. The overarching principle in relation to tax is that these risks are allocated to the private party. Bidders are responsible for effectively structuring their bids to provide value, after taking account of tax obligations. Based on the bids received through the request for proposal procurement stage, designated infrastructure project status may be sought for Capital Metro.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

---

**Asked by Mr Smyth:**

In relation to: Cost of relocation of Northbourne Avenue corridor utilities for light rail—confirmation as to whether these costs are included in current numbers [page 34 -35].

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In consultation with Capital Metro, I can confirm that the costs for the relocation and/or protection of utilities has been included in the base cost estimate contained within the business case (refer Table 15 on page 80). The capital delivery contingency figure in the business case (refer Table 15 on page 80) also contemplates utilities risks.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

---

**Asked by Mr Smyth:**

In relation to: When did discussions commence with ACTEW Water and ActewAGL on these issue regarding the relocation of utilities along the Northbourne Avenue corridor [page 36].

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Refer to response provided for under Question 12 which was asked during the ACTEW allotted time.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

---

**Asked by Mr Smyth:**

In relation to: confirmation that discussions occurred with both ACTEW Water and ActewAGL on the relocation of the utilities along the Northbourne Avenue corridor [page 35-36].

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

Consultation has occurred with appropriate level executives of both organisations, including Senior Executives.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript [10 November 2014] [PAGE 38-39]]

In relation to:

Ms Lawder made the following enquiries:

- *I have a question about the changes to the extension of time fees. Can you give us a bit of a summary of how many cases may have resulted in the relief of existing debt, for example?*
- *So you are unable to tell us how many cases had relief of debt or completion of—*
- *And completion of developments-how many there were as a result of the changes.*

Mr Andrew Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

On 6 March 2014 the ACT Government announced a package of initiatives designed to provide confidence and economic stimulus for the ACT building and construction industry. The stimulus package includes a waiving of Extension of Time (EOT) debts incurred between 1 July 2012 and 31 March 2014.

For the period between 6 March 2014 and 17 November 2014, the government has waived or refunded EOT fees accrued between 1 July 2012 to 31 March 2014 for 82 lessees. Of those 82 lessees, 27 developments have been completed and construction has commenced on a further 14 blocks.

It is noted that it is not possible to say which developments have progressed as a result of these waivers. EOT fees are only one factor in the decision to complete a development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

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Asked by: Mr Smyth

In relation to: How much has been spent on the Australian Forum Project – of the \$10 million allocated how much has been allocated to date. [Ref: Hansard Transcript [10 November 2014] [PAGE 45]]

Mr Barr - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In the 2014-15 Budget the ACT Government provided \$1.5 million to progress the Australian Forum project. A further \$ 8 million infrastructure provision was also made should future funding partners be established.

As at the 30 October 2014 \$0.174 million of the \$1.5 million has been spent.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

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Asked by BRENDAN SMYTH:

In relation to:

Number of Treasury staff at 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014.

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

As reported in the Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate Annual Report 2012-2013, the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff in Treasury at 30 June 2013 was 87.

As reported in the Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate Annual Report 2013-2014 the number of FTE staff in Treasury at 30 June 2014 was 95.1.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

**Asked by Mr Smyth:**

In relation to: The Capital Metro project and the work required of ACTEW along the Northbourne Corridor.

**Mr Knox:** John Knox, Managing Director of Icon Water Ltd. I thought I would just get that one out of the way. We have had several meetings with capital metro to date and they have been in conjunction with ActewAGL. There have been separate MOUs issued for both organisations, and at this point in time they have just been exploratory conversations. Little work has been done at this point in time because we do not have a very detailed understanding of what is actually going to be required of us at this point in time.

**Mr Smyth:** Could you tell us when those conversations took place?

**Mr Knox:** I do not have the dates off the top of my head, but they have probably been about two or three meetings, the most recent about two or three weeks ago.

**Mr Smyth:** And the first one?

**Mr Knox:** I am sorry, I will take that on notice.

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Icon Water (formally ACTEW Water) has had a number of high level meetings with Capital Metro representatives since early 2014. More detailed discussions relating to the project have been occurring since 17 July 2014. These meetings have enabled Capital Metro to fully explore and understand the processes involved with moving utility infrastructure. Since the meeting in July, a further five meetings have taken place between Capital Metro and Icon Water. Other utilities, including ActewAGL, have also attended a number of these meetings. The last meeting was held on 4 November 2014.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

---

Asked by Mr Smyth:

In relation to: The Capital Metro Project and work required along the Northbourne Avenue corridor.

**Mr Smyth:** Let us run through the three services. So water? Is that capacity?

**Mr Knox:** We have sewerage services on Northbourne Avenue, and it is fairly towards capacity. The other services, being electricity, gas, telecommunication and the like, are really matters for ActewAGL, being the electricity and gas, and the telcos are other providers as well.

**Mr Smyth:** And water?

**Mr Sachse:** My understanding is that there is not sufficient capacity in the water network, but I can confirm that out of session, if you would like.

**Mr Smyth:** All right. If they need to be relocated, where would they go?

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In relation to the construction of Capital Metro along the Northbourne corridor there is sufficient capacity in both the water and sewerage networks for the project.

As planning work progresses, more detail will be known about the extent of the relocation project.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Handwritten signature of Andrew Barr in black ink.

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

**Asked by Mr Smyth:**

In relation to: The Capital Metro project and work required along the Northbourne corridor.

**Mr Smyth:** Normally when you do a relocation, how long does it take?

**Mr Knox:** It depends on the order of magnitude a bit. If you are talking about major sewer lines going up Northbourne Avenue corridor, that is 12 to 18 months in the planning, a job like that.

**Mr Smyth:** So 12 to 18 months in the planning, and then how long in the delivery?

**Mr Knox:** I could not tell you. I would have to seek some advice from our engineers.

**Mr Smyth:** You will take that on notice?

**Mr Knox:** Will do.

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The impact on specific services by significant redevelopment along the Northbourne corridor is highly dependent on the detailed design of the project itself. Icon Water will continue to work with the Capital Metro Agency (CMA) and other government agencies to identify potential impacts to inform the design process.

I am informed that planning will be completed by CMA in consultation with Icon Water to ensure it is delivered expediently and to appropriate current standards. Until planning work is undertaken, and the project requirements are understood, Icon Water cannot provide a definite timeframe for planning or delivery of this project.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

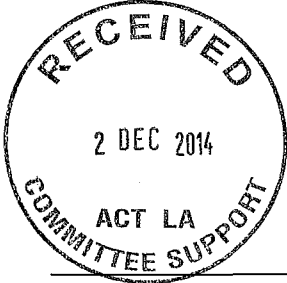
By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

In relation to the Macarthur Reservoir Pipe Burst

**Asked by Ms Lawder:** What was the cause of that burst?

**Mr Webb:** We have a lot of bursts, so whether it was actually the age of the pipe or movement in the particular soil. They are the sorts of things that happen. Pipes in the ground actually burst. We try to be as proactive as we possibly can in terms of planned maintenance to resolve that issue, but we will always have burst pipes.

**Mr Knox:** If I could just add: in this case we understand that it was soil displacement, but we are still investigating. It is unlikely that it was the age of the pipe.

**MS LAWDER:** Could you keep us informed when you find the cause?

**Mr Knox:** Yes.

**MS LAWDER:** Thanks.

**THE CHAIR:** Just for the record: soil displacement is?

**Mr Knox:** The pipe sits on the soil and there has been some form of erosion or soil movement or underlying. You actually build up weak points so the pipe is not sitting evenly.

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Investigation results of the Macarthur main pipe burst highlight that soil supporting the pipe was displaced by water movement around the pipe, resulting in the pipe resting on a rock causing a concentrated "point load" that fractured the material.

Subsequent repair work included removing the protruding rock and reinstating compacted soil prior to installing a new pipe.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1.12.14

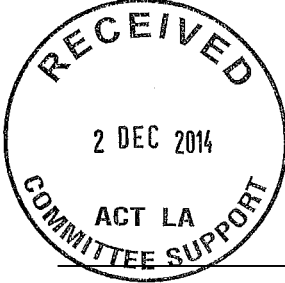
By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

Asked by **Ms Lawder**:

In relation to: Table on page 11 of the ACTTAB Annual Report-Ecologically Sustainable Development data.

**Ms Lawder:** I have a question about page 11 of your annual report, ecologically sustainable development. In this table, is it the case that you have used no electricity from renewable sources?

**Mr Barr:** It would probably be caught up in the decision to divert all of those renewable resources into demand reduction. There was a whole-of-government decision that, rather than watching consumption increase and continue to purchase renewable, we would throw all of our resource into reducing the total consumption of electricity across the entire government asset base, and that is---

**Ms Lawder:** Is that what the asterisk might entail---except that the asterisk does not actually appear?

**Mr Barr:** It does not appear. Yes, I was looking at that, going, "Where is that footnote?" That is my assumption.

**Mr Barr:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

The asterix was not meant to appear in the table. This was a typographical error.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: *1.12.14*

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

Asked by **Ms Lawder**:

In relation to: Page 12 of ACTTAB Annual Report - Vehicle Emissions

**Ms Lawder:** I have another question on the next page, page 12, about transport fuel usage. You have seven cars, the same number of kilometres and the same petrol and diesel use, but further down in that table it says that emissions from transport have decreased by 8.17 per cent. How would that be the case when everything else seems to have remained the same?

**Mr Quinlan:** We will have to take that on notice as well. That would be complying with best practice et cetera within the place, but in detail that has been handled by management. Sorry.

**Mr Barr:** Yes. We will seek some information on that.

**Mr Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–**

I am advised that the information shown against "Emissions from transport" should have been shown against the line above "Emissions from stationary energy use" and vice versa. The total emissions at the bottom of the table are correct.

The number of kilometres travelled, and petrol and diesel used, in 2013-14 is reported as the same figures as for 2012-13. I am advised that this appears to have been an error. Petrol usage in 2013-14 was 0.26 kilolitres and diesel usage was 7.0 kilolitres. However, at this stage it has not been possible to obtain the actual kilometres travelled in 2013-14, due to the complexities associated with the transfer of the business to the new owner. A corrigendum will be prepared should the 2013-14 kilometres travelled data become available.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 1-12-14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

Asked by Mr Smyth

In relation to:

Confirming the number of electricity suppliers in the ACT

BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Levy Administrator reports annually on the number of electricity suppliers in the ACT as part of the Energy Industry Levy determinations (s 54H(1)(a)(i) *Utilities Act 2000*). At the beginning of the 2014-15 levy year the number of active electricity suppliers in the ACT was ten (NI2014-473).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 1.12.14

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA

QTON # 19-10 Nov 14  
Treasury part 1



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**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**[Public hearing of 10 November 2014]**  
**Treasury portfolio (part 1)**

Asked by: Ms Lawder

In relation to:

Refers to page 15 of ICRC Annual Report – Query table indicating no use of electricity from renewable sources

BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Commission is located in a multi-tenanted building with ACT Government functional groups occupying separate floor space. To assist in the whole of government reporting, for the 2013-14 financial year, the Commission's electricity, gas and water account data was prepared by ACT Property Group and inputted into the Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP), formerly known as Sustainability Data Management System (SDMS). The Commission was not involved in the collation of data nor in the choice of the electricity plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: *1. 12. 14*

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA