



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2023-
2024

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Approved for publication

10th Assembly
August 2023

About the committee

Establishing resolution

At its meeting on Thursday, 23 March 2023, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2023-2024, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2023-2024 Budget and prepare a report to the Assembly;
- (2) the Committee be composed of:
 - (a) one Member to be nominated by the Labor Party;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Liberal Party; and
 - (c) one Member to be nominated by the Greens;and to be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing;
- (3) a Liberal Party member shall be elected chair of the Committee by the Committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the Committee;
- (5) the Committee shall be established from 15 May 2023;
- (6) the Committee is to report by Friday, 18 August 2023;
- (7) if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee has completed its inquiry, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
- (8) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Committee members

Mr Mark Parton MLA, Chair

Ms Jo Clay MLA, Deputy Chair

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Secretariat

Dr David Monk, Committee Secretary - until 30 May 2023

Ms Kathleen de Kleuver, Committee Secretary - from 31 May 2022

Dr Adele Chynoweth OAM, Committee Secretary

Ms Miona Ikeda, Committee Secretary

Ms Kate Mickelson, Committee Secretary

Ms Sophie Milne, Committee Secretary

Ms Anna Hough, Assistant Committee Secretary

Mr Peter Materne, Assistant Committee Secretary

Mr Consul O'Reilly, Assistant Committee Secretary

Mr Adam Walker, Assistant Committee Secretary

Ms Emma Warren, Graduate

Ms Lydia Chung, Administrative Assistant

Mr Dikshes Patel, Assistant Committee Secretary

Mr Satyen Sharma, Administrative Assistant

Contact us

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About this inquiry

The Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024 was established to examine the ACT budget expenditure proposals in the Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024. The Committee must report back to the Assembly by Friday, 18 August 2023.

Contents

About the committee	i
Establishing resolution	i
Committee members	i
Secretariat	ii
Contact us	ii
About this inquiry	iii
Acronyms and abbreviations	xi
Recommendations	xiv
1. Introduction	1
Presentation of Bills	1
Specialist Budget Advisor	1
Public hearings	1
Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice	2
References to Hansard Transcripts	2
Timeline to complete the inquiry	2
Acknowledgements	3
2. Community and industry groups	4
Advocacy for Inclusion	4
Matters considered	4
ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS)	5
Matters considered	5
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)	5
Matters considered	5
Key issues	6
Master Builders Association of the ACT	6
Matters considered	6
Real Estate Institute of the ACT	7
Matters considered	7
Canberra Law Society	7
Matters considered	7
Support Link	7
Matters considered	7
Weston Creek Community Council and Belconnen Community Council	7

Matters considered	7
Pedal Power ACT	8
Matters considered	8
Key issues	8
ACT Retirement Village Residents Association	10
Matters considered	10
ACT Gifted Families Support Group	10
Matters considered	10
Australian Education Union	10
Matters considered	10
Youth Coalition of the ACT	10
Matters considered	10
YWCA and Karinya House	11
Matters considered	11
Women’s Legal Centre ACT & Region	11
Matters considered	11
Asthma Australia and Healthcare Consumer Association and Nutrition Australia	11
Matters considered	11
ACT Down Syndrome Association	12
Matters considered	12
Key issues	13
3. Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	14
Chief Minister—Administrative arrangements	14
Matters considered	15
Key issues	16
Treasurer—Administrative arrangements	17
Matters considered	17
Key issues	18
Minister for Climate Action	20
Matters considered	20
Key issues	21
Minister for Economic Development	25
Matters considered	25
Key issues	26
Minister for Tourism	27
Matters considered	27
Key issues	28

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development	28
Matters considered	28
Key issues	29
Minister for Sport and Recreation	30
Matters considered	30
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	31
Matters considered	32
Key issues	32
Minister for Skills	33
Matters considered	33
Key issues	35
Special Minister of State	39
Matters considered	39
Key issues	42
Assistant Minister for Economic Development	47
Matters considered	47
Minister for the Arts	48
Matters considered	48
Key issues	48
Minister for Business and Better Regulation	49
Matters considered	50
Key issues	52
4. Community Services Directorate	54
Minister for Early Childhood Development	54
Matters considered	54
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs	55
Matters considered	55
Key issues	55
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development	58
Matters considered	58
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	58
Matters considered	58
Key issues	59
Minister for Families and Community Services	62
Matters considered	62
Key issues	63
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	64

Matters considered	64
Key issues	64
Minister for Multicultural Affairs	65
Matters considered	65
Key issues	66
Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services	66
Matters considered	67
Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services	67
Matters considered	67
Minister for Disability	68
Matters considered	68
Minister for Veterans and Seniors	68
Matters considered	68
Key issues	68
5. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	70
Chief Minister – Administration Arrangements	70
Matters considered	70
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development	70
Key issues	71
Minister for Planning and Land Management	72
Matters considered	72
Key issues	73
Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	79
Matters considered	79
Key issues	80
Minister for Gaming	81
Matters considered	81
Minister for the Environment	81
Matters considered	82
Key issues	83
Minister for Heritage	89
Matters considered	89
Key issues	89
Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction	90
Matters considered	91
Key issues	91

6. Justice and Community Safety Directorate	96
Minister for Police and Emergency Services	96
Matters considered	96
Key issues	98
Minister for Corrections	102
Matters considered	102
Key issues	104
Attorney-General	106
Matters considered	107
Minister for Consumer Affairs	108
Matters considered	108
Key issues	108
Special Minister of State	110
Matters considered	110
Minister for Human Rights	110
Matters considered	110
7. Education Directorate	112
Minister for Early Childhood Development	112
Matters considered	112
Key issues	112
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs	113
Matters considered	114
Key issues	114
8. ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services	115
Minister for Health	116
Matters considered	116
Key issues	118
Minister for Justice Health	119
Matters considered	119
Minister for Mental Health	120
Matters considered	120
Key issues	121
9. Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	122
Minister for Sport and Recreation	122
Matters considered	122
Minister for Transport and City Services	123

Matters considered	124
Key issues	125
10. Major Projects Canberra	142
Minister for Health	142
Matters considered	142
Minister for Transport and City Services	142
Matters considered	142
Key issues	142
Minister for Skills	144
Matters considered	144
Minister for the Arts	145
Matters considered	145
11. Office of the Legislative Assembly	146
Matters considered	146
Key issues	146
12. Officers of the Legislative Assembly	148
ACT Audit Office	148
Matters considered	148
ACT Electoral Commission	148
Matters considered	148
ACT Integrity Commission	149
Matters considered	149
Key issues	149
ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of the Integrity Commission	150
Matters considered	151
13. Other agencies	153
Solicitor-General for the ACT	153
Matters considered	153
Director of Public Prosecutions	153
Matters considered	153
Legal Aid ACT	154
Matters considered	154
Key issues	155
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	155
Matters considered	156
Key issues	156

Inspector of Correctional Services	157
Matters considered	157
Key issues	157
ACT Human Rights Commission	157
Matters considered	158
Key issues	158
Public Trustee and Guardian	159
Matters considered	159
Key issues	160
14. Conclusion	161
Appendix A: Witnesses	162
17 July 2023	162
18 July 2023	163
19 July 2023	164
20 July 2023	166
21 July 2023	168
24 July 2023	170
25 July 2023	171
26 July 2023	173
27 July 2023	174
28 July 2023	175
31 July 2023	176
Appendix B: Gender distribution of witnesses	177
Appendix C: Submission	178
Appendix D: Questions on notice and taken on notice	179
Questions on notice	179
Questions taken on notice	192

Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym	Long Form
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTOSS	ACT Council of Social Services
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
ADHD	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIHW	<i>Australian Institute of Health And Welfare</i>
AIS	Australian Institute of Sport
AMC	Alexander Maconochie Centre
AOD	alcohol and other drugs
the Assembly	the ACT Legislative Assembly
ATODA	Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Association
Bond issuance	ACT Government borrowings
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CBD	Central Business District
CBR	Canberra
CDS	Child Development Service
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CHS	Canberra Health Services
CIT	Canberra Institute of Technology
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
The Committee	Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024
CYPS	Child and Youth Protection Services
DDP	Director of Public Prosecutions
DVCS	Domestic and Family Violence Crisis Service

Acronym	Long Form
e-bikes	electric bike
ECCB	Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
ESA	Emergency Services Agency
ESL	English as a Second Language
FOGO	food organics and garden organics
FOI	freedom of information
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GJV	Ginninderry Joint Venture
Golden Staph	Staphylococcus aureus
GP	General Practitioner
HR	Human Resources
HRIMS	Human Resources Information Management System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILRP	Indicative Land Release Program
JACS	Justice and Community safety Directorate
JESC	Joint Emergency Services Centre
LGBTIQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
NSW	New South Wales
PAGA	Parliamentary & Governing Agreement
PSM	Public Service Medal
PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers

Acronym	Long Form
QoN	Question on Notice
QToN	Question Taken on Notice
RANZCOG	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RRMT	Rapid Response Mowing Team
RTO	Registered Training Organisations
SAB	Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteraemia
SAPR Report	Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program
SES	State Emergency Service
SHS	Sustainable Household Scheme
SLA	Suburban Land Agency
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TCCS	Transport and City Services
TCO	Transport Canberra Operations
the Territory	the Australian Capital Territory
TORIC	Traffic or Recidivist Investigations Canberra
UNSW	University of New South Wales
US	United States
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Organisation

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government in future allow four weeks between the close of hearing dates for Estimates and the date that the Estimates Committee report is due to enable sufficient time for responses to QTONs and QONs to be taken into account.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase its investment in alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment services.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release business cases for all major cycling path and road upgrades and new builds.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a mental health clinic for people with an intellectual disability on the southside of Canberra, in addition to the clinic in Gungahlin.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publicly release the findings from the ACT Government Employee Survey (whole of ACT Government) within 3 months of the survey being undertaken.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government work with the National Capital Authority to upgrade City Hill.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government provide support to the improvement of the Canberra to Sydney rail connection in order to improve services, in addition to increasing their advocacy in representations to the Commonwealth and NSW Governments on the issue.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government consider an independent review of gender budgeting and wellbeing indicators to determine if these are influencing budget priorities and expenditure in the way in which they were intended.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an update on the costings and planning of the electrification of ACT Government assets and release it publicly.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to support the Sustainable Household Scheme.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include electric cargo bikes and other zero emissions transport options in the Sustainable Household Scheme.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a coordinated climate adaptation policy framework for all government agencies managing facilities including sports grounds and schools to ensure that our facilities remain usable as we move into a hotter climate.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct qualitative climate impact assessments on all major budget decisions and all major policy decisions, including those decisions that are not delivered by Major Projects Canberra.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report which decisions are subject to a climate impact assessment in terms of emissions and adaption.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government consider establishing an independent Gungahlin Arts.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government continue to implement the International Engagement Strategy.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government continue to advocate for increased international and domestic flight connections.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand the number of public housing dwellings.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to reduce the harms of manufactured stone in the community and consider a ban of manufactured stone.

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expands the CIT Gungahlin footprint, offering more study options/courses to north-side residents in the next CIT Strategic Compass (strategic plan).

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand fee-free TAFE.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore further opportunities to reduce out-of-pocket costs experienced by TAFE students.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand the AUSLAN course offering at CIT.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to support an increase in the number of women in the construction industry including setting a target such as 10 percent for procurement.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to set targets for apprentices and women on major projects and publish how this is monitored through the duration of these projects and compliance with these targets.

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that CIT should work with EPSDD to undertake an audit of fossil fuel powered plant and equipment and develop a plan to replace these with zero-emissions alternatives when they reach end of life or by 2045 whichever is sooner.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clearly establish in legislation the role of the Government Procurement Board and its role in handling proposals brought forward by proponents.

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a detailed membership list of the Government Procurement Board.

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the contract name is included as a field on the notifiable invoices register, to improve transparency of use of public funds.

Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that whole-of-government or major projects should possess a 'single source of truth', accessible publicly and comprised by the most relevant information for disclosure, including all contracts, Procurement Unique Identifier (PUIs), timelines for deliverables and whether it is on schedule.

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government have a proactive monitoring and auditing process for ensuring that contracts managed by other territory entities are provided and uploaded to the contract register.

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish and track all active supplier panels across ACT Directorates to the Procurement ACT website, including how many suppliers are on each panel, the data of refreshment or renewal of the panels, the purpose of the panel and the directorate it originates from.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government publish local industry participation plans for tenders over \$5 million.

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct and table a detailed report of learnings drawn from the HRIMS (Human Resource Information Management System) Program and how these will inform the future development of the HR and payroll IT system.

Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that ACT Government implement and publish standard operating procedures (SOPs) in relation to data, information or analysis garnered through government marketing, advertising or communications, particularly using digital platforms.

Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government have one electronic portal, website, or app, for community groups who wish to schedule, book, and pay for ACT Government spaces such as community halls, school facilities and other public venues.

Recommendation 37

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that the Kingston Arts Precinct has a dedicated space for artists in residence.

Recommendation 38

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government continue to investigate the expansion of portable long service leave.

Recommendation 39

The Committee recommends the ACT Government include in CMTEDD annual reports all regulation changes achieved because of the Better Regulation Taskforce's findings split into Commonwealth Government led regulation changes and ACT Government led regulation changes.

Recommendation 40

The Committee recommends that the Education Minister update the Assembly quarterly on the current level of FTE teachers available for placement in classrooms across the ACT system.

Recommendation 41

The Committee recommends that the Education Directorate publish annually a list of all facilities and maintenance work in ACT schools, including a complete list of the status of each project at the end of each year.

Recommendation 42

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently address the significant challenge for the community to get ADHD assessments for children and young people, and autism assessments for young people over the age of 12.

Recommendation 43

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore a best-practice vertical school model for the Molonglo College.

Recommendation 44

The Committee recommends that the ACT Education Directorate continue to expand their communications and materials to other languages and assess the efficacy and uptake of programs in CALD (Community and Linguistically Diverse) and ESL (English as a Second Language) communities.

Recommendation 45

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the residents of Woden and Molonglo Valley have access in the community (outside of the Canberra Hospital) to the Women's Legal Centre Health Justice Partnership Program.

Recommendation 46

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government accelerate the action plans under the ACT Women's Plan so that they are formalised and made publicly available prior to the years specified for each consecutive plan.

Recommendation 47

The Committee recommends that the ACT Women's Budget Statement include analysis on how each budget initiative impacts women and girls in the ACT differently.

Recommendation 48

The Committee recommends that the Safer Families Levy be directly spent to offset funding for frontline community services that provide support to people who are at risk or are victims of domestic violence.

Recommendation 49

The Committee recommends that domestic violence training for ACT public servants be part of government's core funding rather than offset by the Safer Families Levy.

Recommendation 50

The Committee recommends that Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) should advise people of their review rights when CYPS decides not to appraise their report.

Recommendation 51

The Committee recommends that for child protection reports that are not appraised, CYPS record the types of abuse reported, whether family orders are in place, the reason the report was not appraised and any other key information so the directorate can monitor this to see if there's any pattern in reports lodged but not appraised.

Recommendation 52

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assist the establishment of an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to provide housing services.

Recommendation 53

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to support the National Multicultural Festival.

Recommendation 54

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an annual report on services and programs that improve the lives of veterans in the ACT. This is in addition to grant program reports.

Recommendation 55

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government immediately update the Legislative Assembly on the findings of the Commonwealth Government's review into compliance of the Ginninderry Joint Venture with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*.

Recommendation 56

The Committee recommends that the City Renewal Authority (CRA) and the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) publish public reports after the development of sites they sold assessing them against the criteria that were set as part of the sale for increased transparency and scrutiny and ability for the public to see how they outcomes were achieved.

Recommendation 57

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an online map of ACT playgrounds and school-related outdoor facilities for community benefit.

Recommendation 58

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fast tracks the planning and construction of a new Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre.

Recommendation 59

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop district strategies for non-urban areas of the ACT.

Recommendation 60

The Committee recommends that the Suburban Land Agency should purchase and redevelop more existing urban-zoned land in order to deliver further infill development in line with targets.

Recommendation 61

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government only count net new dwellings or additional dwellings when counting their 70/30 housing targets and should report on this data for each year since 2017–18.

Recommendation 62

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish their methodology for the calculation of what is infill, what is greenfield and what is within Canberra's existing urban footprint for the purpose of Parliamentary and Governing Agreement targets.

Recommendation 63

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement reforms to embedded networks in the ACT to protect consumers.

Recommendation 64

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more investment into the expansion of the GonaCon immunocontraceptive vaccine fertility treatment program for kangaroos as a non-lethal replacement of the culling of female kangaroos under the Kangaroo Management Program.

Recommendation 65

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure funding is sufficient for environmental protection, biodiversity management, and invasive species management to match demand and pressures imposed by climate change.

Recommendation 66

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that investment is sufficient to the Environment Protection Authority and ensure that the penalties contained in various Acts which relate to environmental protection (such as the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, and *Planning Act 2023*) are sufficient in addressing offences.

Recommendation 67

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government re-classify ACT Government documentation to replace the terminology of 'wild dog' with 'dingo' to accurately reflect the genetic make-up of the ACT's population.

Recommendation 68

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently increase funding to address wombat mange in the ACT and work with stakeholders to investigate what improvements can be made to the wombat mange project.

Recommendation 69

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress its development of guidelines for developers on best-practice management for native burrowing animals on new development sites and make these guidelines publicly available.

Recommendation 70

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government commit more funding towards the Rabbit Control Program and consider other methods of rabbit control.

Recommendation 71

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate finalise upgrades to the Heritage Council website and database this financial year.

Recommendation 72

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement a comprehensive property developer licencing scheme within this term of government.

Recommendation 73

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement trades licensing as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation 74

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that reforms of the Master Builders Fidelity Fund are comprehensive and address consumer advocates' concerns.

Recommendation 75

The Committee recommends that the Act Government establish an expert team of publicly funded building certifiers within the ACT Public Service within this term of government.

Recommendation 76

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to invest in new fire and ambulance stations in growing regions.

Recommendation 77

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to procure electric or hybrid vehicles, where appropriate, for emergency services.

Recommendation 78

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a review of JACS directorate governance given issues identified with their oversight of the ESA.

Recommendation 79

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand its response to the ESA Executive Leadership Alignment Review to address the individual behavioural issues, governance and structural issues raised and take deliberate action to deal with these issues.

Recommendation 80

The Committee recommends that an independent review be undertaken of the governance arrangements for JACS Directorate and ESA or that the next statutory review of the Emergency Services Act 2004 be undertaken by an independent reviewer.

Recommendation 81

The Committee recommends the Minister update the Assembly annually on police recruitment including how many sworn police officers have been employed, how many have left, and a progress update set against the stated goal of recruitment outlined in the Budget each year in the last sitting of the calendar year.

Recommendation 82

The Committee recommends a full audit of police facilities and resources be conducted and tabled in the Assembly.

Recommendation 83

The Committee recommends that ACT Policing, EPSDD, TCCS and SLA should work collaboratively to determine the future of Winchester Police Station and a future City headquarters for ACT Policing and undertake early consultation and planning for the future of the current Winchester Police Station site in Belconnen.

Recommendation 84

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government seek a solution and report back to the Assembly to the dangerous driving problem at the two specific sites in close proximity to the Uriarra township.

Recommendation 85

The Committee recommends the government provide further resources to monitor and deal with traffic and dangerous driving offences.

Recommendation 86

The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish a statement on why the previous two attempts to introduce electronic monitoring failed and how effectively and how long electronic monitoring has been used in other jurisdictions.

Recommendation 87

The Committee recommends the ACT Government strongly consider the appointment of a Justice Reinvestment Coordinator-General.

Recommendation 88

The Committee recommends the ACT Government create a timeline for the development, construction and completion of the Reintegration Centre and Precinct.

Recommendation 89

The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide further details on planning for future development of the Alexander Maconochie Centre, including timeframes.

Recommendation 90

The Committee recommends that, as part of the Alexander Maconochie Centre masterplan development, the ACT Government also consider expansion of the Alexander Maconochie Centre to include separated remandee and sentenced detainee accommodations.

Recommendation 91

The Committee recommends the ACT Government reopen the detainee visitor café at the Alexander Maconochie Centre as a matter of priority.

Recommendation 92

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund the ACT Retirement Village Residents Association to continue their advocacy.

Recommendation 93

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the data collected and held by Access Canberra regarding retirement villages, including the establishment of a register of retirement villages.

Recommendation 94

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider establishing a retirement village ombudsman or similar.

Recommendation 95

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to support the expansion of the Child Development Service.

Recommendation 96

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government plan a school for Belconnen Town Centre to meet current and future needs of that population.

Recommendation 97

The Committee recommends the ACT Government review their current strategies for reducing Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteraemia (SAB) in ACT public hospitals.

Recommendation 98

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, as a matter of priority, release the first action plan for the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy.

Recommendation 99

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Transport and City Services provide a biannual statement to the ACT Legislative Assembly on the progress of waste facilities in the ACT, including FOGO, due to the ongoing delays and the negative impact these delays are having on the climate crisis.

Recommendation 100

The Committee recommends that the Government continue to upgrade Yerrabi Pond District Park to meet growing demand.

Recommendation 101

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government re-commit to delivering a fourth fully-electric bus depot on the northside of Canberra as soon as practicable, in order to grow the size of the bus fleet to deliver improved services to the growing city.

Recommendation 102

The Committee recommends that Transport Canberra move off the current interim bus timetable to the previous full services timetable and adopt improved weekend services by December 2023.

Recommendation 103

The Committee recommends that future Transport Canberra 'Estimated Employment Levels' tables separately show bus drivers' FTE for the budget and forward estimates.

Recommendation 104

The Committee recommends that future Transport Canberra Operations Accountability Indicators provide up-to-date information showing separate line items for the current number of public transport passenger vehicles in the Transport Canberra Operations fleet, such as electric buses, and the projected fleet size for these vehicles over forward estimates.

Recommendation 105

The Committee recommends that future Transport Canberra Operations Accountability Indicators include the number of bus passenger boardings as a separate indicator to that of the total figure for public transport passenger boardings.

Recommendation 106

The Committee recommends that, for major capital projects budgeted at over \$50 million, projects be re-evaluated for value for money where costs increase by more than 25 percent of the original budget and results of that re-evaluation be reported publicly.

Recommendation 107

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government deliver fully separated walking and cycling infrastructure on all major roads projects including all stages of the Monaro Highway Project in order to be compliant with Australian road standards for safe cycling infrastructure.

Recommendation 108

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government complete the Gungahlin Transport Plan as a matter of priority.

Recommendation 109

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should develop and implement performance metrics for the planting of shrubs and ground cover.

Recommendation 110

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish online the quarterly revenue and expenditure of the canopy contribution fund once it is established.

Recommendation 111

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate renewable burial options, such as human composting, during the development of Southern Memorial Park.

Recommendation 112

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigates initiatives relating to recycling of soft plastics at waste facilities in the ACT.

Recommendation 113

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government evaluate the effectiveness of the 'Recycle Right' campaign particularly in relation to the 'Keeping it Safe' message and investigate what improvements can be made to the campaign.

Recommendation 114

The Committee recommends that the rapid response mowing team becomes a permanent part of the ACT mowing program.

Recommendation 115

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release a preliminary business case for Light Rail Stage 2B as soon as practicable.

Recommendation 116

The Committee recommends that future ACT Budget papers contain a dedicated overview of all budget aspects of Light Rail Stages 2A and 2B and associated projects. This would include indicators on construction progress, budget and forward estimates' expenditure provisions and projections, and estimated completion dates for budgeted activities and procurements.

Recommendation 117

The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly should undertake an audit of fossil fuel powered assets and prepare a zero-emissions transition plan which sees the Assembly achieve zero-emissions before 2045 in line with ACT Government commitments.

Recommendation 118

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ACT Integrity Commission has sufficient funding to meet its increased workload to allow it to complete investigations in a timely manner.

Recommendation 119

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increases funding to the ACT Ombudsman to deal with the increase in FOI appeals.

Recommendation 120

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide sufficient funding to enable Legal Aid to offer independent children's lawyers to all children involved in domestic and family violence allegations.

Recommendation 121

The Committee recommends that all government directorates must respond to requests for information from the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment within 30 business days.

Recommendation 122

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more support for kinship carers in the ACT.

Recommendation 123

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the Public Trustee and Guardian to implement any required changes to ensure the smooth operation of the Unclaimed Body Scheme.

1. Introduction

Presentation of Bills

- 1.1. The [Financial Management Act 1996](#) sets the framework for Territory appropriations and budgets. Government expenditure must be authorised by the Assembly through an Appropriation Bill.¹ Immediately after the presentation of an Appropriation Bill, the Treasurer must present to the Assembly the proposed budget for the Territory and for each directorate for the year.² The Act specifies information that must be included in the proposed budget, and requires that it be in a form that assists a comparison with the budget for the previous financial year.³ The financial statements included in the proposed budget must include budget estimates for each of the next three financial years.⁴
- 1.2. On 27 June 2023 the [Appropriation Bill 2023–2024](#) and [Appropriation \(Office of the Legislative Assembly\) Bill 2023–2024](#) were presented in the Assembly⁵, and the related Budget papers were tabled and published on the Treasury website.⁶

Specialist Budget Advisor

- 1.3. The Resolution of Establishment for the Committee allows funds to be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the Committee.⁷ For the 2023-24 ACT Budget the Committee selected the Pegasus Economics to act as the Specialist Budget Adviser. The Committee has published the written analysis provided to it by Pegasus Economics and the Government response on the [inquiry webpage](#).⁸

Public hearings

- 1.4. The ACT Budget 2023-2024 public hearings were held on 17 July 2023 (community and industry groups) and from 18 July to 31 July 2023. At the hearings the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers and their accompanying Directorate officials; Officers of the Legislative Assembly; statutory officers; and members of governing boards.
- 1.5. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at [Appendix A](#). Transcripts from the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Legislative Assembly website.

¹ *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 6.

² *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 10.

³ *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 11.

⁴ *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 11.

⁵ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings No 89*, pp 1300–1301.

⁶ Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Budget Papers*, <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2023-24/budget-2023-24> (accessed 11 July 2023).

⁷ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No. 42*, 24 March 2022, pp 550–552.

⁸ Pegasus Economics, [Review of the ACT Budget 2023-2024](#), July 2023.

- 1.6. Although the Committee is welcoming of visiting members to participate in hearings under standing order 234, they wish to raise the importance of said members following instructions of the Chair and respecting the Committee members who are generously sharing their time.

Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice

- 1.1. A total of 419 questions were lodged during the inquiry. 186 questions were taken on notice by Ministers, statutory office holders and a community group during the hearings, and 233 questions on notice were submitted by Committee Members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.2. The answers to questions, and a list of questions (by subject, submitter, recipient) are available at [Appendix D](#), and on the inquiry webpage.

References to Hansard Transcripts

- 1.3. Footnotes in the report generally reference the proof transcripts of evidence. Page numbers may vary between the proofs and the final Hansard transcript.

Timeline to complete the inquiry

- 1.4. The Committee wishes to note that last year's Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 recommended that the ACT Government 'review timelines for the presentation of the ACT Budget, with consideration to the time required for committees to conduct a budget estimates process and write a report.'⁹
- 1.5. The 2022-2023 budget papers were published on 2 August, and the report of the Select Committee on Estimates was published on 30 September, according to motion of the Assembly. The hearings were delayed due to a WorkSafe prohibition notice which was imposed on the Assembly and its committees, and ended on 2 September.¹⁰ This timeline gave the Committee 20 business days in which to receive the answers to questions on notice and questions taken on notice, consider the evidence, formulate recommendations, and consider the report. The Select Committee on Estimates 2019-2020 had 22 business days into which to complete this process.¹¹
- 1.6. This year, the last day of hearings was on 31 July and the report is due for tabling on 18 August 2023. This allows the Committee only 14 business days to complete the same work. At the time of the final consideration of this report, a total of 24 Questions On Notice and 10 Questions Taken On Notice remained outstanding. However, at the time the

⁹ Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023, *Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023*, p 5.

¹⁰ Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023, *Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023*, pp 5–6.

¹¹ Select Committee on Estimates 2019-2020, *Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019-2020*, p 1.

Committee were considering its recommendations there many more that were not received, meaning that the Committee lacked necessary information which could have informed its recommendations.

- 1.7. The Committee is concerned that if this trend of shorter timelines in which to complete estimates inquiries continues, it will negatively affect the ability of the Assembly to provide effective scrutiny on the budget process.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government in future allow four weeks between the close of hearing dates for Estimates and the date that the Estimates Committee report is due to enable sufficient time for responses to QTONs and QONs to be taken into account.

Acknowledgements

- 1.8. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted, this inquiry. This includes ACT Government Ministers, directorate officials, statutory officers, members of governing boards, community groups, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members' staff, and staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee extends a special thanks to the Hansard and Broadcasting staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.
- 1.9. The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the passing of Dr Damian West PSM on Monday, 24 July 2023. The Committee recognises Dr West's contributions to the ACT Public Service and extends their condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

2. Community and industry groups

2.1. The Committee invited the following community and industry groups to appear at a public hearing for the ACT Budget 2023-2024 on 17 July 2023:

- Advocacy for Inclusion;
- ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS);
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Association (ATODA);
- Master Builders Association of the ACT;
- Real Estate institute of the ACT;
- Canberra Community Law;
- Support Link;
- Weston Creek Community Council;
- Belconnen Community Council;
- ACT Retirement Village Residents Association;
- Pedal Power ACT;
- ACT Down Syndrome Association;
- ACT Gifted Families Support Group;
- Australian Education Union;
- Youth Coalition of the ACT;
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA);
- Karinya House;
- Women's Legal Centre;
- Asthma Australia;
- Health Care Consumers' Association; and
- Nutrition Australia ACT.

Advocacy for Inclusion

Matters considered

2.2. During the appearance of Advocacy for Inclusion before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- early investment in the disability health strategy;¹²

¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 3.

- ‘gold standard’ public housing;¹³
- the taxi subsidy scheme;¹⁴
- accessible electric vehicles;¹⁵ and
- planning cities for people with disabilities.¹⁶

ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS)

Matters considered

2.3. During the appearance of ACTCOSS before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- the cost-of-living crisis;¹⁷
- planning and rezoning to assist public and community housing;¹⁸
- indexation of funding for the community sector;¹⁹
- government land release for the purpose of community housing;²⁰
- investment in frontline services delivered by the community sector;²¹
- cost of transport;²² and
- safety concerns in relation to non-car-type electric vehicles.²³

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

Matters considered

2.4. During the appearance of ATODA before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matter was considered:

- demand for alcohol, tobacco and other drug services in the ACT.²⁴

¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 3–4.

¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 4.

¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 3–4.

¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 5.

¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 7–8.

¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 8–9.

¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 9.

²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 10.

²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 10.

²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 10.

²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 11.

²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 12–15.

Key issues

The case for increased investment in alcohol, tobacco and other drug services

- 2.5. The Committee learned that current modelling indicates that, at a modest estimate, there are 4,750 additional people in the ACT who require treatment but are not being served by existing alcohol, tobacco and other drug services. ATODA's budget submission stated that \$12 million annual funding is needed to meet this current unmet demand.²⁵
- 2.6. ATODA noted that this much-needed funding would, if provided, be used as 'stepped approach' across the wider service system:
- ..not only focusing on residential rehabilitation but also on other treatment types, intervention types, including day programs, counselling and harm reduction services—across the entire service system. We would welcome that happening in a co-designed way, where the AOD services are involved in that process and are able to shape what that might look like.²⁶
- 2.7. ATODA also drew attention to the findings of the Australian Institute of Criminology, which 'found that, for every dollar spent, there was a return on investment of \$5.40 for demand reduction programs'.²⁷

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase its investment in alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment services.

Master Builders Association of the ACT

Matters considered

- 2.8. During the appearance of Master Builders Association before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- shortage of skilled construction workers in the ACT;²⁸
 - investment in public housing;²⁹
 - women in civil construction and trades programs;³⁰ and
 - the Indicative Land Release Program.³¹

²⁵ Ms Anke van der Sterren, Acting Chief Executive Officer, ATODA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 10.

²⁶ Ms Anke van der Sterren, Acting Chief Executive Officer, ATODA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 11.

²⁷ Ms Anke van der Sterren, Acting Chief Executive Officer, ATODA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 13.

²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 18–19.

²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 19–20.

³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 20.

³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 20–21.

Real Estate Institute of the ACT

Matters considered

- 2.9. During the appearance of the Real Estate Institute before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- the Sustainable Household Scheme;³²
 - social and affordable housing;³³ and
 - changes to residential tenancy laws.³⁴

Canberra Law Society

Matters considered

- 2.10. During the appearance of the Canberra Law Society before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- ACT's social housing;³⁵
 - cost of living pressures;³⁶ and
 - funding in the recent ACT budget.³⁷

Support Link

Matters considered

- 2.11. During the appearance of the Support Link before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- trauma support service;³⁸ and
 - coronial counselling service.³⁹

Weston Creek Community Council and Belconnen Community Council

Matters considered

- 2.12. During the appearance of the Weston Creek Community Council and Belconnen

³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 23–26.

³³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 27.

³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 27.

³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 29.

³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 29.

³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 30.

³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 36.

³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 37.

Community Council before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- public transport facilities;⁴⁰
- maintenance funding for foot paths and shared paths;⁴¹
- budget for mowing, road repairs;⁴²
- planning for more schools in Belconnen town centre;⁴³ and
- council grant funding.⁴⁴

Pedal Power ACT

Matters considered

2.13. During the appearance of the Pedal Power ACT before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- duplication of William Hovell Drive;⁴⁵
- maintenance funding for paths and footpaths;⁴⁶ and
- cycling infrastructure.⁴⁷

Key issues

Cycle path and road upgrades

2.14. During a discussion with Dr Simon Copland of Pedal Power around the duplication of William Hovell Drive, the broader issue of transport spending choices was raised:⁴⁸

We know that a huge proportion of our transport spending is spent on roads and that road duplications are costing a lot of money—and an increasing amount of money. We know from evidence around the world that duplications often do not work to achieve the initial stated goals and that is to reduce congestion.⁴⁹

2.15. He added that he has not seen the business case for William Hovell Drive, and that being able to see it would enable him to assess ‘whether it is going to meet the goals of what the government is stating in terms of increasing safety and reducing congestion.’⁵⁰

2.16. Dr Copland also raised similar concerns around several other major road projects:

⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 45.

⁴¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 45.

⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 49.

⁴³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 49.

⁴⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 50.

⁴⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 64.

⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 66.

⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 68.

⁴⁸ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 64.

⁴⁹ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 64.

⁵⁰ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 64.

Yes I am surprised and disappointed by the lack of transparency on these kinds of projects. It is not just William Hovell Drive. William Hovell Drive was one that was in the media last week because of the massive increase in the amount of spending but we are seeing road duplication projects across the city. We have had the Gundaroo Drive, the Monaro Highway, Athllon Drive which is coming up and we do not see business cases for these. We have a huge public demand for, for example, business cases for the light rail projects, which have been released publicly, but we are not seeing that same public demand for these projects, and, actually, we are spending quite a lot of money on it. We are talking about \$100 million for 4.5 kilometres worth of road here. Yes, we should have transparency for that. I think that is really important. We should be having the debate to suggest if we want to have the kind of mode shift that the government is talking about, that we need to have for reducing congestion, for increasing our health, for reducing emissions, then we need to look at how we can spend our money to properly achieve that. I am not convinced as of yet. You might release a business case and you might convince me. But I am not convinced as of yet that spending over \$100 million on 4.5 kilometres of road is the best solution.⁵¹

2.17. Dr Copland similarly raised the importance of transparency around maintenance of paths:

One of the issues we have with maintenance again is the transparency around it. We know the ACT government has a list of maintenance projects. Last year there was an FOI of that list. It came up to thousands of projects of maintenance, but we still do not know what the timetable is to fix those projects. Those projects on their list are in order. It obviously would be out of date from the FOI because it would have changed since then, but we do not know how long it takes to get through that list. We do not know whether that list of thousands of projects is going to take them five years, 10 years, 20 years.

We would like some transparency around that to really understand, if we are increasing the budget by 40 per cent on maintenance, how much more is that going to actually achieve? How much is it going to get through that list? And if someone puts something on the list, are they going to be expecting that it is going to take 10 years for it to be fixed or one year for it to be fixed?⁵²

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release business cases for all major cycling path and road upgrades and new builds.

⁵¹ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 65–66.

⁵² Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 66.

ACT Retirement Village Residents Association

Matters considered

- 2.18. During the appearance of the ACT Retirement Village Residents Association before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- registration of retirement villages;⁵³ and
 - establishment of retirement village ombudsman.⁵⁴

ACT Gifted Families Support Group

Matters considered

- 2.19. During the appearance of the ACT Gifted Families Support Group before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- funding for gifted and twice exceptional students' education program;⁵⁵ and
 - professional development program for public school staff to support the gifted students.⁵⁶

Australian Education Union

Matters considered

- 2.20. During the appearance of the Australian Education Union before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- public education funding;⁵⁷
 - the Sustainable Workload Management Committee;⁵⁸ and
 - inclusive education coaches in the Tuggeranong network schools.⁵⁹

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Matters considered

- 2.21. During the appearance of the Youth Coalition of the ACT before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 53–55.

⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 54.

⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 72.

⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 73.

⁵⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 77.

⁵⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 80.

⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 82.

- the commissioning process;⁶⁰
- Housing First for Youth program;⁶¹
- WOKE program;⁶² and
- the mental health crisis.⁶³

YWCA and Karinya House

Matters considered

- 2.22. During the appearance of the YWCA and Karinya House before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- family safety levy;⁶⁴
 - gendered budgeting;⁶⁵ and
 - public and community housing.⁶⁶

Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region

Matters considered

- 2.23. During the appearance of the Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- women's legal and domestic and family violence crisis service (DVCS) partnership;⁶⁷ and
 - the cost of living crisis.⁶⁸

Asthma Australia and Healthcare Consumer Association and Nutrition Australia

Matters considered

- 2.24. During the appearance of the Asthma Australia and Healthcare Consumer Association and Nutrition Australia before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 85.

⁶¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 86–87.

⁶² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 88.

⁶³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 90.

⁶⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 94.

⁶⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 95.

⁶⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 98.

⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 103.

⁶⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 104.

- ACT refugee community and CALD community;⁶⁹
- ACT Nutrition Support Service;⁷⁰
- ACT Wood Heater Replacement;⁷¹ and
- mental health professionals.⁷²

ACT Down Syndrome Association

Matters considered

2.25. During the appearance of ACT Down Syndrome Association before the Committee on 17 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Down Syndrome Association support;⁷³
- inclusion coach program in ACT public schools;⁷⁴
- the Taxi Subsidy Scheme;⁷⁵
- the disability inclusion position at Domestic Violence Crisis Services (DVCS);⁷⁶
- mental health care availability;⁷⁷
- ACT support for individuals with an intellectual disability compared to other jurisdictions;⁷⁸
- intellectual disability needs advocates;⁷⁹
- public housing accessibility;⁸⁰
- project independence;⁸¹
- inclusion coaches;⁸² and
- the Gungahlin mental health clinic for those with an intellectual disability.⁸³

⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 114–115.

⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 108.

⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 111.

⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 116.

⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 58.

⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 58.

⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 58.

⁷⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 58–59.

⁷⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 59., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 62–63.

⁷⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 59.

⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 58, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 59–60.

⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 60.

⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 60.

⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 60–61.

⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 62–63.

Key issues

- 2.26. The CEO noted the ‘excellent mental health clinic for people with intellectual disability in Gungahlin’⁸⁴ but expressed concern about the long wait times to access services at the clinic with no alternative options.⁸⁵ Regarding the Gungahlin clinic, the CEO remarked:

..it is amazing. We know people who have gone to that clinic and had enormous amounts of help and who have had a diagnosis made that a GP would never even have considered. It has been completely life changing for them to have a proper diagnosis and medical treatment, and for someone to believe that their mental health issues were not part of having an intellectual disability. It is great. I would love to see more funding and more support and more knowledge about the clinic.⁸⁶

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a mental health clinic for people with an intellectual disability on the southside of Canberra, in addition to the clinic in Gungahlin.

⁸⁴ Ms Sharon Kolak, CEO, ACT Down Syndrome Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 58.

⁸⁵ Ms Sharon Kolak, CEO, ACT Down Syndrome Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 62.

⁸⁶ Ms Sharon Kolak, CEO, ACT Down Syndrome Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 63.

3. Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- 3.1. Budget Statements B states that the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) ‘...work[s] collaboratively within government and with the community to deliver government priorities and drive initiatives aimed at making Canberra a better place to live. CMTEDD also leads the strategic direction of the ACTPS to ensure it is well positioned to shape and respond to change, and to continue to deliver against government priorities, now and in the future.’⁸⁷ Funding for CMTEDD is set out in [Budget Statements B](#).

Chief Minister—Administrative arrangements

- 3.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- ACT Public Service;
 - Chief Minister’s Charitable Fund and philanthropy encouragement;
 - Commissioner for International Engagement (including sister city agreements, local diplomatic and consular liaison, inbound and outbound trade mission delivery, trade and export growth);
 - Communication and community engagement;
 - Diversity and equal opportunity;
 - Enterprise Bargaining;
 - Government strategy and policy;
 - Integrity policy;
 - Intergovernmental relations and engagement with capital cities and the Canberra Region;
 - LGBTIQ+ affairs, policy and services;
 - National Cabinet, the Council for the Australian Federation and the National Federation Reform Council;
 - National Security;
 - Neighbourhood democracy projects;
 - Social inclusion and equality policy;
 - Support to Cabinet; and
 - Wellbeing framework.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements B*, p 1.

⁸⁸ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 4.

Matters considered

3.3. During the Chief Minister's appearance before the Committee on 27 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- media placement and advice contract with Universal McCann;⁸⁹
- train connections from the ACT into New South Wales;⁹⁰
- National Cabinet reform priorities;⁹¹
- Public Sector Standards Commissioner;⁹²
- Public Service Commission investigations;⁹³
- wellbeing dashboard;⁹⁴
- Emergency Services Agency executive leadership review;⁹⁵
- acquisition of Calvary hospital;⁹⁶
- accountability of public servants in relation to procurement;⁹⁷
- International Employment Strategy;⁹⁸
- travel by Ministers;⁹⁹
- neighbourhood democracy program;¹⁰⁰
- Capital of Equity Grants program;¹⁰¹
- ACT Public Service Staff Survey;¹⁰²
- ACTPS promotions of people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;¹⁰³
- Professional and Consulting Services Panel;¹⁰⁴
- Monaro Rail Trail and engagement with cross-border jurisdictions;¹⁰⁵ and
- Investing in Public Services – Joint Research with the Australian National University.¹⁰⁶

⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 946–951.

⁹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 951–953.

⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 953–956.

⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 956–959.

⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 959–960, 974–975.

⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 960–963.

⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 964–966.

⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 966–967.

⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 967–971.

⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 971–974.

⁹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 975–979.

¹⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 979–980.

¹⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 980–981.

¹⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 981–982.

¹⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 982–983.

¹⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 983.

¹⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 983–984.

¹⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 984–985.

Key issues

ATCPS staff survey

- 3.4. Every two years in March the Office of the Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy holds an ACT Government wide employee survey which informs the State of the Service Report and is used to guide workforce policy and initiative.¹⁰⁷
- 3.5. At the hearing on 27 July 2023, Ms Leigh, Head of Service, indicated that the 2023 survey results were in the process of being given to directorate areas, but have not yet been released publicly.¹⁰⁸

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publicly release the findings from the ACT Government Employee Survey (whole of ACT Government) within 3 months of the survey being undertaken.

City Hill

- 3.6. City Hill, located in the centre of the Vernon Circuit roundabout in Canberra, is a key apex of the Parliamentary Triangle. The surrounding area is under development for the Light Rail Stage 2A, the raising of London Circuit, and the extension of the Canberra Theatre. The Committee was notified at the hearing on 26 July 2023 that the City Renewal Authority will be opening a design contest to request ideas for a park on the site with improved connectivity and cultural significance.¹⁰⁹

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government work with the National Capital Authority to upgrade City Hill.

Sydney to Canberra rail connection

- 3.7. During the hearing on 27 July 2023, the Committee was provided with an update on the condition of the Sydney to Canberra rail connection. The Committee was advised that the rail service has a strong level of demand, despite only offering three daily services, and problems with speed due to congestion and track and signalling conditions. The rail connection is operated in partnership with federal, state and council jurisdictions. The Chief Minister stated:

¹⁰⁷ ACT Government, ACT Public Service Employee Survey, February 2023, <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/employment-framework/performance-framework/actps-survey> accessed 8 August 2023.

¹⁰⁸ Ms Leigh, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 51.

¹⁰⁹ Mr Barr MLA and Mr Snow, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 121-122.

It would be fair to say that there is a strong desire amongst local government for this service to be improved.¹¹⁰

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government provide support to the improvement of the Canberra to Sydney rail connection in order to improve services, in addition to increasing their advocacy in representations to the Commonwealth and NSW Governments on the issue.

Treasurer—Administrative arrangements

3.8. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Board of Treasurers and Council on Federal Financial Relations;
- Borrowing, funds management and infrastructure finance;
- Budget process and financial reporting;
- Concessions;
- Directions relating to authorisation thresholds for land acquisition by the City Renewal Authority or Suburban Land Agency;
- Fiscal and economic strategy and policy;
- Government business enterprises;
- Infrastructure policy frameworks and coordination of infrastructure planning;
- Revenue Office, including administration of rental bonds; and
- Taxation and revenue policy.¹¹¹

Matters considered

3.9. During the Treasurer's appearance before the Committee on Monday 24 July, and Wednesday 26 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- consideration of a four-day working week;¹¹²
- the use of wellbeing and gender analysis tools in the context of budget decisions;¹¹³
- predicted interest rate and rationale for increases on act government borrowings (bond issuance), over the forward estimates;¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰ Mr Barr, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 952.

¹¹¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 5.

¹¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 680–684.

¹¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 684–690.

¹¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 692–694.

- increases in fine and infringement revenue over the forward estimates;¹¹⁵
- ACT ambulance levy on private insurance companies;¹¹⁶
- accuracy of act population figures provided by ABS census data;¹¹⁷
- public and community housing stock funding;¹¹⁸
- forecast revenue, and types of grants over the forward estimates;¹¹⁹
- Calvary Hospital purchase;¹²⁰
- ACT Government taxation and revenue sources;¹²¹
- gambling and betting operations taxation;¹²²
- employment, the 2030 jobs target, geographical modelling and the labour market;¹²³ and
- the government dividend paid by Icon Water Pty Ltd.¹²⁴

Key issues

Wellbeing indicators and gender responsive budgeting

- 3.10. One of the recommendations of the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 (last year's Estimates report) was that the ACT Government 'investigate how to improve the effectiveness of wellbeing indicators and gender responsive budgeting and demonstrate that they are influencing budget decisions.' Their report noted in particular that the effectiveness of the wellbeing indicators was difficult to measure.¹²⁵
- 3.11. The Government response noted the recommendation and highlighted the online wellbeing indicators data dashboard, which publicises data on factors which inform the various indicators (eg: data on life expectancy and access to health services is available for the health indicator).¹²⁶ The Government response to the Pegasus Economics report, which also noted the lack of specificity about the use of wellbeing indicators, stated:

¹¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 694–696.

¹¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 696–698.

¹¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 698–699.

¹¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 699–703.

¹¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 704, 708–710.

¹²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 704–706.

¹²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 706–713.

¹²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 833–836, 839.

¹²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 836–838, 841.

¹²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 843.

¹²⁵ Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23, *Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023*, pp 15–16.

¹²⁶ ACT Government, *Government Response to Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23: Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-23 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-23*, October 2022, p 6.

The linkages between the Wellbeing domains and their presentation in the budget papers will continue to evolve over time, and reporting of Wellbeing outcomes will similarly strengthen as the wellbeing evidence base continues to be built.¹²⁷

- 3.12. This year, Pegasus Economics again noted that the effectiveness of the wellbeing indicators in influencing budget decisions remains unclear:

Unfortunately, the Wellbeing framework does not yet provide information in a form that allows for a clear understanding of the decision-making priorities of the Government to be formed.¹²⁸

- 3.13. The Government response stated:

The Government acknowledges that the Wellbeing Framework does not **yet** allow for detailed assessments of improvements in wellbeing achieved as a result of past individual initiatives or from future improvements. This is primarily a function of the progressive development of the Framework and its supporting evidence base.¹²⁹ [own emphasis]

- 3.14. At the community day hearings on 17 July 2023, Ms Dwyer from the YWCA provided an opinion on whether they had seen any improvement over the last three years in terms of wellbeing or gender budgeting decisions:

The short answer is no, really. This is probably the third estimates, I have got to say, that I have sat at where we have talked about gendered budgeting and what we perceive as the ACT government not meeting expectations, and certainly not meeting best practice, and we provided evidence on notice of best practice gendered budget statements. So the short answer is no. The women's budget statement that came out 23-24 is again just a catch-all document about really great things that are happening that are not necessarily gender specific.¹³⁰

- 3.15. The answers to several questions on notice, lodged by Ms Clay MLA to various Government directorates and statutory offices did not provide detail on how the wellbeing indicators changed a budget decision, but said that they were used to inform Budget decisions although examples weren't given.¹³¹

¹²⁷ ACT Government, *Government Response to Pegasus Economics Report: Review of the ACT Budget 2022-23*, August 2022, p 11.

¹²⁸ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2023-24*, July 2023, p 32.

¹²⁹ ACT Government, *Government Response to Pegasus Economics Report: Review of the ACT Budget 2023-24*, July 2023, p 16.

¹³⁰ Ms Leah Dwyer, Director of Policy and Advocacy, YWCA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 102.

¹³¹ QONs 124–153.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government consider an independent review of gender budgeting and wellbeing indicators to determine if these are influencing budget priorities and expenditure in the way in which they were intended.

Electrification targets

- 3.16. The ACT Government has targets for the electrification of government assets, particularly away from gas power, however they are run by different bodies, such as Education and Major Projects Canberra.¹³²

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an update on the costings and planning of the electrification of ACT Government assets and release it publicly.

Minister for Climate Action

- 3.17. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Big Canberra Battery;
- Climate Action (Coordinator-General);
- Climate change adaptation and resilience; and
- sustainable household program.¹³³

Matters considered

- 3.18. During the Minister for Climate Action's appearance before the Committee on 24 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Sustainable Household Scheme;¹³⁴
- Climate Change Strategy adaption measures;¹³⁵
- Big Canberra Battery;¹³⁶ and
- consideration of emissions outcomes and adaption impacts.¹³⁷

¹³² Proof Committee Hansard, 21 July 2023, p 49.

¹³³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 5.

¹³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 663–666, 669–670, 671–673, 677.

¹³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 666–669.

¹³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 669–671, 673–674.

¹³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 674–676, 677–679.

Key issues

Sustainable Household Scheme

- 3.19. The ACT Government's [Sustainable Household Scheme](#) (SHS) is a program which provides zero-interest loans to help with the costs of energy-efficient upgrades. Eligible ACT residents are able to apply for loans from \$2,000 to \$15,000 to buy energy-efficient products, including rooftop solar panels, household battery storage systems, electric heating and cooling systems, hot water heat pumps, ceiling insulation, electric stove tops, electric vehicles, electric vehicles charging infrastructure, and installation costs for these products.¹³⁸
- 3.20. Launched in July 2021, the SHS was originally established as a \$150 million program over five years. The SHS has seen over 15,000 applications in two years, with a demand of \$200 million.¹³⁹

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to support the Sustainable Household Scheme.

- 3.21. Currently under the SHS, the category 'electric vehicles' only applies to cars, and does not include electric motorbikes, electric bikes, electric scooters, and other individual electric transport options.¹⁴⁰
- 3.22. The Committee asked the Minister whether other electric vehicles besides cars are being considered as part of the SHS. Mr Kieran Lawton, Executive Branch Manager of Program Delivery, Policy and Cabinet Division at CMTEDD, stated that the government will expand the eligibility criteria to include electric street-registered motorcycles in the near future:

We have assessed electric street-registered motorcycles, and they have been assessed as being able to meet all those criteria, so we are in the process of supporting them under the scheme.

I cannot give you the exact date, but over the past three months we have undertaken that assessment. Now we are working with Brighte, because we have this onboarding process. We do have a cap on the value of a motorcycle. I think we set it at \$40,000. I am hoping to get a response from people, just to confirm that. We do have an upper cap. A Harley LiveWire might not be supported, but there are a number of street-registered electric vehicles.¹⁴¹

¹³⁸ ACT Government, [Sustainable Household Scheme](#), July 2023.

¹³⁹ Brighte, [Sustainable Household Scheme](#), July 2023.

¹⁴⁰ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Climate Action, *answer to QON 1272: Sustainable Household Scheme (Products Approved Under the Sustainable Household Scheme)*, 3 June 2023 (received 29 June 2023).

¹⁴¹ Mr Kieran Lawton, Executive Branch Manager, Program Delivery, Policy and Cabinet Division, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 672.

- 3.23. The Committee requested for the consideration of electric cargo bikes, as ‘they are usually in the \$6,000 to \$10,000 price range.’¹⁴² Mr Lawton stated although the government is not considering other electric vehicles at this point, they ‘do respond to suggestions’:¹⁴³

When we looked at e-bikes, we did not specifically look at electric cargo bikes. Maybe that is something we could put on the agenda for the future. I understand what you are saying. The reason we have not supported e-bikes is because we do not want to support expensive mountain bikes, for example, whenever you are looking for a commute. If you are trying to save emissions and not use your vehicle, there are bikes under that \$2,000 cap. I take the point that cargo bikes are somewhere in between. We could undertake having a look at those specifically.¹⁴⁴

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include electric cargo bikes and other zero emissions transport options in the Sustainable Household Scheme.

Climate adaptation policy framework

- 3.24. During the public hearing, the Committee heard about the climate action initiatives in the 2023-24 Budget:

There is \$2.06 million to develop a 10-year pathway to deliver world’s best practice climate-ready environmentally sustainable buildings, supplementing the commonwealth government funding under the national Disaster Ready Fund to undertake flood studies for urban catchments across Woden, Weston Creek, Gungahlin and Belconnen districts, and to mitigate future flood risks; expanding the Healthy Waterways Program with \$5.4 million invested to develop catchment plans and pollution mitigation research, with consideration of climate change impacts on water availability; continued support for the Living Infrastructure Plan initiatives and Urban Forest Act to mitigate urban heat, with \$1.227 million; continued investment in the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme to buffer those most vulnerable from climate change, with \$1.77 million; investment of \$4.8 million in strengthening biosecurity in nature conservation programs to build resilience and manage the influence of climate-driven threats to species; investment of \$366,000 in research to improve the resilience and responsiveness of the health sector to climate change impacts in the ACT; and bolstering the preparedness of our emergency services, including building a joint ACT Fire &

¹⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 673.

¹⁴³ Mr Kieran Lawton, Executive Branch Manager, Program Delivery, Policy and Cabinet Division, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 673.

¹⁴⁴ Mr Kieran Lawton, Executive Branch Manager, Program Delivery, Policy and Cabinet Division, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 673.

Rescue and ACT Ambulance Service station in Molonglo Valley and preparing for another one in Casey, and that is \$66.15 million in the budget.¹⁴⁵

- 3.25. The Committee asked the Minister if there is coordination occurring across Directorates for asset management against climate change, especially in terms of retrofitting assets. The Minister responded that ‘there is’ work to do:

I am not suggesting that there is not, but there are only so many things that can be done at once, and there are urgent infrastructure priorities in other areas. I have no people to divert, who are sitting around idly not doing anything at the moment, to prepare strategic asset management plans for each directorate, so it must be devolved to each directorate to undertake that work as it relates to their own asset base.¹⁴⁶

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a coordinated climate adaptation policy framework for all government agencies managing facilities including sports grounds and schools to ensure that our facilities remain usable as we move into a hotter climate.

Climate considerations for major budget decisions

- 3.26. During the public hearing, the Committee questioned the Chief Minister on the government’s progress on action 5.5. of the Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.27. Action 5.5 of the Climate Change Strategy commits the government to ‘Ensure the social cost of carbon and climate change adaptation outcomes are considered in all ACT Government policies, budget decisions, capital works decisions and procurements’, and provides a timeframe of this being in place by 2021.¹⁴⁷
- 3.28. The Climate Change Strategy defines the ‘social cost of carbon’ as the estimate of the actual economic, social, and environmental cost of emitting greenhouse gases.¹⁴⁸
- 3.29. The Chief Minister advised that full climate change analyses are only done against decisions involving large scale infrastructure and new policy proposals ‘as they relate to areas of government activity that could have a significant impact one way or the other in relation to the territory’s emissions profile, and indeed our objective, short-, medium-, and long-term, on emissions reduction and then ultimately net zero by 2045.’¹⁴⁹
- 3.30. He added that it was the government’s interpretation of action 5.5 that not every policy and budget decision would have a full assessment, commenting that if it was, ‘That would

¹⁴⁵ Ms Wilhelmina Blount, Acting Coordinator-General, Office for Climate Action and Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy and Cabinet Division, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 666–667.

¹⁴⁶ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Climate Action, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 668.

¹⁴⁷ ACT Government, [ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025 – Summary](#), pp 6, 12; ACT Government, [ACT Climate Change Strategy to 2019-25](#), pp 70–72.

¹⁴⁸ ACT Government, [ACT Climate Change Strategy to 2019-25](#), p 72.

¹⁴⁹ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Climate Action, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 675.

mean we would never get a budget done each year and the cost of making each of those individual assessments against the thousands of decisions in a budget every year just renders that a meaningless task.’¹⁵⁰

- 3.31. The Chief Minister also noted that there is a threshold in relation to decisions that reach the expenditure review committee, and that new spending proposals have an assessment conducted based on their scale and their potential impact.¹⁵¹
- 3.32. In response to a question taken on notice, the Chief Minister stated that the Capital Framework is used by all agencies when progressing a capital project business case for expenditure review committee consideration and all Budget Cabinet decisions.¹⁵²
- 3.33. This Capital Framework requires all capital business cases to assess alignment against the Wellbeing Framework through a Wellbeing Impact Assessment. The response to the question taken on notice stated that:

This process provides the opportunity to provide a qualitative assessment and identify climate-related impacts under the environment and climate domain.¹⁵³

- 3.34. The Capital Framework also requires consideration of wellbeing domains in all areas of the business case.¹⁵⁴
- 3.35. During the 26 July 2023 session with the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, the Committee asked why some large budget decisions were not assessed for climate impacts.
- 3.36. EPSDD advised that they are developing a tool to standardise the approach to calculating the impacts, costs, and benefits of emissions reduction initiatives. Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, stated that it would apply to business cases for capital works and non-capital budget initiatives, and regulatory impact statements.¹⁵⁵
- 3.37. Further, Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager of Climate Change and Energy at EPSDD expanded that the tool is currently under development and ‘is in the space of being dealt with across directorates to workshop and come up with that final tool for implementation. It is proposed that bills with a material impact on climate change will require a climate change impact analysis as well, and all MLAs will have access to that analysis.’¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁰ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Climate Action, Proof Committee Hansard, 24 July 2023, p 675.

¹⁵¹ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Climate Action, proof Committee Hansard, 24 July 2023, p 676.

¹⁵² Mr Andrew Barr MLA, *answer to QTON 72: Budget decisions related to climate assessment*, 24 July 2023 (received 1 August 2023), p 2.

¹⁵³ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, *answer to QTON 72: Budget decisions related to climate assessment*, 24 July 2023 (received 1 August 2023), p 2.

¹⁵⁴ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, *answer to QTON 72: Budget decisions related to climate assessment*, 24 July 2023 (received 1 August 2023), p 2.

¹⁵⁵ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 874–875.

¹⁵⁶ Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 875.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct qualitative climate impact assessments on all major budget decisions and all major policy decisions, including those decisions that are not delivered by Major Projects Canberra.

- 3.38. The Minister advised there is not a public list of which decisions received a climate change assessment. This is because those assessments comprised part of the budget business case received by Cabinet, and that the Government did not publish business cases that it has decided not to proceed with.¹⁵⁷

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report which decisions are subject to a climate impact assessment in terms of emissions and adaption.

Minister for Economic Development

- 3.39. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Brand Canberra;
 - Elite sporting performance and venue agreements;
 - Future Jobs Fund;
 - Implementation of *CBR Switched On* and delivery of economic objectives;
 - Innovation policy and CBR Innovation Network;
 - International education (including Study Canberra);
 - Investment facilitation and attraction;
 - Key sector development (including defence, cybersecurity, space and quantum);
 - Manufacturing;
 - Science;
 - Strategic infrastructure projects (including UNSW, and Venues Canberra infrastructure upgrades); and
 - University and research policy.¹⁵⁸

Matters considered

- 3.40. During the Minister for Economic Development's appearance before the Committee on 26 July, the following matters were considered:

¹⁵⁷ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Climate Action, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 675.

¹⁵⁸ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 6.

- CBR Innovation Network;¹⁵⁹
- Canberra Switched On;¹⁶⁰
- Canberra Stadium in Bruce;¹⁶¹
- UNSW campus in Reid;¹⁶²
- non-aviation export policy;¹⁶³ and
- ACT Venture Capital Fund.¹⁶⁴

Key issues

Gungahlin Arts

- 3.41. Belco Arts delivers an outreach program called Gungahlin Arts which ‘supports creativity in suburban areas and creates opportunities for community connection and storytelling through the arts.’ Since 2019, the program has delivered 58 projects in visual and performing arts.¹⁶⁵

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government consider establishing an independent Gungahlin Arts.

International engagement

- 3.42. The ACT Government’s International Engagement Strategy has the following purposes:
- Project the ACT Government’s *2050 Vision* for a globally recognised and prestigious international city;
 - Prioritise the international markets that are important for advancing economic growth in the ACT;
 - Link the priority markets to key industry areas, central to the economic diversification of Canberra;
 - Provide the evidence base to inform export development and Foreign Direct Investment programs;
 - Provide a template for a coordinated approach to international engagement across Government; and

¹⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 888–889, 905.

¹⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 890.

¹⁶¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 893–895, 910–912.

¹⁶² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 895–897, 908.

¹⁶³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 900–901.

¹⁶⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 908–910, 913–914.

¹⁶⁵ Belco Arts, Gungahlin Arts, <https://www.belcoarts.com.au/gungahlin-arts/> accessed 8/08/2023

- Provide leadership to industry in market engagement.¹⁶⁶
- 3.43. At the hearing on 27 July 2023 the Committee was provided with an update on recent opportunities to promote engagement with internal economies, which included:
- Brexit and the opportunity to deal directly with the United Kingdom;
 - Trade missions to Fiji and Wellington;
 - Direct flights to Canberra by Fiji Airways; and
 - Discussions with Indonesian officials about setting up a new capital city.¹⁶⁷

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government continue to implement the International Engagement Strategy.

Minister for Tourism

- 3.44. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Aviation industry development;
 - Major event attraction and Major Event Fund;
 - Major events (Floriade, Enlighten, Winter Festival);
 - Tourism policy; and
 - Visit Canberra.¹⁶⁸

Matters considered

- 3.45. During the Minister for Tourism's appearance before the Committee on 26 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- Canberra Airport Memorandum of Understanding;¹⁶⁹
 - Enlighten food vendors;¹⁷⁰
 - the return of direct international flights;¹⁷¹
 - proposed Canberra 500 Supercar event;¹⁷²
 - Fitzroy Pavilion;¹⁷³ and

¹⁶⁶ ACT Government, *Canberra's International Engagement Strategy*, December 2022, p 7.

¹⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 38-41.

¹⁶⁸ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 6.

¹⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 889-890.

¹⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 891-893, 908.

¹⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, 897-900.

¹⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, 901-902, 907.

¹⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 902-904.

- Winter Festival and other recent major events.¹⁷⁴

Key issues

International flights to Canberra

- 3.46. During the hearing on 26 July 2023, the Chief Minister updated the Committee on direct international flights to Canberra airport, which include services by Fiji Airways and Qantas, and further discussions with Qatar Airways and Singapore Airways. The ACT Government is also working with Tourism Australia to promote the ACT as a holiday destination to the North American market.¹⁷⁵ As explained by Mr Kobus:

In 2019, pre-COVID, the US was Canberra's second-largest market behind China and it was also a significant market for Australia in general. In 2019 nearly 400,000 US visitors travelled to Australia and spent nearly \$4 billion in the Australian economy. So for us to capture a part of that is a really important opportunity.¹⁷⁶

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government continue to advocate for increased international and domestic flight connections.

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

- 3.47. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Housing strategy and policy.¹⁷⁷

Matters considered

- 3.48. During the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development's appearance before the Committee on 20 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- the number of public housing properties left vacant;¹⁷⁸
 - how many public housing development approvals have been taken to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal;¹⁷⁹
 - efforts to make long-term vacant public housing properties available;¹⁸⁰
 - residential construction building contracts panel;¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 905–907.

¹⁷⁵ Mr Barr MLA Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 92.

¹⁷⁶ Mr Kobus, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 92.

¹⁷⁷ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 7.

¹⁷⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 421–423.

¹⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 423–424, 430, 433.

¹⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 424–425.

¹⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 426.

- budget allocation for increasing public housing dwellings;¹⁸²
- maintenance services to Housing ACT properties;¹⁸³
- growing and Renewing Public Housing program;¹⁸⁴ and
- Housing ACT operational funding.¹⁸⁵

Key issues

Public housing stock

- 3.49. The 2023-24 Budget allocates \$177.1 million across the budget and forward estimates to ‘support Housing ACT to maintain and grow portfolio numbers while continuing to provide maintenance and tenancy services.’¹⁸⁶
- 3.50. An additional \$55.9 million has also been allocated for the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program, which will ‘deliver an additional 400 public homes and renew 1,000 public homes.’¹⁸⁷
- 3.51. Several witnesses at the Community Day public hearings expressed the view that more public housing stock was required.¹⁸⁸
- 3.52. One witness noted that there has been a decline in public housing stock, citing the growing public housing waiting list and wait times.¹⁸⁹
- 3.53. This view was echoed in the analysis by Pegasus Economics (see Figure 1) which indicated that public housing stock has stayed constant while the population has increased:

The available evidence suggests the stock of public housing in the ACT has not kept pace with ACT population growth, and has remained stagnant and even slightly declined since 2018 while the ACT resident population has grown by just over 24% between 2011 and 2022. Even if the ACT Government is successful in adding another 400 public homes, it would only be raising the public housing stock back to where it was in 2018.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 427–429.

¹⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 434–438.

¹⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 439–444.

¹⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 454–456, 458.

¹⁸⁶ ACT Government, *Australian Capital Territory Budget 2023-24: Budget Outlook*, June 2023, p 65; Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2023-24*, July 2023, p 31.

¹⁸⁷ ACT Government, *Australian Capital Territory Budget 2023-24: Budget Outlook*, June 2023, pp 65–66.

¹⁸⁸ See, for example: Mr Craig Wallace, Head of Policy, Advocacy for Inclusion, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 3; Ms Gabrielle Robertson, Policy Officer, ACTCOSS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 8–9; Ms Genevieve Bolton, Executive Director and Principal Solicitor, Canberra Community Law, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 29, 32; Ms Sharon Kolak, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Down Syndrome Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 60; Dr Justin Barker, Chief Executive Office, Youth Coalition of the ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 86.

¹⁸⁹ Ms Genevieve Bolton, Executive Director and Principal Solicitor, Canberra Community Law, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 32.

¹⁹⁰ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2023-24*, July 2023, pp vii, 53.

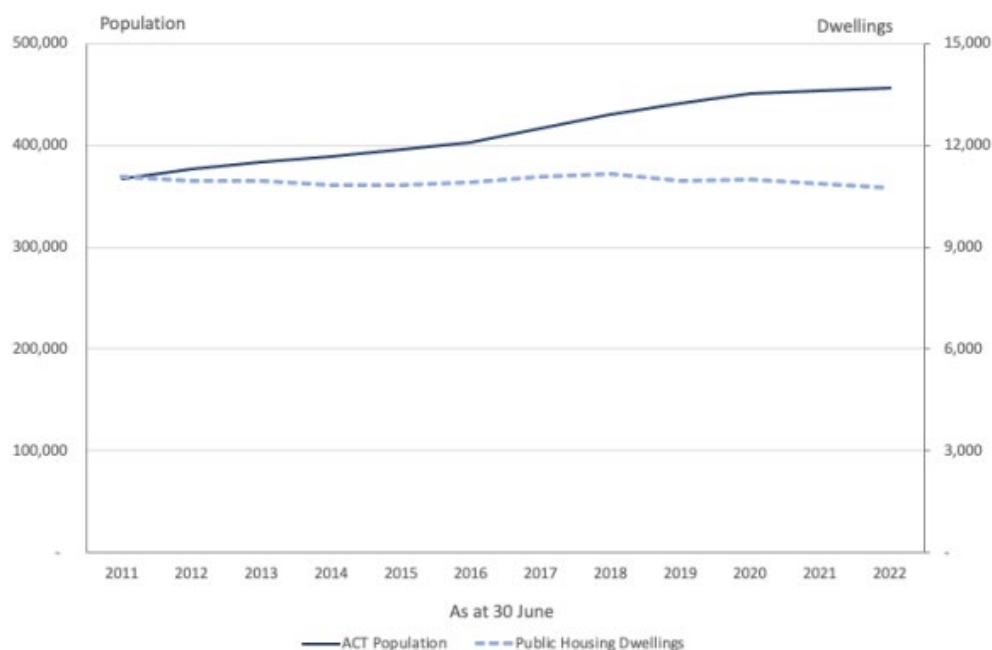


Figure 1 – ACT Population and the Provision of ACT Public Housing Dwellings

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand the number of public housing dwellings.

Minister for Sport and Recreation

3.54. The areas of responsibility covered by the Directorate are:

- Aquatic facilities management;
- Community sports infrastructure; and
- Sport and recreation.¹⁹¹

Matters considered

3.55. During the Minister for Sport and Recreation's appearance before the Committee on 20 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- expansion of the Belconnen Basketball Facility;¹⁹²
- Royal Life Saving ACT;¹⁹³
- opportunities for participation in sport for women and girls;¹⁹⁴

¹⁹¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 8.

¹⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 461-462.

¹⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 462-463.

¹⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 463.

- tender process for swimming pools;¹⁹⁵
- new ice rink – Canberra arena;¹⁹⁶
- Throsby Home of Football;¹⁹⁷
- Gunghalin Tennis Facility;¹⁹⁸
- future indoor sports facilities;¹⁹⁹
- Southside hydrotherapy pool;²⁰⁰
- refurbishment of act public pools;²⁰¹
- new dive pool facility;²⁰²
- aquatic facility strategy;²⁰³
- suburban and city services infrastructure;²⁰⁴
- mountain biking;²⁰⁵
- community hiring of ACT government facilities—public liability and charge rates;²⁰⁶
- memorandum of understanding with the Australian Institute of Sport;²⁰⁷ and
- climate adaptation measures for your sports facilities.²⁰⁸

Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

3.56. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- ACT Public Sector Workers Compensation (including self-insurance);
- Private sector industrial relations and workers compensation;
- Secure local jobs code;
- Work health and safety policy; and
- Work health and safety regulation (including the Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner).²⁰⁹

¹⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 464.

¹⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 464-465.

¹⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 465-467.

¹⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 467.

¹⁹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 468.

²⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 468.

²⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 468.

²⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 468-470.

²⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 470-471.

²⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 471-472.

²⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 472-473.

²⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 473-474; p 477.

²⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 474-475.

²⁰⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 474-477.

²⁰⁹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 9.

Matters considered

3.57. During the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety's appearance before the Committee on 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Portable long service leave;²¹⁰
- Engineered stone;²¹¹
- Crystalline silica dust management;²¹²
- Crystalline silica dust mandatory training;²¹³
- Consultation with industry on crystalline silica dust regulations;²¹⁴
- ACT Public Sector Workers Compensation Scheme;²¹⁵
- Psychological and psychosocial workplace risks;²¹⁶
- WorkSafe accountability indicators;²¹⁷ and
- ACT Long Service Leave Authority rebrand.²¹⁸

Key issues

Engineered stone

3.58. During the hearing on 19 July 2023, the Committee received an update on the ACT Government's actions to reduce the harm of engineered stone, which can cause silicosis, a lung disease caused by long-term inhalation of silica dust. These actions include:

- Mandatory awareness training;
- Workplace inspections;
- Improvement notices and fines for non-compliance; and
- Participation in cross-jurisdictional discussions about future legislation on the issue.²¹⁹

3.59. The Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety noted that despite improvements, there is still a risk of silicosis in the community:

We have looked at training opportunities for people who have to work with engineered stone. We have looked at ensuring that they have all of the right

²¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 329- 332.

²¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 332 – 333.

²¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 333 – 335.

²¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 334.

²¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 335.

²¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 335 – 337.

²¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 337 – 338.

²¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 338 – 339.

²¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 339 - 340

²¹⁹ Ms Jaqueline Agius, WorkSafe Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 111-112.

safety aspects in place. But we still see every now and again those safety aspects not being used, and people are still getting the disease.²²⁰

- 3.60. The Committee notes the time it took to ban asbestos in Australia (70 years) and suggests that ACT lead a ban on engineered stone because ‘national action is often slow to coordinate’.²²¹

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to reduce the harms of manufactured stone in the community and consider a ban of manufactured stone.

Minister for Skills

- 3.61. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT);
- Skilled migration;
- State Training Authority;
- Vocational education and training; and
- Workforce attraction.²²²

Matters considered

- 3.62. During the Minister for Skill’s appearance before the Committee on 31 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- CIT employment and costs;²²³
- CIT Integrity Commission inquiry;²²⁴
- appointment of a permanent CIT CEO;²²⁵
- fee-free TAFE at CIT and eligibility changes;²²⁶
- associated fees alongside enrolment to fee-free TAFE courses;²²⁷
- part time enrolment at CIT;²²⁸

²²⁰ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 332.

²²¹ Ms Jo Clay, MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 333.

²²² Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 13.

²²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1080 – 1082.

²²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1080–1081.

²²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1082.

²²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1083–1085.

²²⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1085.

²²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1085–1086.

- subsidised or fee-free courses through independent RTOs;²²⁹
- personal development sessions for CIT executives;²³⁰
- effects of the cost of consultancy contracts and the CIT business turnaround;²³¹
- Hollingworth contracts;²³²
- number of courses CIT has delivered over the last three years;²³³
- complaints from CIT staff and former staff over the last three years;²³⁴
- skilled electricians;²³⁵
- electric vehicle maintenance training programs;²³⁶
- National Skills Agreement negotiation status;²³⁷
- JobTrainer program;²³⁸
- Ginninderry SPARK program cessation;²³⁹
- ICT facilities upgrades for CIT;²⁴⁰
- CIT obligations to Evoenergy or tenderers from Major Project Canberra;²⁴¹
- Training Fund Authority training trends in the ACT;²⁴²
- funding provided to the Training Fund Authority in the last financial year;²⁴³
- construction of the crystalline silica dust training unit;²⁴⁴
- payments to individuals mandated to undertake training and the author of the crystalline silica dust training program;²⁴⁵
- CIT travel allocation;²⁴⁶
- union affiliation with the crystalline silica dust mandatory training;²⁴⁷
- CIT students competing at the national WorldSkills competition;²⁴⁸

²²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1086–1088.

²³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1088–1089.

²³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1089–1090.

²³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1090–1091.

²³³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1091.

²³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1091–1092.

²³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1092–1094.

²³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1094–1095.

²³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1095–1096.

²³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1096.

²³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1096–1097.

²⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1097–1098.

²⁴¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1098–1099.

²⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1099–1100.

²⁴³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1100–1101.

²⁴⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1101.

²⁴⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1101–1103.

²⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1104.

²⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1104–1105.

²⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1106–1108.

- staff and teacher attraction;²⁴⁹
- Women in Construction program;²⁵⁰
- targets for women apprentices;²⁵¹
- retaining women in trades;²⁵²
- CIT skills and Auslan;²⁵³
- Auslan qualifications inclusion into the ACT skills needs list;²⁵⁴
- upskilling and training CIT staff;²⁵⁵
- staff consultation on former and acting CEOs;²⁵⁶
- promotion of staff feedback forums;²⁵⁷
- CIT campuses gas and electricity efficiency;²⁵⁸
- CIT gas asset audits;²⁵⁹
- CIT sustainability initiatives;²⁶⁰ and
- CIT Gungahlin site utilisation.²⁶¹

Key issues

Expand the CIT footprint in Gungahlin

- 3.63. The Committee noted that CIT is delivering the fee-free TAFE Program in the ACT, covering 2,500 fee-free TAFE places, with 46 qualifications and pre-apprenticeships eligible. CIT offers flexible ways of studying and learning including on-campus and remote learning options.²⁶²
- 3.64. There is also a significant reform program for CIT's ICT infrastructure including the Cloud Campus program which will involve whole-of-institute uplift across CIT to enable learning styles on modern systems and improved security costs. This will enable students to utilise state-of-the-art systems, in particular, enable activities at the new Woden campus to come on stream in 2025.²⁶³

²⁴⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1108–1110.

²⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1110–1111.

²⁵¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1111–1112.

²⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1112–1114.

²⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1114.

²⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1114.

²⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1114–1115.

²⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1115–1116.

²⁵⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 111–1118.

²⁵⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1118.

²⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1118–1119.

²⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1119.

²⁶¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1119.

²⁶² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1083–1085.

²⁶³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1097–1098.

- 3.65. The Committee noted that CIT is examining opportunities for renewal of other campuses including potential for CIT Fyshwick to update and upgrade facilities with the East Lake Urban Renewal. However, the draft district strategy seems to focus on the inner south (Fyshwick) which is designated as a future innovation precinct, while there is less focus on ACT's north-side and on-campus opportunities for north-side residents.²⁶⁴

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expands the CIT Gungahlin footprint, offering more study options/courses to north-side residents in the next CIT Strategic Compass (strategic plan).

Fee-Free TAFE

- 3.66. Fee-Free TAFE is jointly funded by Commonwealth, state and territory governments and enables students who fulfill the eligibility requirements to train at TAFE without paying fees for particular identified course. The initiative aims to address the skills shortage:

The purpose of the fee-free TAFE program... is to remove the barriers to studying or training in vocational education and training. It is particularly focused on key skills needs areas across the economy. At the moment the ACT has a very low unemployment rate and we are seeing workforce shortages across almost every sector of the economy, so our TAFEs are well placed to be able to support a pipeline of future employees through training.²⁶⁵

- 3.67. The Committee heard that the Fee-Free TAFE initiative was originally targeted for school leavers. In addition, the Commonwealth Government working with the ACT Government has extended eligibility to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and veterans. The Committee understands that the ACT Government aims to establish long-term eligibility rules.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand fee-free TAFE.

Student costs

- 3.68. The Committee understands that courses that are eligible under the Fee-Free TAFE initiative may have other associated costs. For example:

²⁶⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1105-1106, 1119.

²⁶⁵ Mr Chris Steel, MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023. p 1083.

...[S]tudents buy particular equipment. If we are talking about hospitality, they may be required to invest in a set of knives or other sorts of resources that are required for that course of study.²⁶⁶

- 3.69. The Committee heard that the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) that students can access support for such costs through the CIT Student Association.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore further opportunities to reduce out-of-pocket costs experienced by TAFE students.

Auslan

- 3.70. The Committee drew attention to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion's inquiry into access to services and information in Auslan, specifically in relation to the shortage of Auslan courses.²⁶⁷
- 3.71. The Acting Chief Executive of CIT stated that CIT does not offer Auslan training. Its subsidiary, CIT Solutions, offers introductory programs only. These entry-level courses are not at the level required to prepare students to undertake the work of Auslan interpretation, which indicates a significant skills shortage in the ACT.²⁶⁸ The Committee noted:

The Government agreed to put all certificate levels of Auslan, plus the Diploma of Interpreting, onto the ACT skills needs list.²⁶⁹

- 3.72. An official from Skills Canberra stated that Deaf Connect provides courses to qualify students in Auslan interpretation. However, the cost of this diploma course in the ACT is \$20,540, and higher in comparison to other states.²⁷⁰

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand the AUSLAN course offering at CIT.

Women in construction

- 3.73. Mr Hopkins from the Master Builders Association of the ACT noted that funding has ended for the Women in Construction Program. This program had previously been running since

²⁶⁶ Ms Christine Robertson, Acting Chief Executive, Canberra Institute of Technology, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1085.

²⁶⁷ Ms Christine Robertson, Acting Chief Executive, Canberra Institute of Technology, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1114.

²⁶⁸ Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion, *Report of the Inquiry into Access and Services and Information in Auslan*, pp 14-15.

²⁶⁹ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA. *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1114.

²⁷⁰ Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion, *Report of the Inquiry into Access and Services and Information in Auslan*, p 14.

2019 with ACT and Commonwealth funding and was a pre-vocational program aimed at guiding women into construction apprenticeships.²⁷¹ Mr Hopkins also stated that his organisations estimates that the ACT will need an estimated 7,000 new construction workers before November 2026 to deliver the forecast work, and they believe that the lack of new programs or funding to get people into the industry will be a challenge to this.²⁷²

- 3.74. The Government has released a discussion paper on women in construction procurement policy, which proposes a range of gender-based employment targets and evidence of gender equality measures for procurement of construction contracts at or above \$5 million.²⁷³ Mr Hopkins told the Committee that programs such as the Women in Construction Program are required for the sector to meet these proposed targets.²⁷⁴
- 3.75. During the hearing on 31 July 2023, the Committee discussed with the Minister for Skills and officials from CMTEDD the other ways in which the ACT Government is encouraging women to take up construction jobs, such as mentoring and upskilling programs with Lendlease and the University of Canberra, or trialling shorter working weeks on job sites.²⁷⁵
- 3.76. The Committee notes that women make up only 25 percent of the Australian construction workforce, and only 2 percent of all trade covered workers.²⁷⁶

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to support an increase in the number of women in the construction industry including setting a target such as 10 percent for procurement.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to set targets for apprentices and women on major projects and publish how this is monitored through the duration of these projects and compliance with these targets.

Zero-emissions targets

- 3.77. Fee-Free TAFE is jointly funded by Commonwealth, state and territory governments and enables students who fulfill the eligibility requirements to train at TAFE without paying fees for particular identified course. The initiative aims to address the skills shortage:

The purpose of the fee-free TAFE program... is to remove the barriers to studying or training in vocational education and training. It is particularly focused on key skills needs areas across the economy. At the moment the ACT has a very low

²⁷¹ Mr Michael Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer, Master Builders Association of the ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 20 and 24.

²⁷² Mr Hopkins, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 21.

²⁷³ Procurement ACT, ACT Government, *Women in Construction Procurement Policy, Discussion Paper*, March 2023.

²⁷⁴ Mr Hopkins, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 24.

²⁷⁵ Mr Harriot, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 39 and Ms Rebecca Power, Project Director, CIT Campus – Woden Project, *Proof Committee Hansard* 31 July 2023, p 42.

²⁷⁶ Procurement ACT, ACT Government, *Women in Construction Procurement Policy, Discussion Paper*, March 2023, p 9.

unemployment rate and we are seeing workforce shortages across almost every sector of the economy, so our TAFEs are well placed to be able to support a pipeline of future employees through training.²⁷⁷

- 3.78. The Committee heard that the Fee-Free TAFE initiative was originally targeted for school leavers. In addition, the Commonwealth Government working with the ACT Government has extended eligibility to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and veterans. The Committee understands that the ACT Government aims to establish long-term eligibility rules.

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that CIT should work with EPSDD to undertake an audit of fossil fuel powered plant and equipment and develop a plan to replace these with zero-emissions alternatives when they reach end of life or by 2045 whichever is sooner.

Special Minister of State

- 3.79. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Access to government information;
 - ACT Insurance Authority;
 - Audit policy;
 - Chief Digital Officer, Digital and Data Strategy, including Cyber security;
 - Community facilities charging policy;
 - Community facilities property services;
 - Government accommodation and property services (including facility management and operations for Venues Canberra);
 - Insurance policy (including Motor Accident Injury Insurance and lifetime care and support scheme);
 - Procurement; and
 - Shared services, including transactional services and ICT services.²⁷⁸

Matters considered

- 3.80. During the Special Minister for State's appearance before the Committee on 31 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

²⁷⁷ Mr Chris Steel, MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023. p 1083.

²⁷⁸ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 13.

- HRIMS (Human Resources Information Management System) project abandonment;²⁷⁹
- generated efficiencies from HR and payroll system upgrades;²⁸⁰
- Ernst & Young as the HRIMS project implementation partner;²⁸¹
- Ministerial responsibilities for HR and payroll upgrades;²⁸²
- HRIMS monetary recorded loss;²⁸³
- deliverables from the HRIMS system;²⁸⁴
- adherence to Procurement ACT guidelines;²⁸⁵
- development of a procurement solution to track procurement decision making;²⁸⁶
- procurement overspending;²⁸⁷
- total money spent by the ACT Government on procurement for 2022–23;²⁸⁸
- value for money;²⁸⁹
- Motor Accident Injuries Scheme progression;²⁹⁰
- Motor Accident Injuries Scheme reviews;²⁹¹
- Motor Accident Injuries Scheme total claims;²⁹²
- Motor Accident Injuries revenue distribution;²⁹³
- digital program for the Motor Accident Injuries Scheme;²⁹⁴
- lost income payments;²⁹⁵
- community groups' ability to hire ACT Government spaces;²⁹⁶
- Deloitte internal review of the HRIMS program;²⁹⁷
- HRIMS business case;²⁹⁸

²⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1120–1121, p 1123.

²⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1121–1122.

²⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1122.

²⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1122–1123.

²⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1124.

²⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1124.

²⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1124–1126.

²⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1126.

²⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1126–1127.

²⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1127–1128.

²⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1128.

²⁹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1128–1129.

²⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1129, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1131.

²⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1129.

²⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1129–1130.

²⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1130–1131.

²⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1131.

²⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1131–1132.

²⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1132–1133., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1139 – 1141.

²⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1132–1133.

- 2023–24 cost of HR upgrades;²⁹⁹
- Callam Offices building upgrades;³⁰⁰
- Women in Construction Procurement Policy;³⁰¹
- Yarrabee Consulting;³⁰²
- HRIMS program suppliers;³⁰³
- HRIMS steering committee;³⁰⁴
- cost to provide a payslip;³⁰⁵
- uploading contracts on the Contracts Register;³⁰⁶
- upload of the electric bus contract;³⁰⁷
- HR21 and CHRIS21 upgrades;³⁰⁸
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy update;³⁰⁹
- Government Procurement Board objectivity and membership;³¹⁰
- recruitment process for the Government Procurement Board;³¹¹
- Panel of Training Providers due diligence;³¹²
- Stromlo Forest Park community consultation;³¹³
- Tracks and Trails Masterplan funding;³¹⁴
- commercial accommodation at Stromlo Forest Park;³¹⁵
- YourSay uptake;³¹⁶
- Centralised National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park email address;³¹⁷
- National Arboretum 10th Birthday and upcoming funding;³¹⁸

²⁹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1133–1134.

³⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1136–1137.

³⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1137–1138.

³⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1138–1139.

³⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1138–1139.

³⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1139–1141.

³⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1142.

³⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1142.

³⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1142.

³⁰⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1144–1146.

³⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 114 –1147.

³¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1147–1149.

³¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1148–1149.

³¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1149–1151.

³¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1151–1152.

³¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1152.

³¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1152–1153.

³¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1153.

³¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1153.

³¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1153–1156.

- National Arboretum second entrance;³¹⁹
- ACT Government contracts or subcontractor arrangements awarded to unions or entities owned by unions;³²⁰
- Value for Money from union-affiliated contracts;³²¹
- Professional Consulting Services Panel;³²²
- value of money from technical advisors;³²³
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) status on the Professional Consulting Services Panel;³²⁴
- whether any PwC advice to CMTEDD was considered commercial in confidence;³²⁵
- Procurement Reform Program;³²⁶
- conflict of interests at tender;³²⁷
- cybersecurity;³²⁸ and
- investigation of the Barracuda incident.³²⁹

Key issues

The Government Procurement Board

- 3.81. During the hearing with the Auditor-General on 25 July 2023 the issues of government procurement, including the recent audit report on the activities of the Government Procurement Board (the Procurement Board), was discussed at length. The Auditor-General highlighted several key areas of improvement of procurement in the ACT.
- 3.82. One key concern lies in the lack of clarity of the role of the Procurement Board. The *Government Procurement Act 2011* states that the functions of the Procurement Board are:
- (a) to review, and give advice to territory entities on, procurement issues; and
 - (b) to review, and give advice on—
 - (i) procurement proposals and activities referred to the board by a Minister or responsible chief executive officer; or
 - (ii) procurement proposals for procurement matters declared by the Minister; and

³¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1154–1155.

³²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1156.

³²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1155–1157.

³²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1157–1158.

³²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1158.

³²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1158–1159.

³²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1159.

³²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1159–1161.

³²⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1161–1162.

³²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1162–1163.

³²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1163–1164.

- (c) to review procurement proposals of territory entities in accordance with the regulations; and
- (d) to consider, advise on and, if appropriate, endorse procurement practices and methods for use by territory entities; and
- (e) to provide advice to the Minister on any issue relevant to the procurement activities of territory entities or the operation of this Act; and
- (f) to exercise any other function given to the board under this Act or any other Territory law.³³⁰

3.83. The report on the audit of the activities of the Government Procurement Board states:

There is misalignment between what is stated in the legislation and what is the understanding of the Board's purpose by proponents, Board members and procurement officials. The lack of a clearly stated purpose for the Board leaves it vulnerable to criticism that it duplicates, or even contradicts, the efforts of Procurement ACT and Major Projects Canberra and that it exceeds its authority.³³¹

3.84. The report further states that the Board is 'rarely assertive with its advice' and does not systematically seek to review whether its advice has been taken into consideration.³³²

3.85. At the hearing, the Auditor-General said:

I think a significant amount of the difficulty that has been experienced would be avoided if the act were to be looked at and amended to provide clarity as far as the board's role and function is concerned, and to provide it with a bit more teeth to insist on changes to procurement process where it believes those changes are necessary in the interests of value for money assessment and in the interests of fairness for those going to market to offer their services to government.³³³

3.86. The Committee agrees with the Auditor-General's suggestion.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clearly establish in legislation the role of the Government Procurement Board and its role in handling proposals brought forward by proponents.

3.87. A second key concern raised by the Auditor-General related to the membership of the Board. According to the Act, the Board must constitute of 4 members drawn from the

³³⁰ *Government Procurement Act 2001*, s 6.

³³¹ ACT Auditor-General, *ACT Auditor-General's Performance Audit Report No. 5/2023: Activities of the Government Procurement Board*, p 2.

³³² ACT Auditor-General, *ACT Auditor-General's Performance Audit Report No. 5/2023: Activities of the Government Procurement Board*, p 3.

³³³ Mr Harris, ACT Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 730.

private sector and 5 members, including the chair and deputy chair, drawn from the public sector. The Audit report identified that this predominance of public sector members can lead to higher incidents of conflicts of.³³⁴

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a detailed membership list of the Government Procurement Board.

- 3.88. The Government is currently progressing a procurement reform program which aims to increase transparency, streamline processes, and provide greater support to both providers and Territory entities.³³⁵ At the hearing, the Committee was provided an update on the progress of the work, which is scheduled to be ongoing until the end of the 2024–25 financial year. Procurement ACT has developed training which can be delivered either online or face-to-face on request, and they are also developing an ICT solution to track procurement processes in a more transparent fashion.³³⁶
- 3.89. The Executive Group Manager of Procurement ACT explained:
- [W]e are working towards the development of a procurement solution which will track decision making in the life of a particular procurement. That is not our current state, so a system solution in that regard.³³⁷
- 3.90. The Committee has recommendations for the design of the new ICT system to enable it to be a comprehensive and up-to-date single point of reference for contracts across Territory entities.

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the contract name is included as a field on the notifiable invoices register, to improve transparency of use of public funds.

Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that whole-of-government or major projects should possess a ‘single source of truth’, accessible publicly and comprised by the most relevant information for disclosure, including all contracts, Procurement Unique Identifier (PUIs), timelines for deliverables and whether it is on schedule.

³³⁴ ACT Auditor-General, *ACT Auditor-General’s Performance Audit Report No. 5/2023: Activities of the Government Procurement Board*, p 13.

³³⁵ ACT Government, Procurement Reform Program, p 1.

³³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1126.

³³⁷ Ms Sanaz Mirzabegian, Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1126.

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government have a proactive monitoring and auditing process for ensuring that contracts managed by other territory entities are provided and uploaded to the contract register.

- 3.91. For more streamlined access to goods and services by Territory entities, the Government can establish 'panels' which operate under a contract called a standing offer arrangement. The panel consist of one or several suppliers and will generally have the same terms and conditions for each one. Territory entities can then enter contracts with the panel members without having to meet the tender and quotations thresholds of the Government Procurement Regulation 2007.³³⁸
- 3.92. The Government has several whole-of-government panels for commonly used services such as labour hire, creative services, and digital goods,³³⁹ and directorates can also establish their own panels for specific procurement needs.

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish and track all active supplier panels across ACT Directorates to the Procurement ACT website, including how many suppliers are on each panel, the data of refreshment or renewal of the panels, the purpose of the panel and the directorate it originates from.

Local industry participation plans

- 3.93. The Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy requires Territory entities to consider impacts to local capabilities and the local economy when considering procurement options. As part of the process, businesses submitting for tenders for over \$5 million must complete a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP), which is 'a document that outlines the respondent's level of commitment to using local content and/or local business and how the respondent's proposal and business contributes positively to the economic benefits of the Canberra Region.'³⁴⁰
- 3.94. It was noted by the Committee that these LIPPs are not published as standard operating procedure, as they 'may contain information having commercial value.'³⁴¹

³³⁸ ACT Government, Establishing Standing Offer Arrangements and Panel Arrangement, Procurement Factsheet: SCE-02-202206.

³³⁹ ACT Government, Procurement ACT. Whole of government contracts (<https://www.procurement.act.gov.au/supplying-to-act-government/find-opportunities-for-your-business/whole-of-government-contracts>, accessed 14 August 2023).

³⁴⁰ ACT Government, *Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy*, Version 1.1, p 5.

³⁴¹ QTON 76.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government publish local industry participation plans for tenders over \$5 million.

HRMIS project

- 3.95. During the hearing on 31 July 2023, the Committee was provided with an explanation for the HRIMS (Human Resource Information Management System) development project which had cost \$76 million and was recently abandoned in favour of upgrading the current HR system.
- 3.96. Ernst & Young were contracted to design and build a new HRIMS, to automate HR and payroll tasks and provide training for all directorates. In 2020 the Special Minister of State became aware that the project was 'not on track' and an initial 'reset' was tried, however it ended up being paused and Ernst & Young left the project in 2021. After a number of technical and non-technical reviews, the project goal changed to upgrade the current HR and payroll IT systems instead of building a new system.³⁴²

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct and table a detailed report of learnings drawn from the HRIMS (Human Resource Information Management System) Program and how these will inform the future development of the HR and payroll IT system.

Data security

- 3.97. At the hearing on 31 July 2023 the Committee were given an update on measures the Government is taking to increase its cyber security.
- 3.98. The Digital Data and Technology Solutions team has been provided with additional resources, and has been distributing cyber security awareness training materials across the directorates. They also assess the ICT risk of business cases as part of the budget process.³⁴³

Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that ACT Government implement and publish standard operating procedures (SOPs) in relation to data, information or analysis garnered through government marketing, advertising or communications, particularly using digital platforms.

³⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1120–1124.

³⁴³ Ms Bettina Konti, Deputy Director-General and Chief Digital Officer, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1163–1164.

Booking government spaces

- 3.99. During the hearing on 31 July 2023, the issue of the multitude of booking arrangements for ACT Government spaces such as community halls, school facilities and other public venues was raised. The Committee heard that there is a wide variety of requirements across venues in the portfolio, and that these are also separate from venues available through the Education Directorate.³⁴⁴

Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government have one electronic portal, website, or app, for community groups who wish to schedule, book, and pay for ACT Government spaces such as community halls, school facilities and other public venues.

Assistant Minister for Economic Development

- 3.100. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- ACT events fund;
- Community events;
- Creative industries;
- Night time economy; and
- Screen Canberra.³⁴⁵

Matters considered

- 3.101. During the Assistant Minister for Economic Development's appearance before the Committee on 25 July, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Event Fund;³⁴⁶
- entertainment precincts;³⁴⁷
- Balloon Spectacular;³⁴⁸
- night-time economy concerns of business;³⁴⁹
- difference between the creative industries line item and arts ACT and the Cultural Facilities Corporation;³⁵⁰

³⁴⁴ Mr Elkins, Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1132.

³⁴⁵ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 14.

³⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 805–808.

³⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 808–810.

³⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 810–812.

³⁴⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 812–814.

³⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 814–815.

- Screen Canberra Funding;³⁵¹ and
- Symphony in the Park.³⁵²

Minister for the Arts

3.102. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Art and cultural policy and services;
- Community arts facilities; and
- Cultural Facilities Corporation.³⁵³

Matters considered

3.103. During the Minister for the Arts' appearance before the Committee on 24 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- remuneration principles and practices for artists and arts workers;³⁵⁴
- Kingston Arts Precinct;³⁵⁵ and
- Gorman House.³⁵⁶

Key issues

Dedicated space for artists in residence at the Kingston Arts Precinct

- 3.104. The Committee noted that an operational budget of just over \$1 million a year has been provided to artsACT for the Kingston Arts Precinct. This long-term funding will be indexed at 2.5 per cent until 2041–42, and includes funds for staffing, as well as operations and programming costs.³⁵⁷
- 3.105. The Committee appreciates that the place brief for the Kingston Arts Precinct is publicly available and allows for further community consultation. The place brief is managed by the Suburban Land Agency. Construction is anticipated to commence in the 2024–25 financial year.³⁵⁸
- 3.106. The Committee notes that when the precinct is developed, artsACT will be the manager of the precinct for the first five years. Arts organisations will pay a peppercorn rate for rent. Arts organisations will determine how the space is used, noting their remit to offer affordable and cost-effective studio and artist space to practising artists.³⁵⁹

³⁵¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 815–817.

³⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 817–818.

³⁵³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 14.

³⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 600–602.

³⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611–612.

³⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 614.

³⁵⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611–613.

³⁵⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611–613.

³⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611–613.

- 3.107. The Committee understands that the founding organisations will have access to ten residential apartments for visiting artists to support their residency programs. This is in addition to accommodation provided for the Canberra Glassworks at the chapel and Megalo Print Studio at Cargills Cottage. A gallery, theatrette, artist studios, workshop space and meeting rooms in the precinct will be managed by the head licensee and available for use by other organisations or individual artists.³⁶⁰
- 3.108. After five years, artsACT will develop a new management arrangement, with the intention that a not-for-profit organisation will manage all of the arts facilities in the precinct.³⁶¹
- 3.109. The Committee noted the planning arrangements for the Kingston Arts Precinct including dedicated space for artists in residence. However, the Committee would like to see the finalisation of the development of the precinct to ensure that a dedicated space for artists in residence is maintained.³⁶²

Recommendation 37

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that the Kingston Arts Precinct has a dedicated space for artists in residence.

Minister for Business and Better Regulation

- 3.110. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development;
 - Access Canberra (exception in relation to planning development, land and lease regulation);
 - Better Regulation Taskforce;
 - Business advocacy and liaison;
 - Business development;
 - Construction, building and utilities regulation;
 - Controlled Sports registration, inspection, notifications and regulatory services;
 - Environmental protection, water regulation, and clinical waste controller;
 - Electricity and natural gas, water and sewerage industry technical regulation;
 - Fair trading and registration, inspection and regulatory services (including transport regulation and licensing);
 - Food safety licensing and regulation;
 - Improving ease of doing business with government;

³⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611-613.

³⁶¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611-613.

³⁶² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 611-613.

- Occupational licensing;
- Public unleased land regulation (permits);
- Racing and gaming regulation;
- Registration of civil unions, domestic relationships and parentage; and
- Small business.³⁶³

Matters considered

3.111. During the Minister for Business and Better Regulation's appearance before the Committee on 24 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Canberra Business Chamber's media release;³⁶⁴
- peak bodies;³⁶⁵
- relationship with business;³⁶⁶
- access to public liability insurance;³⁶⁷
- nightlife and public liability insurance;³⁶⁸
- release of the Small Business Strategy;³⁶⁹
- public liability insurance increases;³⁷⁰
- bookable Access Canberra appointments;³⁷¹
- Access Canberra wait times;³⁷²
- customers who arrive at the Dickson Access Canberra without an appointment;³⁷³
- Access Canberra accountability indicators;³⁷⁴
- improving ease of interaction at Access Canberra;³⁷⁵
- Access Canberra website updates;³⁷⁶
- Access Canberra survey time period;³⁷⁷

³⁶³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 15.

³⁶⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 618–620.

³⁶⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 620.

³⁶⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 621–622.

³⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 622.

³⁶⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 622–623.

³⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 623–624.

³⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 623.

³⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 624–626.

³⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 625–625.

³⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 627–627.

³⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 627–630, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 631, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 645.

³⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 630.

³⁷⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 630–631.

³⁷⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 631–632.

- Access Canberra measure of business satisfaction;³⁷⁸
- payroll tax;³⁷⁹
- support to ACT business;³⁸⁰
- late or delinquent payments to Access Canberra;³⁸¹
- services for Access Canberra staff impacted by negative behaviour;³⁸²
- food safety licensing and regulation for new businesses;³⁸³
- online food business regulation;³⁸⁴
- Brindabella Christian College car park on public land;³⁸⁵
- Access Canberra resources to respond to controlled activity orders;³⁸⁶
- staff levels;³⁸⁷
- Access Canberra and retirement village regulation;³⁸⁸
- register of ACT retirement villages;³⁸⁹
- retirement villages inspection programs;³⁹⁰
- Better Regulation Taskforce expansion;³⁹¹
- Better Regulation Taskforce evaluation plan;³⁹²
- Better Regulation Taskforce simplification of ACT regulatory burdens;³⁹³
- Light Rail Stage one impact on business;³⁹⁴
- Better Regulation Taskforce report;³⁹⁵
- the night-time economy;³⁹⁶
- EPA and enforcement;³⁹⁷

³⁷⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 632–633.

³⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 633–634.

³⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 634–635, p 640.

³⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 636.

³⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 636–638.

³⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 638–639.

³⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 639–640.

³⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 640–642.

³⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 642.

³⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 642.

³⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 642–643.

³⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 644–645.

³⁹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 644–645.

³⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 645–648.

³⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 648–649.

³⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 648–649.

³⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 649–650.

³⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 650–651.

³⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 651–653.

³⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 653–656.

- staffing;³⁹⁸
- Environment Protection Agency maximum infringement notice fees;³⁹⁹
- EasyPark;⁴⁰⁰
- funding for modernisation of traffic and parking systems;⁴⁰¹
- regulation overlap and consistency;⁴⁰²
- delayed implementation of regulation;⁴⁰³
- Better Regulation Agenda stream two;⁴⁰⁴
- Better Regulation Taskforce regulatory assessment of portable long-service leave;⁴⁰⁵ and
- Asthma Australia and woodfire heaters.⁴⁰⁶

Key issues

Portable long service leave

- 3.112. At the hearing on 24 July 2023, the Minister for Business and Better Regulation outlined the benefits of expanding portable long service leave:

[...] the purpose of portable long-service leave is to ensure that workers are not disadvantaged by the characteristics of work within their fields, including high mobility and insecure working arrangements, such as short-term contracts and part-time and casual workers. [...]

We know that small businesses are struggling to attract and retain workers and the expansion of the portable long-service leave will make these industries and professions more attractive to prospective employees, and it will also attract workers who are already in these professions in jurisdictions without a portable long-service scheme in the ACT.⁴⁰⁷

- 3.113. The Minister also noted that under the recent legislation expanding the scheme to the hairdressing, beauty, accommodation and food services industries, a two year transition period is provided to give companies time to be prepared to comply with the scheme.⁴⁰⁸

³⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 655–656.

³⁹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 656–657.

⁴⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 657–658.

⁴⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 658.

⁴⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 658–660.

⁴⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 660–661.

⁴⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 661.

⁴⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 661–662.

⁴⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 662.

⁴⁰⁷ Ms Cheyne, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 73.

⁴⁰⁸ Ms Cheyne, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 73.

Recommendation 38

The Committee recommends that that ACT Government continue to investigate the expansion of portable long service leave.

Better Regulation Taskforce Agenda

- 3.114. In 2021 the ACT Government began the Better Regulation Taskforce (the Taskforce) to help local business recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. After a consultation period, a report was released in 2022 which outlined the 2 year 'Better Regulation Agenda', which sets out action plans to 'put in place the best settings for business recovery, long-term growth and regulation in the ACT.' For example, one action item is to the prepare the ACT for cross-jurisdictional automatic mutual recognition of occupational licensing.⁴⁰⁹
- 3.115. The submission of the Canberra Business Chamber recommends reducing the regulatory burden of businesses and specifically refers to the Taskforce report and agenda.⁴¹⁰

Recommendation 39

The Committee recommends the ACT Government include in CMTEDD annual reports all regulation changes achieved because of the Better Regulation Taskforce's findings split into Commonwealth Government led regulation changes and ACT Government led regulation changes.

⁴⁰⁹ ACT Government, CMTEDD, Better Regulation Taskforce: A report on how we are improving business regulation in the ACT, May 2022, p 9.

⁴¹⁰ Budget Consultation, Canberra Business Chamber, Submission 18, p 8.

4. Community Services Directorate

4.1. Budget Statements G states that the primary purpose of the Community Services Directorate is to:

- intervene early to support people to be safe, enable active community participation, and achieve positive life outcomes;
- deliver services that are human centred, holistic, tailored and integrated with a focus on ensuring the right supports are provided to those most in need, proactively identifying risks and enable people to work towards self-sufficiency as much as possible;
- build strong communities with a focus on using evidence to inform services and programs, community development approaches that connect people to local communities, and by maximising inclusion through targeted community-based programs. This includes alignment of government priorities and legislation to address community identified needs;
- foster inclusive participation by supporting Canberrans to participate in decision making, to form community connections and to live fulfilling lives, building cohesion, equity and inclusion for all; and
- drive collaboration and partnerships both within and external to the Directorate, working collaboratively with other government agencies and building effective relationships with non-government community partners. This includes embedding the cultural change needed to intervene early and improve life trajectories as part of an integrated and holistic services system.⁴¹¹

Minister for Early Childhood Development

4.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Child development service;
- Childhood early intervention and development policy; and
- Childhood early intervention and development services.⁴¹²

Matters considered

4.3. During the Minister for Early Childhood Development's appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- cost of and access to early child care;⁴¹³
- child development services;⁴¹⁴

⁴¹¹ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements G*, p 1.

⁴¹² Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 6.

⁴¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 478–481.

⁴¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 486–490.

- Children and Young Person Equipment Loan Scheme;⁴¹⁵
- three-year-old preschool program;⁴¹⁶ and
- professional learning and resourcing portal.⁴¹⁷

Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

4.4. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Youth Advisory Council;
- Youth affairs policy; and
- Youth InterACT engagement, scholarships, and grants.⁴¹⁸

Matters considered

4.5. During the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- the evacuation of Canberra schools following threatening phone calls;⁴¹⁹
- planning process for new schools;⁴²⁰
- Evelyn Scott School in Molonglo Valley;⁴²¹
- the recent ACT Youth Assembly at the Australian National University;⁴²²
- diagnostic assessments for ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder);⁴²³ and
- comparative enrolments for government and non-government schools.⁴²⁴

Key issues

Full-time equivalent teacher workforce

4.6. The Committee drew attention to the discrepancy in the projected budgeted number of full-time equivalent of staff in ACT Government schools for 2023–2024 and the actual number of staff for the previous financial year (2022–2023).⁴²⁵

4.7. Whilst the Committee appreciates the difference between projected and actual staffing in ACT Government schools, more frequent reporting of numbers of staff is considered beneficial.

⁴¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 490.

⁴¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 481–486.

⁴¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 493–494.

⁴¹⁸ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 7.

⁴¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 278–279.

⁴²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 279–281.

⁴²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 281–282.

⁴²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 282–283.

⁴²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 284–285.

⁴²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 285–287.

⁴²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 496.

Recommendation 40

The Committee recommends that the Education Minister update the Assembly quarterly on the current level of FTE teachers available for placement in classrooms across the ACT system.

Maintenance of ACT schools

- 4.8. The Committee heard that structural improvements to ACT Government schools are informed by principles of climate adaptation, exemplified by installation of shade sails, thermal improvement in roof installation and removal of gas boilers.⁴²⁶
- 4.9. The Committee also learned about the additional demountable buildings at Gungahlin College due to the increase in the number of students.⁴²⁷

Recommendation 41

The Committee recommends that the Education Directorate publish annually a list of all facilities and maintenance work in ACT schools, including a complete list of the status of each project at the end of each year.

Autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) assessments

- 4.10. The Committee heard that many parents are unable to access diagnosis assessments for ADHD, which has implications for accessing relevant learning support in schools.⁴²⁸
- 4.11. The Committee understands that the ACT Government collects data of student referrals to its Allied Health Service but not to external providers.⁴²⁹ As at 20 July, 2023 there were 167 families on the waitlist for an autism assessment. The average wait-time for assessments is 12 to 13 months.⁴³⁰

Recommendation 42

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently address the significant challenge for the community to get ADHD assessments for children and young people, and autism assessments for young people over the age of 12.

⁴²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 520-521.

⁴²⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 522-523.

⁴²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 284.

⁴²⁹ Question Taken on Notice, no 7, asked by Dr Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 285.

⁴³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 489.

New school infrastructure

- 4.12. The Committee heard that the ACT Government, as evident in the budget, is committed to examining the feasibility of the establishment of a secondary college (years 11-12) in Molonglo Valley.⁴³¹
- 4.13. The ACT Government has engaged with the Molonglo Valley Community Forum in order to ascertain their views concerning the associated design process.⁴³²
- 4.14. The Committee notes the submission by the Molonglo Valley Community Forum to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion's inquiry into the future of school infrastructure. Forum members 'would like to see increased height limits for secondary schools in the Molonglo Valley, to ensure scarce community land is used optimally.'⁴³³

Recommendation 43

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore a best-practice vertical school model for the Molonglo College.

English as an additional language

- 4.15. The Committee notes that 30 per cent of children in the ACT aged under five years, live in households in which the primary language is not English.⁴³⁴ The ACT Education Directorate explained to the Committee how it is supporting the families of those children, given that the ACT 'has the highest proportion of different language groups'⁴³⁵

What we are doing at the moment is looking at how we translate some of the important information for families into those particular languages. We are trying to be responsive to those needs of that early age group. Part of that is about parents—how do we engage parents and how do we give them the information that they need so that they can be partners in their children's education from that early point?⁴³⁶

Recommendation 44

The Committee recommends that the ACT Education Directorate continue to expand their communications and materials to other languages and assess the efficacy and uptake of programs in CALD (Community and Linguistically Diverse) and ESL (English as a Second Language) communities.

⁴³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 281.

⁴³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 282.

⁴³³ *Submission 15*, p 1.

⁴³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 492.

⁴³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 493.

⁴³⁶ Dr Nicole Moore, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy, ACT Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 492.

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

4.16. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Homelessness policy;
- Housing assistance policy;
- Housing sector regulation;
- Public housing asset management;
- Public housing growth and renewal program; and
- Social and affordable housing delivery.⁴³⁷

Matters considered

4.17. During the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development's appearance before the Committee on 20 July 2023 the following matters were considered:

- long term vacant public houses;⁴³⁸
- land acquisition in infill areas;⁴³⁹
- programmed Facilities Maintenance and Housing;⁴⁴⁰
- affordable housing funds;⁴⁴¹ and
- the mingle program.⁴⁴²

Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

4.18. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:

- Women's affairs policy and services;⁴⁴³
- Domestic Violence Agencies; and
- Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (Coordinator-General).⁴⁴⁴

Matters considered

4.19. During Ms Berry's appearance as Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence before the Committee on 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

⁴³⁷ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 7.

⁴³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 421-423.

⁴³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 426.

⁴⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 433-437.

⁴⁴¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 444-446.

⁴⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 452-453

⁴⁴³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 7.

⁴⁴⁴ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 8.

- ACT's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response report;⁴⁴⁵
- specialist service review: Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and the Domestic Violence Crisis Service⁴⁴⁶
- Safer families levy;⁴⁴⁷
- health justice family program;⁴⁴⁸
- responses for children and young people who live with domestic and family violence;⁴⁴⁹
- gender-responsive budgeting;⁴⁵⁰ and
- third action plan of the ACT Women's Plan.⁴⁵¹

Key issues

Women's Legal Centre Health Justice Partnership Program

- 4.20. The Committee noted the Safer Families initiatives in the 2023–24 budget. These initiatives are pilots or continuing programs where legal support services are embedded within health services. In 2022–23, 1,205 instances of free legal advice and assistance were provided to women through the health justice partnerships.⁴⁵²
- 4.21. The Committee expressed concern that the program is not as readily accessible in the Murrumbidgee electorate, particularly Molonglo Valley. Whilst the Committee understands that the program is offered at Canberra Hospital in Woden, southside areas have a multicultural community and need for these services.⁴⁵³
- 4.22. There are ongoing discussions with Canberra Health Services regarding the locations of child and family centres, and whether to provide health justice partnership services embedded in a hospital centre or expand it into other community locations.⁴⁵⁴
- 4.23. The Committee noted that there is \$3.581 million over four years in the budget to expand the delivery of the health justice partnerships program, and consideration should be given to a new community location in Woden/Molonglo Valley (outside of Canberra Hospital).⁴⁵⁵

⁴⁴⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 270–273.

⁴⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 272–273.

⁴⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 264–269.

⁴⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 269–270.

⁴⁴⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 273–275.

⁴⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 276.

⁴⁵¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 276–277.

⁴⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 268–269.

⁴⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 269.

⁴⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 269.

⁴⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 269.

Recommendation 45

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the residents of Woden and Molonglo Valley have access in the community (outside of the Canberra Hospital) to the Women's Legal Centre Health Justice Partnership Program.

Action plans

- 4.24. The Committee noted the action plans that are released as part of the overall ACT Women's Plan 2016–2026 and inquired about the release of the third action plan (2023–2025).⁴⁵⁶
- 4.25. The Executive Branch Manager of Women, Youth and Multicultural Affairs stated that the third action plan would be released before the end of 2023.⁴⁵⁷

Recommendation 46

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government accelerate the action plans under the ACT Women's Plan so that they are formalised and made publicly available prior to the years specified for each consecutive plan.

Gender-responsive budgeting

- 4.26. The Committee drew attention to the Review of the ACT Budget 2023-24, referred to as the 'Pegasus report' and the conclusion that the gender lens and wellbeing indicators were ineffective.⁴⁵⁸
- 4.27. The Committee suggested that these indicators should be applied so that directorates exemplify policies that were informed by them.⁴⁵⁹

Recommendation 47

The Committee recommends that the ACT Women's Budget Statement include analysis on how each budget initiative impacts women and girls in the ACT differently.

Support to victims of domestic violence

- 4.28. The purpose of the Safer Families Levy is to provide community support and to raise awareness of domestic violence in the ACT Community. The levy increased from \$40 in 2022-23 to \$45 for 2023-24 and is to increase to \$50 per household in 2024-25 to fund initiatives.⁴⁶⁰ The levy was introduced in 2016 and applies to all residential and rural

⁴⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 277.

⁴⁵⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 277.

⁴⁵⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 276.

⁴⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 276.

⁴⁶⁰ ACT Government, ACT Revenue Office, Safer families levy., [Safer families levy | ACT Revenue Office - Website](#) (accessed 4 August 2023)

properties and increases in the levy are intended to ‘enhance our responses to domestic and family violence, continuing to fund critical frontline service delivery and enabling the community to contribute in a tangible way’. The Levy is expected to raise around \$37.5 million over the four years to 2026-27. The total investment in all initiatives over this period is \$86.7 million, offset further by Commonwealth contributions of \$6.2 million.⁴⁶¹

- 4.29. A breakdown of funding is in table H1 of the Budget Outlook papers and includes estimated outcomes for 2022-23 such as training for ACT front workers of \$804,000⁴⁶². In the 2016-17 ACT Budget, \$770,000 was allocated to training for frontline staff across Community and Emergency Services, Health and Education to support identification of family violence and early intervention.⁴⁶³ The Government also listed in its achievements for 2019-20 that it had committed \$2.5 million over four years to continue the delivery of Domestic and Family Violence training to all ACT Government staff.⁴⁶⁴

- 4.30. The Committee were told that the training and its funding had now changed:

In relation to ACT government training, there is an emphasis on frontline workers. The training was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result of that we moved to some eLearn packages. The way in which it was delivered varied. It has now become part of ACT government core training, so it is no longer separately funded through the levy.⁴⁶⁵

- 4.31. The YWCA told the Committee that they had concerns that there needed to be more transparency in who the Safer Families Levy is being used:

Since I have been at YWCA Canberra, which was around 2018 or so, we started to talk about, “This is a significant amount of money. It is actually applied to all ratepayers,” and our initial kind of discussion was around the fact that there needed to be a greater level of transparency around it, because of how the revenue is accrued, and to what extent the delivery of the family safety levy funding was meeting the public expectations of what someone might think the levy is used for. Is it being used largely to enhance frontline services who see women every day, where the demand is increasing on those services exponentially or is it going towards building a bigger government operation in the field?⁴⁶⁶

- 4.32. The Committee notes that the ACT Auditor-General has planned an audit of the levy in its 2023-24 program:

The audit could consider how expenditure for the Safer Families Levy is planned, monitored and reported. The audit could also consider whether the expenditure is

⁴⁶¹ ACT Government, *2023-24 Budget Outlook*, p 345.

⁴⁶² ACT Government, *2023-24 Budget Outlook*, Table H.1, p 348.

⁴⁶³ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2016-17*, Budget Funding to address family violence, [Funding to Address Family Violence - Budget 2016-17 \(act.gov.au\)](#) (accessed 7 August 2023).

⁴⁶⁴ ACT Government, *2020-21 Budget Outlook*, p 285.

⁴⁶⁵ Ms Kirsty Windeyer, Acting Deputy Director-General, Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, P 267.

⁴⁶⁶ Ms Leah Dwyer, Director of Policy and Advocacy, YWCA Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, P 94.

directed for the purposes provided for in the levy's policy intent, and how the effectiveness of initiatives funded by the levy is monitored and evaluated.⁴⁶⁷

- 4.33. The Committee heard that the levy is an offset, and does not cover the full range of domestic, family and sexual violence initiatives.⁴⁶⁸

Recommendation 48

The Committee recommends that the Safer Families Levy be directly spent to offset funding for frontline community services that provide support to people who are at risk or are victims of domestic violence.

Recommendation 49

The Committee recommends that domestic violence training for ACT public servants be part of government's core funding rather than offset by the Safer Families Levy.

Minister for Families and Community Services

- 4.34. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Child and family centres;
- Children and young people protection policy and services;
- Children, youth and family policy and support services;
- Community sector policy and services;
- Community sector reform; and
- Safe and Connected Youth.⁴⁶⁹

Matters considered

- 4.35. During the Minister for Families and Community Services' appearance before the Committee on 25 July 2023 and 28 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- youth justice strategy;⁴⁷⁰
- minimum age of criminal responsibility;^{471,472}
- diversionary programs for young offenders;⁴⁷³

⁴⁶⁷ ACT Audit Office, *2023-24 Performance Audit Program*, p 6.

⁴⁶⁸ Ms Kirsty Windeyer, Acting Deputy Director-General, Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, P 265.

⁴⁶⁹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 12.

⁴⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 779–781, 791–792, 801–802

⁴⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 781–783.

⁴⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1064–1065

⁴⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 794.

- food relief services;⁴⁷⁴
- freedom of information scheme;⁴⁷⁵
- child and youth protection services;⁴⁷⁶ and
- child and family centres.⁴⁷⁷

Key issues

Response to reports of child abuse

- 4.36. The Committee expressed concern about anecdotal evidence concerning the response from Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) to child abuse complaints which also concern a case where family orders are in place. The Committee expressed concern that where family orders have been made, that CYPS may forfeit their statutory obligations in relation to reporting the abuse.⁴⁷⁸
- 4.37. The Committee also drew attention to discrepancy in the budget between 18,000 child protection reports each year and 2,500 requiring appraisals.⁴⁷⁹
- 4.38. The ACT Government explained the process to the Committee:

Every single child report that comes in does get considered, and it gets considered as to whether or not it meets the threshold as a child protection report. Child protection reports are the ones that will then have an appraisal. The others either do not meet the threshold but we may make referrals to other support services, or we would talk to other agencies who might have a trusted relationship, like Education or Health, in terms of any issues that they may wish to consider as part of their current interventions. All of the information, though, remains, and we can give consideration to it should a further report or further reports come in for consideration.⁴⁸⁰

Recommendation 50

The Committee recommends that Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) should advise people of their review rights when CYPS decides not to appraise their report.

⁴⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 783–787.

⁴⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1050–1052

⁴⁷⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1052–1058, 1059–1060, 1061–1064

⁴⁷⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1060–1061

⁴⁷⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, p 1053.

⁴⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, p 1054.

⁴⁸⁰ Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico, Executive Group Manager; Children, Youth and Families Division, Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1054–1055.

Recommendation 51

The Committee recommends that for child protection reports that are not appraised, CYPs record the types of abuse reported, whether family orders are in place, the reason the report was not appraised and any other key information so the directorate can monitor this to see if there's any pattern in reports lodged but not appraised.

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

4.39. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs policy and services;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body secretariat;
- Implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart; and
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap and ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement performance monitoring.⁴⁸¹

Matters considered

4.40. During the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 28 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- First Nations family support team,⁴⁸²
- Aboriginal community-controlled organisations;⁴⁸³
- Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm;⁴⁸⁴
- secretariat functions for the elected body;⁴⁸⁵ and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice to parliament.⁴⁸⁶

Key issues

Community-controlled organisations

4.41. 'Community-controlled organisations' refers to not-for-profits that controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and deliver services to their local communities.

⁴⁸¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 12.

⁴⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1065–1066, 1068–1070.

⁴⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1068–1070.

⁴⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1071–1073.

⁴⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, p 1073.

⁴⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, pp 1074, 1078.

- 4.42. The Committee heard that there are five community-controlled organisations in the ACT. In addition, there are corporations which work in partnership with these five organisations.⁴⁸⁷ The ACT Government, through its Aboriginal sector development team as part of the Community Services Directorate, works to ‘boost the capacity and hand over responsibility over time to community-controlled organisations’.⁴⁸⁸
- 4.43. The Committee heard that there are gaps in service delivery of ACT community-controlled pertain to housing and disability:

Housing is something where we still have a bit of work to do. With justice, we have Tjillari Justice, but it is a very small organisation. We have Yeddung Mura working in that space. We also have Worldview, which is not an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation, but it has a strong connection with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.⁴⁸⁹

Recommendation 52

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assist the establishment of an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to provide housing services.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

- 4.44. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:
- Multicultural affairs policy and services.⁴⁹⁰

Matters considered

- 4.45. During the Minister for Multicultural Affairs’ appearance before the Committee on 24 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- National Multicultural Festival;⁴⁹¹
 - expansion of event site;⁴⁹²
 - rate relief for stall holders;⁴⁹³
 - new multicultural facility at EPIC;⁴⁹⁴ and
 - the *Multiculturalism Act 2023*.⁴⁹⁵

⁴⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, p 1070.

⁴⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, p 1069.

⁴⁸⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith, MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2023, p 1070.

⁴⁹⁰ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 16.

⁴⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 603.

⁴⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 604.

⁴⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 605–606.

⁴⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 609.

⁴⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, p 610.

Key issues

The National Multicultural Festival

- 4.46. The Committee noted that the ACT Government continues to support the National Multicultural Festival. The 25th anniversary festival, held in early 2023, generated an estimated total economic benefit of just over \$20.8 million for the ACT economy, a significant increase from the 2020 figure of \$12.2 million. The festival also generated over 40,000 visitor nights, with the average visitor staying 2.2 nights. Thirty community groups participated and/or held showcase events or activities to represent their cultures. Market research indicates that 92 per cent of visitors to the event were satisfied or very satisfied, and there was a 10 per cent increase in visitors, giving the 2023 festival a five out of five ‘excellent’ rating. ⁴⁹⁶
- 4.47. Key improvements introduced by organisers include extending the event site into a portion of Glebe Park to provide greater space and re-orienting the stalls to reduce crowds and long lines bumping into each other. Into the future, the Community Services Directorate will continue to focus on improving the traffic management plan and stall signage for the festival. The organisers also work with the Environmental Protection Authority to ensure compliance with amplified sound regulations and responsible noise management. ⁴⁹⁷
- 4.48. The Committee noted the injection of \$3.3 million in funding over two years to support the expanded event site, sustainability and public safety measures including accessibility, additional staff and operational resources, and a digital platform/website upgrade. Stall fees have not increased since 2018. The community grants program for the festival was this year doubled to a total of \$180,000, and this will increase to \$200,000 in 2024. ⁴⁹⁸

Recommendation 53

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to support the National Multicultural Festival.

Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

- 4.49. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Homelessness services; and
 - Housing services. ⁴⁹⁹

⁴⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 603–605.

⁴⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 603–604.

⁴⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 603–604.

⁴⁹⁹ *Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 16.

Matters considered

4.50. During the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Service's appearance before the Committee on 27 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- homelessness services;⁵⁰⁰
- rough sleeper program;⁵⁰¹ and
- allocation of vacant public dwellings.⁵⁰²

Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services

4.51. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- carers Strategy and policy;
- community recovery and emergency relief;
- volunteering statement and policy; and
- youth justice policy and services (including Bimberi).⁵⁰³

Matters considered

4.52. During the Assistant Minister for Economic Development's appearance before the Committee on 25 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Event Fund;⁵⁰⁴
- entertainment;⁵⁰⁵
- Ballon Spectacular;⁵⁰⁶
- night-time economy concerns of business;⁵⁰⁷
- difference between the creative industries line item and arts ACT and the Cultural Facilities Corporation;⁵⁰⁸
- Screen Canberra Funding;⁵⁰⁹
- Symphony in the Park;⁵¹⁰

⁵⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1036–1037

⁵⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1039

⁵⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1041–1043.

⁵⁰³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 17.

⁵⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 805–808.

⁵⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 808–810.

⁵⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 810–812.

⁵⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 812–814.

⁵⁰⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 814–815.

⁵⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 815–817.

⁵¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 817–818.

Minister for Disability

4.53. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Disability inclusion and participation;
- Disability policy;
- Disability reform and services; and
- Senior Practitioner for the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices.⁵¹¹

Matters considered

- During the Minister for Disability appearance before the Committee on 25 July 2023 the following matter was considered:
 - ACT disability strategy.⁵¹²

Minister for Veterans and Seniors

4.54. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Seniors and ageing policy; and
- Veterans.⁵¹³

Matters considered

- 4.55. During the Minister for Veterans and Seniors appearance before the Committee on 25 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- Seniors Card review;⁵¹⁴
 - veterans wellbeing framework;⁵¹⁵ and
 - ACT taxi subsidy scheme.⁵¹⁶

Key issues

Reporting on services and programs for veterans in the ACT

- 4.56. The Committee noted the veteran support-related activities undertaken by the Community Services Directorate and funding in the 2023-24 budget for a veterans wellbeing framework.⁵¹⁷ Funding of \$170,000 is provided in the budget for 'Community support and inclusion—supporting veterans and their families'.⁵¹⁸

⁵¹¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 17.

⁵¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 787–789, 798–799.

⁵¹³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 17.

⁵¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 776–777

⁵¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 789–791, 794–796.

⁵¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 796–798.

⁵¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 788.

⁵¹⁸ Ms Jo Wood, Acting Director-General, Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 788.

- 4.57. The framework aims to address the wellbeing of veterans and their families in the ACT. The framework is co-designed with veterans service organisations and the veterans community. In addition, an expo-style event in 2023 will support veterans to connect with relevant education, employment and community services. ⁵¹⁹
- 4.58. The ACT Government provides grants for support programs in the arts and culture space that include veterans to develop their skills and showcase their creativity. These community programs include the Rebus Theatre, Centenarian Portrait Project and blacksmithing forge activities in Tharwa. ⁵²⁰
- 4.59. Veterans support activities will also connect with a new Federal Government veterans and families' hub to be established in Queanbeyan for the ACT and the surrounding region. ⁵²¹

Recommendation 54

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an annual report on services and programs that improve the lives of veterans in the ACT. This is in addition to grant program reports.

⁵¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 788–789.

⁵²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 802.

⁵²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 789–790.

5. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- 5.1. Budget Statements B states that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) ‘...is responsible for climate change policy, energy policy, nature conservation, environment protection policy, strategic and statutory planning, development assessment, building policy, land policy and economics, heritage and water. The Directorate also delivers the ACT Parks and Conservation Service for the community, ensuring nature reserves, national parks, commercial softwood forests and rural lands are managed to provide the ACT with safe open spaces which contribute to quality of life for the community. In addition to this, the Directorate provides corporate and governance support for the Suburban Land Agency (the Agency) and the City Renewal Authority (the Authority).’⁵²²

Chief Minister – Administration Arrangements

- 5.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- City Renewal Authority; and
 - Suburban Land Agency (as it relates to declared urban renewal sites).⁵²³

Matters considered

- 5.3. During the Chief Minister’s appearance before the Committee on 26 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- site sale requirements for affordable housing and social housing;⁵²⁴
 - ACT Policing moving their head office into the City;⁵²⁵ and
 - Woolley Street upgrade.⁵²⁶

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

- 5.4. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- suburban land development; and
 - Suburban Land Agency (with the exception of those matters assigned to the Chief Minister).⁵²⁷
- 5.5. During the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development’s appearance before the Committee on 20 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

⁵²² ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements E*, p 5.

⁵²³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 4.

⁵²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 919–920, 922–923.

⁵²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 929–931.

⁵²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 931–933.

⁵²⁷ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 7.

- delivery of the 70 percent infill target;⁵²⁸
- block pricing if unsold;⁵²⁹
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* compliance for the West Belconnen conservation corridor;⁵³⁰
- Suburban Land Agency Indicative Land Release Program feedback to EPSDD;⁵³¹
- Mingle Program;⁵³² and
- Indicative Land Release Program population figures for Tuggeranong.⁵³³

Key issues

Ginninderry Joint Venture

- 5.6. In 2014, the Commonwealth Government and Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd agreed to a strategic assessment of a proposed development in the West Belconnen area of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and New South Wales (NSW) – known as Ginninderry. The strategic assessment was completed in March 2017 and the program report was finalised in April 2017. The approval decision, dated 1 September 2023, states:

For the NSW portion of the West Belconnen Conservation Corridor the approval holder must secure the land for conservation in perpetuity through a legally binding mechanism approved by the Department within two years of endorsement of the Program. The West Belconnen Conservation Corridor Reserve Management Plan of condition 8 will not be endorsed and approved until the land has been rezoned or secured.⁵³⁴

- 5.7. The Committee heard that the Commonwealth Government is currently reviewing compliance by the Ginninderry Joint Venture (GJV) with the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.⁵³⁵
- 5.8. Further information was provided by the Minister regarding the status of discussions with the Commonwealth Government:

Conditional strategic assessment approval for the project under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act was granted by the Commonwealth in 2017 (EPBC Approval). Following this, the GJV sought clarification in March 2018 from the Commonwealth, to confirm that securing

⁵²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 425–426.

⁵²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 430–432.

⁵³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 447–449, 456–457.

⁵³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 451–452.

⁵³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 452–453.

⁵³³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 458–459.

⁵³⁴ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, [West Belconnen strategic assessment \(Ginninderry\)](#), accessed 8 August 2023.

⁵³⁵ Mr John Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, Suburban Land Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 447.

land for conservation in accordance with the EPBC Approval conditions was to be undertaken in a staged manner in accordance with the Program Report.⁵³⁶

Recommendation 55

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government immediately update the Legislative Assembly on the findings of the Commonwealth Government's review into compliance of the Ginninderry Joint Venture with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*.

Minister for Planning and Land Management

5.9. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Government architect;
- Land release policy (including the land release program);
- Parks and Conservation;
- Planning and development;
- Planning and development enforcement policy;
- Site identification and facilitation for major land and property projects;
- Strategic land use; and
- Survey and leasing.⁵³⁷

Matters considered

5.10. During the Minister for Planning and Land Management's appearance before the Committee on 18 July 2023 and 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- directorate policy for recording meetings with stakeholders;⁵³⁸
- 70 percent urban infill target;⁵³⁹
- recovery efforts following the Black Summer Bushfires, including re-opening of the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre;⁵⁴⁰
- Western Edge investigations;⁵⁴¹
- District Strategies, design guides and technical specifications of the Territory Plan;⁵⁴²

⁵³⁶ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *answer to QTON 44: SLA – timeline of conversations with the Commonwealth*, 20 July 2023 (received 31 July 2023).

⁵³⁷ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 7.

⁵³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 19–22.

⁵³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 22–25.

⁵⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 25–28.

⁵⁴¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 28–29.

⁵⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 288–294.

- how the 70 percent infill targets are calculated;⁵⁴³
- Indicative Land Release Program update;⁵⁴⁴
- due diligence funding for land release;⁵⁴⁵
- Territory Plan Districts and their composition under the District Strategies;⁵⁴⁶
- Western Edge Capability and Suitability assessments;⁵⁴⁷ and
- Planning Review funding and resourcing.⁵⁴⁸

Key issues

Public reports after development of sites

- 5.11. The City Renewal Authority (CRA) has responsibility for managing central Canberra, including leading the development of the City Renewal Precinct. The Authority sells government owned leases in accordance with the Government's Indicative Land Release Program.⁵⁴⁹ The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) develops and releases residential, commercial industrial and community land with an aim to provide affordable and community housing developed in an environmentally sustainable way.⁵⁵⁰
- 5.12. The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) told the Committee that when a site is taken to market, these requirements will be made clear in the tender or auctioning materials, then captured in the sales contract, and a Project Delivery Agreement allowing the SLA to monitor how those requirements are delivered. As part of the contractual power over the developer to oversight that delivery, a security can be withheld if there is a failure to deliver.⁵⁵¹
- 5.13. The point at which the security is claimed back by the developer is generally the point in which the SLA will undertake an analysis to confirm that the requirements have been met.⁵⁵²
- 5.14. The City Renewal Authority said that their process is very similar, although they have only recently being taking land to market, and they may go further to make potential buyers aware of city renewal goals in areas where the National Capital Plan is not very explicit.⁵⁵³

⁵⁴³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 294–296.

⁵⁴⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 297–302.

⁵⁴⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 302–303.

⁵⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 303–305.

⁵⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 305–306.

⁵⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 306–308.

⁵⁴⁹ ACT Government, 2023-24 Budget Outlook, p 268.

⁵⁵⁰ ACT Government, 2023-24 Budget Outlook, p 269.

⁵⁵¹ Mr John Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, Suburban Land Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 919.

⁵⁵² Mr John Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, Suburban Land Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 920.

⁵⁵³ Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer, City Renewal Authority, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 920.

Recommendation 56

The Committee recommends that the City Renewal Authority (CRA) and the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) publish public reports after the development of sites they sold assessing them against the criteria that were set as part of the sale for increased transparency and scrutiny and ability for the public to see how they outcomes were achieved.

Map of ACT playgrounds

- 5.15. The Committee was told that the Education Directorate (ED) has a district strategy plan for the next 50 years, informed by twice-yearly reviews of census data. This plan helps ascertain the need for school-related facilities, including playgrounds, throughout the ACT.⁵⁵⁴
- 5.16. This strategy plan is for internal use only in the absence of a publicly-available map.
- 5.17. Nevertheless, the Committee noted that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is undertaking a Planning System Review and Reform Project ICT system upgrade, referred to as ‘eDev’, incorporating development approval information. The updated system will be developed to be interactive with *ACTmapi* – an online mapping tool for the ACT.⁵⁵⁵

Recommendation 57

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an online map of ACT playgrounds and school-related outdoor facilities for community benefit.

Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre

- 5.18. The Committee asked the Minister why the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre is currently closed, and when it is expected to be re-opened.⁵⁵⁶
- 5.19. The Minister explained the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre has been closed (since 26 May 2023) was due to water egress into the centre:
- We have had some water egress into the centre and it has caused some damage which is not necessarily structural, but we have some concerns about algae growth, that sort of thing, for the staff and for visitors to the centre. So that is the reason it has been closed.⁵⁵⁷
- 5.20. The Minister asserted to the Committee that ‘first of all, we want to keep people safe, but secondly it is important that we look at a new opportunity as well’.⁵⁵⁸

⁵⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 280–281.

⁵⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 307–308.

⁵⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 27.

⁵⁵⁷ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 27.

⁵⁵⁸ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 27.

We are looking at an opportunity for a new centre, and we have announced that quite a while ago. So there is some work that is happening at the moment in looking at where we could allocate a new centre, and of course, how much funding we would need to build a new visitor centre. But it is reasonably old, I think it has gone past its use-by date in providing the service that visitors from the ACT and others expect.⁵⁵⁹

Recommendation 58

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fast tracks the planning and construction of a new Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre.

District strategies for non-urban areas

- 5.21. At the public hearing, it was asked if district strategies would be developed for all the non-urban areas of the ACT including, for example, Kowen, Stromlo, and Paddy's River, to account for the planning needs of rural landholders and non-urban land uses.⁵⁶⁰
- 5.22. The Committee heard from Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, that the primary focus of the district strategies was to help manage urban growth:⁵⁶¹

The purpose of the district strategies is to help us understand how to accommodate growth, unless there is a strong desire, as I said, for growth to occur in those rural areas. At this stage, there is not considered to be an urgent need because the focus is on: how do we best accommodate the growth within the existing urban footprint?⁵⁶²

- 5.23. The Committee notes that in the Listening Report summarising the feedback during consultation sessions on the Planning System Review and Reform Project, stakeholders (particularly those representing rural landholders) suggested that district strategies should exist for all of the ACT including non-urban areas.⁵⁶³

Recommendation 59

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop district strategies for non-urban areas of the ACT.

70 percent infill target

- 5.24. A commitment in the PAGA is to 'Require at least 70% of new housing development to be within Canberra's existing urban footprint, with an ambition to increase this share, in the

⁵⁵⁹ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 27.

⁵⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 304.

⁵⁶¹ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 304.

⁵⁶² Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 304.

⁵⁶³ ACT Government, Planning System Review and Reform Project, *Listening Report, 1 November 2022 – 3 March 2023*, April 2023, p 25.

context of an overall increase to the number of dwelling sites released over the coming decade.’⁵⁶⁴

5.25. During the public hearing, the Committee sought clarity over the commitment owing to the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 and Budget Statements E stating that the government will provide up to 70 percent of new housing within Canberra’s existing urban footprint, which is in contradiction to the PAGA statement above.⁵⁶⁵

5.26. In response to a Question Taken on Notice, the Minister confirmed that the government was committed to the PAGA statement of at least 70 percent:

The ACT Government is committed to delivering in line with the PaGA, which requires at least 70 per cent of new housing development to be within Canberra’s existing urban footprint, with an ambition to increase this share.⁵⁶⁶

5.27. Questions were raised over how the infill target is calculated in terms of what is counted in determining the level of infill achieved in the urban footprint, owing to concerns that only 57 percent infill had been delivered to date.⁵⁶⁷

5.28. During the public hearing, Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, indicated that the 57 percent figure was only the amount of infill owing to the ILRP, and that the target also included private sector housing.⁵⁶⁸ He added that EPSDD has been delivering on the at least 70 percent urban infill commitment.⁵⁶⁹ He outlined the following figures to the Committee:

In 2018-19 81 per cent was within the existing urban footprint; 78 per cent for 2019-20; 69 per cent for 2020-21; and 73 per cent for 2021-22; and for 2022-23 at January it was 65 per cent.⁵⁷⁰

5.29. More detailed figures were provided in a QTON response:

	Existing Urban Footprint (No. of dwellings)	Greenfields (No. of dwellings)	Total Approvals (No. of dwellings)	Percentage breakdown
2017-18	4,324	1,340	5,664	76/24
2018-19	5,147	1,240	6,387	81/19
2019-20	3,839	1,089	4,928	78/22
2020-21	3,508	1,570	5,078	69/31
2021-22	4,502	1,653	6,155	73/27

⁵⁶⁴ ACT Government, [Parliamentary & Governing Agreement: 10th Legislative Assembly Australian Capital Territory](#), Appendix A, Part 3, paragraph iv.

⁵⁶⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 22–24.

⁵⁶⁶ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, *answer to QTON 21: Government Commitment for New Housing Developments*, 18 July 2023, (received 26 July 2023), p 3.

⁵⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 23–24.

⁵⁶⁸ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 24.

⁵⁶⁹ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 24.

⁵⁷⁰ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 25.

2022-23 (YTD May-23)	2,479	1,181	3,660	68/32
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Table 1—Building approvals by financial year within the ACT's existing urban footprint [Source: Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, *answer to QTON 22*, 18 July 2023 (received 20 July 2023), p 3; ABS Building Approvals Publication, Date by Small Area].

Recommendation 60

The Committee recommends that the Suburban Land Agency should purchase and redevelop more existing urban-zoned land in order to deliver further infill development in line with targets.

- 5.30. During the public hearing, Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, pointed out to the Committee that progress against the 70-30 target was calculated based on building approval numbers via Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.⁵⁷¹ This raised further concerns for the Committee that this meant knockdown rebuilds were being included in those figures.⁵⁷²
- 5.31. In response to a Question Taken on Notice, the Minister confirmed that knockdown rebuilds were in fact included in the counting of infill, but that renovations were excluded:

EPSDD, in line with the ABS data, recognises the building approval after a knock down and rebuild as an additional dwelling (or dwellings in the case of a duplex, townhouse, unit developments) in the overall dwelling count. Building approvals for renovations are filtered out and reported separately by the ABS.⁵⁷³

Recommendation 61

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government only count net new dwellings or additional dwellings when counting their 70/30 housing targets and should report on this data for each year since 2017–18.

- 5.32. Confusion around the 70-30 commitment was also evident during the public hearing on which areas of Canberra were considered infill (i.e., within the urban footprint) and what was considered greenfield.⁵⁷⁴

⁵⁷¹ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 294.

⁵⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 294.

⁵⁷³ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, *answer to QTON 40: Infill Targets – knockdown rebuilds*, 19 July 2023 (received 20 July 2023), p 2.

⁵⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 296.

- 5.33. Both the Minister and Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, asserted that the urban footprint used to determine infill and greenfield areas was that as defined in the 2018 ACT Planning Strategy.⁵⁷⁵ This was confirmed by the Minister's response to QTON 42, which provided the below copy of the Growth Map from the 2018 ACT Planning Strategy.⁵⁷⁶

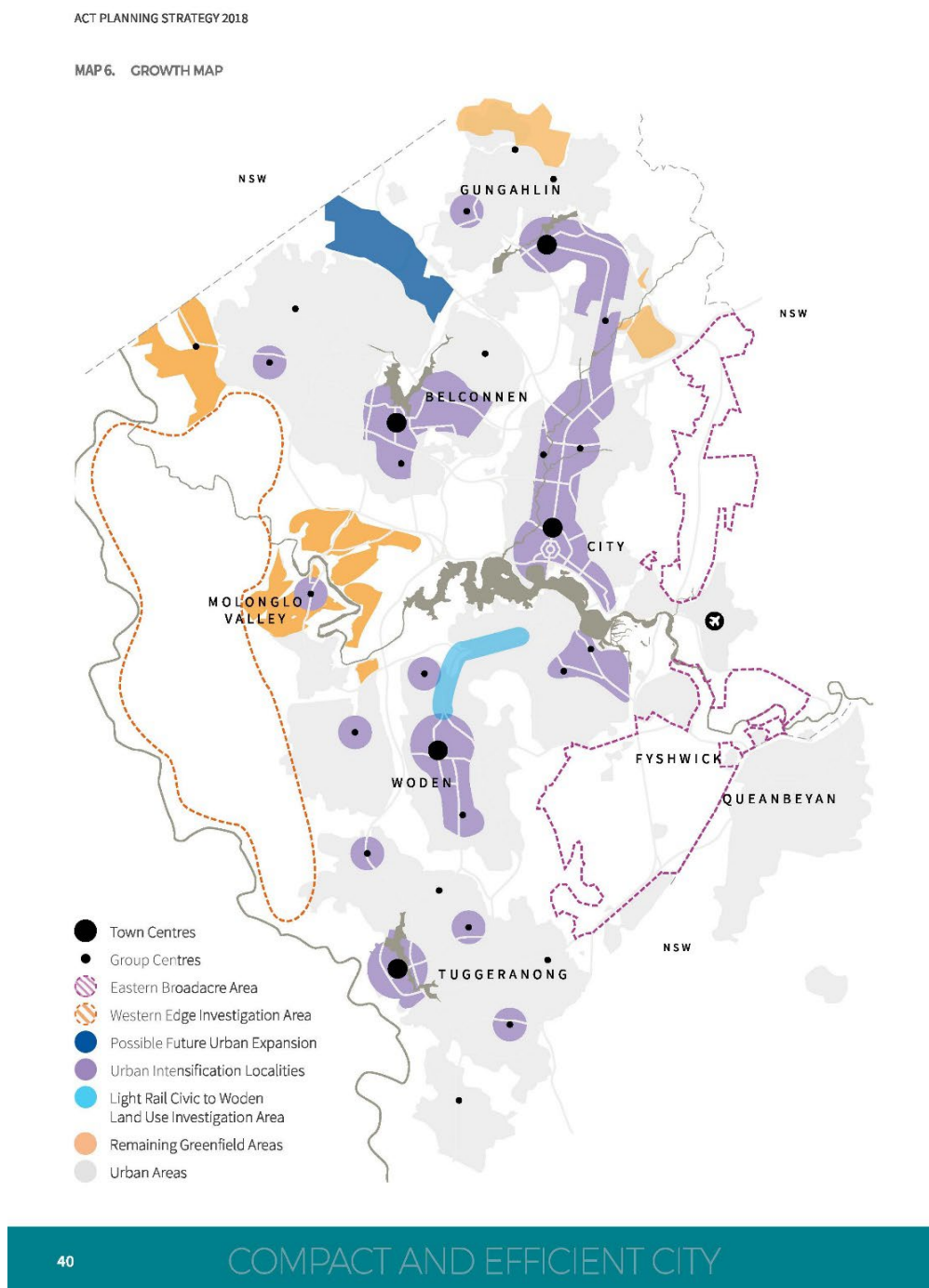


Figure 1 - Growth Map [Source: ACT Planning Strategy 2018]

⁵⁷⁵ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 295; Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 296.

⁵⁷⁶ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, *answer to QTON 42: Lawson Stage 2*, 19 July 2023 (received 26 July 2023), pp 3–6.

- 5.34. The Committee however notes that besides the above map and a definition of urban footprint as ‘the geographic extent of the existing urban area’, it is not clear in the 2018 ACT Planning Strategy which point-in-time version of the Territory Plan from 2018 should be taken to be the definitive version of the ‘existing urban area.’⁵⁷⁷
- 5.35. In ACT Land and Property Reports where progress against the commitment is reported against every 6 months, the methodology used to calculate progress against the 70-30 target is not explained in detail.⁵⁷⁸

Recommendation 62

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish their methodology for the calculation of what is infill, what is greenfield and what is within Canberra’s existing urban footprint for the purpose of Parliamentary and Governing Agreement targets.

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

- 5.36. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Climate change policy;
 - Energy policy and energy efficiency programs (including zero emissions vehicle policy);
 - Sustainability of government services and assets;
 - Water efficiency programs; and
 - Water policy.⁵⁷⁹

Matters considered

- 5.37. During the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction’s appearance before the Committee on 26 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- electric vehicle public charging stations;⁵⁸⁰
 - climate assessments for major budget decisions;⁵⁸¹
 - embedded networks;⁵⁸²
 - concentration of nutrients in drains near Kambah Playing Fields;⁵⁸³

⁵⁷⁷ ACT Government, [ACT Planning Strategy 2018: Future directions for a sustainable, competitive and equitable city](#), pp 39, 40, 108.

⁵⁷⁸ ACT Government, [ACT Land and Property report – July to December 2022](#), June 2023, p 19; ACT Government, [ACT Land and Property Report – January to June 2022 Half yearly report](#), December 2022, p 20.

⁵⁷⁹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 10.

⁵⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 870–873.

⁵⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 873–875.

⁵⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 875–877.

⁵⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 877–879.

- Healthy Waterways;⁵⁸⁴
- Canberra Community Projects online tool;⁵⁸⁵
- ACT Government zero emissions vehicles;⁵⁸⁶
- just transition assistance;⁵⁸⁷ and
- water trading arrangements under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement and Plan.⁵⁸⁸

Key issues

Embedded networks

- 5.38. During the public hearing, the Committee asked the Minister about the biggest issues identified in the recently tabled review into embedded networks in the ACT.⁵⁸⁹
- 5.39. Embedded networks are private utility networks that serve multi-resident complexes such as apartment complex or retirement home, and provide services such as electricity and Wi-Fi.⁵⁹⁰
- 5.40. Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager of Climate Change and Energy at EPSDD, summarised the findings of the review to the Committee, which was undertaken by a third party consultancy:

The summary of findings was that embedded networks actually present a lot of benefits to those that are in embedded networks through the ability to lock into lower prices. We also found that there were some protections that people within embedded networks did not receive. We have a range of recommendations, and we will continue to look at those recommendations to strengthen the protections for people within embedded networks.⁵⁹¹

- 5.41. The Minister said he hoped that the ACT Government would provide its response to the issues raised in the review before the end of 2023.⁵⁹²

Recommendation 63

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement reforms to embedded networks in the ACT to protect consumers.

⁵⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 879–880.

⁵⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 880.

⁵⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 880–883.

⁵⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 883–885.

⁵⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 885–886.

⁵⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 875–876.

⁵⁹⁰ Lottie Twyford, “[Higher Prices and less choice’: review into embedded electricity networks to begin](#)”, *Riotact*, accessed 8 August 2023.

⁵⁹¹ Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 876.

⁵⁹² Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Energy, Water and Emissions Reduction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 876.

Minister for Gaming

5.42. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:

- Club buildings energy efficiency fund.⁵⁹³

Matters considered

5.43. During the Minister for Gaming's appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- facial recognition technology;⁵⁹⁴
- registered residents for self-exclusion in ACT;⁵⁹⁵
- self-exclusion scheme;⁵⁹⁶
- five-dollar bet limits and \$100 load-up limits;⁵⁹⁷
- reduction in electronic gaming machines;⁵⁹⁸
- procurement of the central monitoring system;⁵⁹⁹
- retirement village engagement program;⁶⁰⁰
- gambling incident register;⁶⁰¹
- gaming revenue and tax data;⁶⁰²
- poker machine licences;⁶⁰³ and
- Gambling Harm Awareness Week;⁶⁰⁴

Minister for the Environment

5.44. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Agriculture;
- Biodiversity policy;
- Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment;
- Conservation and promotion of native flora and fauna;

⁵⁹³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 11.

⁵⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 545-546

⁵⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 546.

⁵⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 547-548.

⁵⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 548.

⁵⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 549.

⁵⁹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 550-551.

⁶⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 551-553.

⁶⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 557-558.

⁶⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 558.

⁶⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 560.

⁶⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 562-563.

- Environment protection policy;
- Native animal welfare;
- Pest, weed and feral animal management policy;
- Support to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna; and
- Urban agriculture policy.⁶⁰⁵

Matters considered

5.45. During the Minister for the Environment's appearance before the Committee on 20 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- kangaroo Management Program;⁶⁰⁶
- funding for environmental protection as distinct from climate change and sustainable development;⁶⁰⁷
- wild dog management;⁶⁰⁸
- planting of shrubs and groundcover in the urban footprint;⁶⁰⁹
- management of Myna Birds;⁶¹⁰
- invasive species management;⁶¹¹
- draft native species conversation plan for koalas;⁶¹²
- resourcing for a full-time wildlife veterinarian;⁶¹³
- Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy funding update;⁶¹⁴
- phasing out of wood heaters and fire pits;⁶¹⁵
- wombat mange budget;⁶¹⁶
- abandoned wombat burrow identification;⁶¹⁷
- eradication of invasive species populations in the ACT;⁶¹⁸ and
- local offsets policy.⁶¹⁹

⁶⁰⁵ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 16.

⁶⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 393–396.

⁶⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 396–398.

⁶⁰⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 398–402.

⁶⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 402–404.

⁶¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 404–406.

⁶¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 407.

⁶¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 407–409.

⁶¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 409–411.

⁶¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 411.

⁶¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 411–413.

⁶¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 413–415.

⁶¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 415–417.

⁶¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 417–418.

⁶¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 418–419.

Key issues

Kangaroo Management Program

- 5.46. Since 2022, the ACT Government has integrated fertility control into the ACT's Kangaroo Management Program.⁶²⁰ This involves injecting adult female kangaroos with the drug GonaCon (an immunocontraceptive vaccine), by firing loaded darts at the animals.⁶²¹
- 5.47. The ACT is the first Australian jurisdiction to rely on fertility treatments to cut kangaroo numbers.⁶²²
- 5.48. During the public hearing, the Committee asked the Minister for an update on the 2023 Kangaroo Management Program. At the time of the hearing, the outcomes of the program were being assessed by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.⁶²³
- 5.49. Since the hearing, it was announced that during the 2023 conservation cull, a total of 1,041 kangaroos were culled by Conservation Officers across five reserves.⁶²⁴
- 5.50. The Minister told the Committee that the Kangaroo Management Program was 'a confronting program':⁶²⁵

We would prefer not to have to do active kangaroo management. The situation is that we need to manage some of the last sensitive ecological areas in Australia in terms of grassy woodlands. We need to take a whole of ecology perspective. It is a difficult process. We would like to move to a process where we did not have to cull kangaroos and undertake these activities. That is why we have been pursuing activities such as the GonaCon fertility program...⁶²⁶

Recommendation 64

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more investment into the expansion of the GonaCon immunocontraceptive vaccine fertility treatment program for kangaroos as a non-lethal replacement of the culling of female kangaroos under the Kangaroo Management Program.

Funding for environmental protection, biodiversity management, and invasive species management

- 5.51. The Committee asked the Minister questions in relation to the increasing environmental challenges from climate change, such as management of weeds and invasive species.

⁶²⁰ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, 'ACT leads the way with new fertility treatment for kangaroo management', *Media Release*, 14 April 2022.

⁶²¹ Charlotte Gore, Tahlia Roy, Lisa Glenday, '[ACT government to use contraceptives to control kangaroo population, though shooting culls will continue](#)', *ABC News*, 14 April 2022.

⁶²² Charlotte Gore, Tahlia Roy, Lisa Glenday, '[ACT government to use contraceptives to control kangaroo population, though shooting culls will continue](#)', *ABC News*, 14 April 2022.

⁶²³ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 393.

⁶²⁴ ACT Government, [2023 Kangaroo Management Program](#), accessed 7 August 2023.

⁶²⁵ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 394.

⁶²⁶ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 394.

- 5.52. The Minister acknowledged that ‘the challenges in the environment space are really large’.⁶²⁷

As you note, the impacts of climate change mean that we will be seeing increased challenges. Biosecurity is a really good example of that. I have been working in my role as agricultural minister with the federal minister in relation to the issue of biosecurity and the need for us to do a lot more work in this area.

This will be an ongoing focus of government. It is something that we do need to prioritise. I think it is really positive that we have seen injections of funding in this area, but it is certainly something that we will continue to need to work on from a government perspective.⁶²⁸

Recommendation 65

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure funding is sufficient for environmental protection, biodiversity management, and invasive species management to match demand and pressures imposed by climate change.

Environmental laws

- 5.53. The Committee heard from the Minister that the government is currently engaging in national discussions around the review of environmental laws.⁶²⁹

There is an ambitious plan in relation to review of the national environmental laws. This is much needed. We know that our national environmental laws are failing us. So we are looking at how we can ensure that we engage in a really proactive way.⁶³⁰

- 5.54. Currently, under the [Environment Protection Act 1997](#), there are various penalties for environmental offences such as:

- causing serious environmental harm or likely serious environmental harm (section 137) – maximum penalty of 2,000 penalty units, imprisonment for 5 years, or both;
- causing material environmental harm or likely material environmental harm (section 138) – maximum penalty of 1,000 units, imprisonment for 2 years, or both;
- causing environmental harm or likely environmental harm (section 139) – maximum penalty of 100 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months, or both;
- causing environmental nuisance (section 141) – maximum penalty of 50 penalty units; and

⁶²⁷ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 397.

⁶²⁸ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 397.

⁶²⁹ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 396.

⁶³⁰ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 396.

- placing pollutant where it could cause harm (section 142) – maximum penalty of 100 penalty units.⁶³¹
- 5.55. There are also various penalties for environmental offences in the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and *Planning Act 2023*.

Recommendation 66

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that investment is sufficient to the Environment Protection Authority and ensure that the penalties contained in various Acts which relate to environmental protection (such as the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, and *Planning Act 2023*) are sufficient in addressing offences.

Terminology – wild dog vs. dingo

- 5.56. In the ACT, the wild dog population (predominantly located in Namadgi National Park) can best be described as dingo, with a small proportion of domesticated dog genes, according to the EPSDD website.⁶³² The EPSDD website also states that ‘...pure dingoes cannot be distinguished from part dingoes in the field so they are managed as a single entity—wild dogs.’⁶³³
- 5.57. However, concerns were raised over why these animals were entirely being referred to as wild dogs, if, in fact, they were genetically mostly dingoes:⁶³⁴

Is there advocacy from the ACT to say, “Our dingos are actually very pure here. So perhaps they should not come under a wild dog management plan”? Perhaps there should be a separate dingo management plan that we do. Why did we sign up to this [National Wild Dog Action Plan] if we do not actually have wild dogs here?⁶³⁵

- 5.58. The government took the questions on notice, and the Minister provided a response on 28 July 2023, stating:

The objective of Wild Dog Control in the ACT is that wild dogs/dingoes are managed as native animals for conservation purposes in core conservation zones and as pest animals in other defined areas to reduce damage to stock.

For this reason, the contested issues around the genetics of the wild dog/dingo does not impact on the management objectives.⁶³⁶

Recommendation 67

⁶³¹ *Environment Protection Act 1997*, s 137–s 142.

⁶³² ACT Government, [Wild dogs](#), accessed 6 August 2023.

⁶³³ ACT Government, [Wild dogs](#), accessed 6 August 2023.

⁶³⁴ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 398–399.

⁶³⁵ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 401.

⁶³⁶ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, *answer to QTON 38: Wild Dogs in the ACT*, 20 July 2023 (received 28 July 2023).

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government re-classify ACT Government documentation to replace the terminology of 'wild dog' with 'dingo' to accurately reflect the genetic make-up of the ACT's population.

Wombat mange

- 5.59. Mange is a disabling and potentially lethal disease for wombats. The sarcoptic mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei*) causes mange in wombats and other native and non-native Australian mammals. The burrowing mite makes the animal itchy and leads to hair loss and thickened skin (mange). In severe infestations, the animal's skin can crack, which can lead to infections. Severe crusting around the animal's eyes can lead to blindness. While affected, the animal has difficulty living normally and often loses weight and may die.⁶³⁷
- 5.60. During the public hearing, the Minister was asked whether there has been an increase in funding to address the mange problem, due to its ongoing severity and urgency. The Minister responded:

There has not been a specific allocation in this budget to responding to the issues of wombats and wombat mange, but certainly, as part of the ongoing operations, EPSDD is engaging with this issue and working with wombat rescue groups is an element of work that is occurring. The EPSDD convenes the Wombat stakeholder working group and that informs and shapes a collaborative approach to wombat management. In addition to that, the directorate also convenes a wombat mange stakeholder subgroup. Since 2021, it has been focused on developing a coordinated and collaborative approach to address this issue. That includes monitoring as well as some specific research projects.⁶³⁸

- 5.61. Currently, the ACT Government has a three-pronged campaign to better understand and deal with wombat mange. The project includes:
- a new web portal ([Wombat sightings portal](#)) to make it easy for the community to report wombat sightings of both sick and healthy wombats;
 - a new spatial support tool ([Wombat sightings in the ACT map](#)) that maps wombat populations to help us understand the extent of mange and its effects on populations, and to facilitate coordinated monitoring and treatment; and
 - research efforts that will trial the remote delivery of a more effective and longer lasting mange treatment, in collaboration with community volunteers and the University of Tasmania.⁶³⁹
- 5.62. During the public hearing, Dr Rosie Cooney, Senior Director of the Office of Nature Conservation at EPSDD, told the Committee that the wombat mange project 'is an area

⁶³⁷ ACT Government, [Wombat mange project](#), accessed 4 August 2023.

⁶³⁸ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 413.

⁶³⁹ ACT Government, [Wombat mange project](#), accessed 4 August 2023.

where we work really closely with the community, and we have been working with them for a number of years, including the stakeholder groups.’⁶⁴⁰

Recommendation 68

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently increase funding to address wombat mange in the ACT and work with stakeholders to investigate what improvements can be made to the wombat mange project.

Burrowing animals on development sites

- 5.63. During the public hearing, the Committee heard from the Minister that the Conservator of Flora and Fauna is ‘developing guidelines for reducing the impacts on wombats and other burrowing native animals from development and related activities’:⁶⁴¹

They are well underway, and, although they are not finalised, they are already being used to guide the assessment process, as well as providing advice to developers about what they need to do to access and manage burrowing animals.

We are looking to get to a point where they are publicly available so we can provide early advice to developers, but that advice is already being provided to developers. The Denman Prospect development is one area where that has been occurring.⁶⁴²

- 5.64. The Committee was concerned whether the burrows marked as abandoned are, in fact, actually abandoned, especially on commercially developed land, as there are incentives for developers to not mark an active burrow as active.⁶⁴³
- 5.65. Mr Bren Burkevics, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, told the Committee that he is ‘very confident’ that the work of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and its rangers accurately identifies what is happening with different burrows.⁶⁴⁴

From time to time, my office, through Conservator Liaison, gets reports of wombat burrows that are in use versus those out of use in potential areas for works. I am aware of a case recently where, as a result of information received by the office, we requested an assessment of the burrows. The area managers at the Murrumbidgee River Corridor know that area like the back of their hand, as most rangers do, and provided advice that, yes, those burrows had been assessed and no activity for some time had been detected, including looking for evidence of recent scats, feeding or something like that.⁶⁴⁵

⁶⁴⁰ Dr Rosie Cooney, Senior Director, Office of Nature Conservation, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 414.

⁶⁴¹ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 414.

⁶⁴² Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 414.

⁶⁴³ Ms Jo Clay MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 415–416.

⁶⁴⁴ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, and Conservator of Flora and Fauna, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 416.

⁶⁴⁵ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, and Conservator of Flora and Fauna, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 416.

- 5.66. Further, Ms Eliza Larson, Conservator Liaison, highlighted to the Committee how these guidelines will take effect:

The guidelines will assist the conservator in assessing developments and will allow us to provide advice to developers, and anybody, on how to identify burrowing animals and their burrows, as well as how to monitor them to determine whether they are active or vacant. Then we will outline the steps to take in terms of what you do if you find them active or even vacant. They will provide the legislative context in terms of any licences under the Nature Conservation Act that would be required to disturb or destroy a burrow, even if it is vacant. All of that will be in the guidelines to provide advice, and that is across tenure. If you are undertaking any kind of works that might impact a burrow, it outlines what to look for and what to do once you have looked for it.⁶⁴⁶

Recommendation 69

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress its development of guidelines for developers on best-practice management for native burrowing animals on new development sites and make these guidelines publicly available.

Rabbit Control Program

- 5.67. Rabbit control helps to protect the ACT's environmental values, primary production, and urban landscapes. Wild rabbits impact regeneration and recruitment of native plants, cause soil erosion, and facilitate the spread of weeds.⁶⁴⁷
- 5.68. The ACT Government undertakes a range of actions to manage rabbits, including exclusion fencing, shooting, lethal baiting, harbor destruction, diffusion fumigation, trapping, and rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus.⁶⁴⁸
- 5.69. During the public hearing, the Committee requested data on the progress of rabbit control initiatives, including their impact on population numbers.
- 5.70. Mr Bren Burkevics, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, told the Committee that 'it will be a fight forevermore against rabbits'.⁶⁴⁹

We have seen, particularly with wet conditions over the ACT over the last couple of years, a growth in rabbit population numbers.

⁶⁴⁶ Ms Eliza Larson, Conservator Liaison, Environment, Heritage and Water, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 416.

⁶⁴⁷ ACT Government, [Rabbit control program](#), accessed 11 August 2023.

⁶⁴⁸ ACT Government, [Rabbit control program](#), accessed 11 August 2023.

⁶⁴⁹ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, and Conservator of Flora and Fauna, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 418.

The government has responded by investing a further \$150,000 each year over the next two years for enhanced rabbit control.⁶⁵⁰

Recommendation 70

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government commit more funding towards the Rabbit Control Program and consider other methods of rabbit control.

Minister for Heritage

5.71. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:

- Heritage.⁶⁵¹

Matters considered

5.72. During the Minister for Heritage's appearance before the Committee on 27 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- appointment of the interim Heritage Council;⁶⁵²
- appointments to the interim Heritage Council;⁶⁵³
- statement of expectations to the Heritage Council;⁶⁵⁴
- funding for a new Heritage Council database and website;⁶⁵⁵
- heritage portfolio changes in response to Ngambri ruling;⁶⁵⁶
- heritage application processing;⁶⁵⁷ and
- Heritage Festival.⁶⁵⁸

Key issues

Heritage Council website and database

5.73. During the public hearing, the Committee asked about the funding in previous Budgets for a new Heritage Council website and database, as well as the expected completion date for these.⁶⁵⁹

⁶⁵⁰ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, and Conservator of Flora and Fauna, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 418.

⁶⁵¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 16.

⁶⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 938.

⁶⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 938–939.

⁶⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 939–940.

⁶⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 940–941.

⁶⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 941–942.

⁶⁵⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 942–944.

⁶⁵⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 944.

⁶⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 940–941.

- 5.74. The poor condition of the current Heritage Council website and database was raised by witnesses earlier in the year during the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity's (ECCB) *Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements*.⁶⁶⁰
- 5.75. The need to improve the database (also known as the Heritage Register) was acknowledged by the government during ECCB's *Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements*, with work on the database being part of a broader effort to improve Heritage Unit resourcing and practices to cope with increasing demand and complexity of workloads.⁶⁶¹
- 5.76. Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General of EPSDD, stated to the Committee that funding was provided in the 2021-22 Budget to undertake initial scoping work, and that the funding in the 2023-2024 Budget was to continue that work.⁶⁶² He added that EPSDD is currently in the process of examining what other jurisdictions are using, with the aim of having an operating minimum viable product towards the end of the 2023-2024 financial year or early 2024-25 financial year.⁶⁶³
- 5.77. The Minister added that a key challenge currently faced in that work was digitisation of paper-based documentation and information.⁶⁶⁴
- 5.78. One of the findings from the *Review of the ACT Heritage Council* by Nous Group in November 2022 stated that 'the Heritage Unit's internal workflow and business processes are inefficient, including the Heritage database and linkages to development applications.'⁶⁶⁵

Recommendation 71

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate finalise upgrades to the Heritage Council website and database this financial year.

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

- 5.79. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Asbestos Response Taskforce;
- Building and construction industry liaison;

⁶⁶⁰ See, for example, Mr Duncan Marshall AM, Chair, ACT Heritage Council, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, *Committee Hansard*, 16 May 2023, p 5; Mr Gary Kent, President, National Trust of Australia (ACT), Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, *Committee Hansard*, 16 May 2023, pp 14–15; Mr Nick Swain, Secretary, Canberra and District Historical Society, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, *Committee Hansard*, 16 May 2023, p 14; Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM, National Executive Committee Member, Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, *Committee Hansard*, 16 May 2023, pp 26, 30.

⁶⁶¹ Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, EPSDD, Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, *Committee Hansard*, 16 May 2023, pp 97–98.

⁶⁶² Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 941.

⁶⁶³ Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 941.

⁶⁶⁴ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Heritage, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 941.

⁶⁶⁵ ACT Government, [Review of the ACT Heritage Council](#), November 2022, p 2.

- Building code of Australia ACT appendix;
- Building policy;
- Building quality;
- Living infrastructure projects; and
- Universal design standards.⁶⁶⁶

Matters considered

5.80. During the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction’s appearance before the Committee on 27 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Professional Engineers Registration Scheme;⁶⁶⁷
- National Construction Code energy efficient homes standard;⁶⁶⁸
- property developer licensing reform;⁶⁶⁹
- trades licensing registration reform;⁶⁷⁰
- fidelity fund scheme review;⁶⁷¹
- security payments in the construction industry;⁶⁷²
- implementation of the National Construction Code;⁶⁷³
- sustainable building and construction reforms;⁶⁷⁴ and
- public certifiers.⁶⁷⁵

Key issues

Developer licensing

5.81. The Parliamentary & Governing Agreement (PAGA) states that during the term of the 10th Assembly, the Government will ‘Set up an Australia-first licensing scheme for property developers, including the creation of a “fit and proper person” test and rigorously enforced penalty scheme.’⁶⁷⁶

5.82. The Committee notes that in 2022, the ACT Government had indicated that it would have a developer licensing scheme announced by the end of 2022.⁶⁷⁷

⁶⁶⁶ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 16.

⁶⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1019–1020.

⁶⁶⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1020–1021.

⁶⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1021–1025.

⁶⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1025, 1028–1029.

⁶⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1026–1027.

⁶⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1027–1028.

⁶⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1029–1031.

⁶⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1031–1032.

⁶⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1032–1034.

⁶⁷⁶ ACT Government, *Parliamentary & Governing Agreement: 10th Legislative Assembly Australian Capital Territory*, cl 5.2.

⁶⁷⁷ ‘Labor MLA: ACT Government ‘dragging its feet’ on developer licensing’, *The Canberra Weekly*, 22 November 2022, accessed 7 August 2023.

- 5.83. The government's YourSay website timeline indicates that in mid-to-late 2023, the government will consider feedback provided through the community engagement process and develop a regulatory framework, as well as conduct targeted stakeholder engagement to inform the regulatory framework, with implementation of the framework to occur in 2024.⁶⁷⁸
- 5.84. During the public hearing, the Minister commented that work on the commitment is progressing 'really well' and is on track for legislation to be introduced to the Assembly by the end of 2023.⁶⁷⁹ She added:
- We are currently working on drafting the legislation. That is occurring right now. We will continue to engage with stakeholders as we work through the final details of the scheme. We have had a positive response, and, as Mr Bennett noted, there is recognition that confidence in the sector is actually good for good developers as well. That engagement will continue. I do not know if there is any specific additional work, but we are in the guts of the scheme, working on all the elements and working through the legislative package so we are in a really good shape to be able to bring it to the parliament to consider by the end of the year.⁶⁸⁰
- 5.85. In May 2023, a motion was passed in the Assembly for the government to have a Bill introduced on this matter by the end of the year.⁶⁸¹

Recommendation 72

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement a comprehensive property developer licencing scheme within this term of government.

Trades licensing

- 5.86. During the public hearing, the Committee questioned the Minister on the government's work towards reforming the ACT trades licensing system.⁶⁸²
- 5.87. When asked about this topic, the Minister indicated that trades licensing was on the work program, but was not a priority.⁶⁸³ The Minister was also of the view that it was unlikely that trades licensing would be delivered during the 10th Legislative Assembly term:

⁶⁷⁸ ACT Government, [YourSay: 'Developer Regulation'](#), June 2023.

⁶⁷⁹ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1021.

⁶⁸⁰ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1023.

⁶⁸¹ See, for example: ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 83, 11 May 2023, pp 1172–1176; Claire Fenwicke, ['Property licensing scheme legislation slates for this year to rein in cowboy developers'](#), *Riotact*, 18 May 2023, accessed 7 August 2023.

⁶⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1025.

⁶⁸³ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1025, 1029.

I do not think we will—just in terms of the priority activities we have on the work program, I think it would be very ambitious to suggest that we deliver it in this parliamentary term, to be really honest.⁶⁸⁴

- 5.88. The Committee notes that most other jurisdictions in Australia require licences for trades such as bricklaying, waterproofing, and tiling, but not in the ACT.⁶⁸⁵
- 5.89. The Committee also observes the findings of the *Building Confidence: Improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Australia Report* (Shergold-Weir Report), which noted gaps in State and Territory trades licensing schemes, often resulting in practitioners undertaking work for which they are not fully competent, and recommended that each State and Territory require the registration of particular trades (Builder, Site or Project Manager, Building Surveyor, Building Inspector, Architect, Engineer, Designer/Draftsperson, Plumber, and Fire Safety Practitioner) involved in the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings.⁶⁸⁶
- 5.90. Trades licensing has also been raised by a previous Assembly committee inquiry, in which trades licensing was seen by several witnesses as a way to improve building quality, and the inquiry report found that ‘Many common building quality issues identified in the ACT involve currently unlicensed trades.’ The inquiry report ultimately recommended that the *Constructions Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* be amended to expand the breadth of licensing in the ACT to cover trades associated with more critical building issues, in line with the Shergold-Weir report.⁶⁸⁷

Recommendation 73

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement trades licensing as a matter of urgency.

Master Builders Fidelity Fund

- 5.91. The *Building Act 2004* requires licenced builders to obtain a Fidelity Fund certificate from an approved Fidelity Fund scheme before commencing any work over \$12,000 that is not exempt from requiring protection under the *Building Act 2004*.⁶⁸⁸ A Fidelity Fund certificate is an alternative form of insurance that builders can apply for, instead of obtaining a residential work insurance.⁶⁸⁹

⁶⁸⁴ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1029.

⁶⁸⁵ See, for example: Brittney Levinson, ‘[Is the ACT government doing enough to ensure Canberra apartments buildings are of the highest standard?](#)’, *The Canberra Times*, 10 October 2022, accessed 7 August 2023; Isaac Nowroozi, ‘[Calls for compulsory licences for Canberra tradies in bid to improve safety, quality of construction projects](#)’, *The Canberra Times*, 21 September 2022, accessed 7 August 2023.

⁶⁸⁶ Peter Shergold & Bronwyn Weir, *Building Confidence: Improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Australia*, February 2018, p 15.

⁶⁸⁷ Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, *Report 9: Inquiry into Building Quality*, July 2020, p 56.

⁶⁸⁸ See, for example: *Building Act 2004*, ss 84–127; *Building (General) Regulation 2008*, regs 37–43.

⁶⁸⁹ Commonwealth Government, *Approval of a Fidelity Fund Scheme – Australian Capital Territory*, accessed 8 August 2023.

- 5.92. A previous Assembly committee inquiry noted that the most dominant insurance product in the ACT market for builders is the Master Builders Fidelity Fund, which was established in 2002 and is the only approved Fidelity Fund scheme under the *Building Act 2004*.⁶⁹⁰ Mr James Bennett, Executive Branch Manager of Building Reform, Unit Titles and Design Services at EPSDD, outlined its operation:

The fidelity fund scheme is a scheme which is run by one particular organisation. I will get the exact words in front of me. It is a private sector managed not-for-profit enterprise. It is a particular group that is set up through a trust deed. It is an organisation which is at arm's length from government but has government oversight over the process. It is quite a technical and unique area of the system.

The particular fund that we have is run by a group called the Master Builders Fidelity Fund. It is not the Master Builders Association; it is the Master Builders Fidelity Fund. They have a services agreement in place with the Master Builders Association to provide some of the administrative back-of-house support.⁶⁹¹

- 5.93. The Minister told the Committee that the government has been reviewing the Fidelity Fund scheme and the regulatory framework of residential building insurance more broadly in response to the findings of a previous Assembly committee inquiry into building quality in the ACT, as well as in response to industry and community feedback.⁶⁹²
- 5.94. The Minister expects the review to be completed in the second half of 2023, with a report that will include recommendations on any improvements.⁶⁹³

Recommendation 74

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that reforms of the Master Builders Fidelity Fund are comprehensive and address consumer advocates' concerns.

Public certifiers

- 5.95. Clause 5.1. of the PAGA states that the government will establish an 'expert team of public funded building certifiers within the ACT Public Service' during the current term of the 10th Legislative Assembly.⁶⁹⁴ This commitment aims to have a small team of public sector certifiers to inspect large-scale residential developments.⁶⁹⁵

⁶⁹⁰ Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, *Report 9: Inquiry into Building Quality*, July 2020, p 42.

⁶⁹¹ Mr James Bennett, Executive Branch Manager; Building Reform, Unit Titles and Design Services, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1027.

⁶⁹² Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1026.

⁶⁹³ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1026.

⁶⁹⁴ ACT Government, *Parliamentary & Governing Agreement: 10th Legislative Assembly Australian Capital Territory*, cl 5.1.

⁶⁹⁵ 'The ACT government's move to bring certifiers back-in house is a step in the right direction', *The Canberra Times*, 24 July 2020, accessed 7 August 2023.

- 5.96. Mr James Bennett, Executive Branch Manager, Building Reform, Unit Titles and Design Services at EPSDD, provided the Committee with an update on this PAGA commitment:

In terms of the work on options for a public certification service, we put out a request for a consultancy earlier this year. We put that out publicly. We have since engaged a consultant to undertake some work to develop options and provide an assessment of those options. We are in that consultancy process at the moment. The consultants have been leading stakeholder workshops, getting industry feedback and engaging with technical experts across a range of areas to feed into that process. Now we are working with the consultants on the refinement of those options and then the analysis piece that will come next. We are hoping to have that work completed in the next couple of months. Then we will, as the directorate, consider that work and provide some options to the government to consider about how that commitment can be delivered.⁶⁹⁶

- 5.97. Due to ‘a range of options to consider’, the government could not provide the Committee with a timeframe as to when public certifiers would be implemented, nor an indication as to how many public certifiers would be employed.⁶⁹⁷
- 5.98. When the Committee asked whether it would be implemented prior to the end of the current 10th Legislative Assembly term, the Minister did not provide a definitive answer – but indicated it was a priority for the government.⁶⁹⁸

Recommendation 75

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish an expert team of publicly funded building certifiers within the ACT Public Service within this term of government.

⁶⁹⁶ Mr James Bennett, Executive Branch Manager; Building Reform, Unit Titles and Design Services, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1032.

⁶⁹⁷ Mr James Bennett, Executive Branch Manager; Building Reform, Unit Titles and Design Services, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1033; Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1033–1034.

⁶⁹⁸ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1033–1034.

6. Justice and Community Safety Directorate

6.1. Budget Statements D states that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JCS):

seeks to maintain a safe, just and resilient community in the ACT. This will be realised by working with the ACT government, key stakeholders, and the community to:

- Strengthen community safety;
- Protect people's rights and interests;
- Care for and support vulnerable people;
- Enhance access to justice; and
- Build community resilience to emergency.⁶⁹⁹

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

6.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Bushfire and other natural disaster resilience and response;
- Emergency management (including overall coordination of hazard and risk assessment, and overall coordination of the prevention of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies);
- Emergency Services Agency (ACT Fire and Rescue, ACT Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service); and
- Policing policy and ACT Policing.⁷⁰⁰

Matters considered

6.3. During the Minister for Police and Emergency Services' appearances before the Committee on 18 and 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- procurement of a hybrid electric fire truck;⁷⁰¹
- hybrid electric fire truck features for those who are hearing impaired;⁷⁰²
- cost of the hybrid electric fire truck along with the proposed business case;⁷⁰³
- Auditor General's Report No. 4/2023 *Procurement of a Hybrid Electric Fire Truck*;⁷⁰⁴
- the ESA Executive Leadership Alignment review;⁷⁰⁵
- funding for a new Casey Station and joint ambulance and fire station at Molonglo;⁷⁰⁶

⁶⁹⁹ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements D*, p 1.

⁷⁰⁰ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 9.

⁷⁰¹ Proof Committee Hansard, 18 July 2023, p 118,

⁷⁰² Proof Committee Hansard, 18 July 2023, p 120, Proof Committee Hansard, 18 July 2023, p 131

⁷⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 120 – 122.

⁷⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 122.

⁷⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 123 – 125., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 131 – 132.

⁷⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 125 – 127., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 128 -129.

- relocation from JESC to Gungahlin town centre;⁷⁰⁷
- Civic Pool Site as a potential location for emergency services;⁷⁰⁸
- support for ACT Fire & Rescue and SES staff and volunteers;⁷⁰⁹
- increased funding for personal protective equipment for RFS and SES;⁷¹⁰
- staff wellbeing and development in ESA;⁷¹¹
- over-policing;⁷¹²
- staffing numbers;⁷¹³
- number of sworn police officers on active duty;⁷¹⁴
- crime in West Belconnen;⁷¹⁵
- the AFP commissioned report from PwC modelling police numbers;⁷¹⁶
- restorative Justice Unit referrals;⁷¹⁷
- Dangerous driving offences;⁷¹⁸
- juror privacy implications of sharing CCTV footage with the AFP;⁷¹⁹
- Operation TORIC;⁷²⁰
- the strategic facilities review;⁷²¹
- resourcing for the sexual assault and child abuse team;⁷²²
- SAPR report;⁷²³
- decriminalisation of drugs of dependence;⁷²⁴ and
- drink spiking and needle pricking.⁷²⁵

⁷⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 127.

⁷⁰⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 128.

⁷⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 129–130.

⁷¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 130.

⁷¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 130.

⁷¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 310–311., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 315.

⁷¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 311–313., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 317 – 319.

⁷¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 312.

⁷¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 313–314.

⁷¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 314–315.

⁷¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 315–316.

⁷¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 316–317., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 319 -

⁷¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 317–319.

⁷²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 319–320.

⁷²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 320–322.

⁷²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 322–324.

⁷²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 324.

⁷²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 324–327.

⁷²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 327.

Key issues

New fire and ambulance stations for growing regions

- 6.4. The Committee asked about new fire and ambulance stations during the hearing on 18 July 2023.
- 6.5. The Emergency Services Agency (ESA) noted that joint fire and ambulance stations were planned for Molonglo and Casey, with the Casey combined station currently in the planning and design stage and construction of the Molonglo station to progress over the next three years.⁷²⁶
- 6.6. In answer to a Question on Notice regarding new stations, the Minister advised that, while the timeframe for delivery of the station in Casey was yet to be considered, a new station in Acton was expected to be completed in 2024, and delivery of Molonglo Station in 2026 was 'achievable'.⁷²⁷

Recommendation 76

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to invest in new fire and ambulance stations in growing regions.

Electric vehicles for emergency services

- 6.7. During the public hearing on 18 July 2023, the Committee heard that the recent purchase of an electric vehicle fire truck enhanced firefighter safety both through the cab design which allows for walk-in access and the elimination of diesel particulate emissions.⁷²⁸
- 6.8. The Minister told the Committee that the ACT Government intends to procure further electric and hybrid vehicles for emergency services. While no further firefighting trucks have been reserved or ordered, the Emergency Services Agency is working on opportunities to introduce zero or low emission vehicles into logistics and resupply areas.⁷²⁹

Recommendation 77

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to procure electric or hybrid vehicles, where appropriate, for emergency services.

⁷²⁶ Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 8.

⁷²⁷ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QON 009: Acton, Molonglo and Casey*.

⁷²⁸ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 2.

⁷²⁹ Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 6.

Governance and leadership of the Emergency Services Agency

- 6.9. During the public hearing on 18 July 2023, the Committee noted that the Auditor-General had identified concerns with the governance process associated with procurement of the electric fire vehicle.
- 6.10. The Minister acknowledged that the Auditor-General had commented on poor documentation, failure to adhere to the *Government Procurement Act 2001*, and failure to follow through on commitments made in cabinet documents, and said that those comments had been taken on board.⁷³⁰
- 6.11. Mr Richard Glenn, Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate said that he was accountable for shortfalls in governance, and that ‘several discussions in other contexts ... in relation to procurement’ had taken place. Mr Glenn noted that he and the Auditor-General had differing views on some characterisations of the procurement process within the Auditor-General’s report. Mr Glenn did not dispute the finding on record-keeping and said he would ‘reflect on’ whether the Directorate could improve its governance processes.⁷³¹

Recommendation 78

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a review of JACS directorate governance given issues identified with their oversight of the ESA.

- 6.12. The Committee also asked during the hearing about issues raised in the *ESA Executive Leadership Alignment Review* (the report) including that:
- Stakeholders described behaviours by ESA executives which are inconsistent with ACTPS Values of Integrity, Respect, Collaboration and Innovation. Examples of poor behaviour, such as withholding information, undermining decisions, blaming and bullying, including by exclusion, were identified.⁷³²
- 6.13. The Minister noted that all recommendations in the report had been accepted and a program of changes was underway. He advised the Committee that this program took the report’s recommendations and the government and Director-General’s responses into account.⁷³³
- 6.14. When asked whether an external review of the ESA would be appropriate, given the concerns raised in the report, Minister Gentleman advised the Committee that a review was being conducted as recommended by the report, and ‘as we reach the next step, we will look at that’.

⁷³⁰ Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, and Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 4–5.

⁷³¹ Mr Richard Glenn, Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 5.

⁷³² Professor Tony Walker ASM, *Emergency Services Agency Executive Leadership Alignment Review*, June 2023, p 9.

⁷³³ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 7.

Recommendation 79

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand its response to the ESA Executive Leadership Alignment Review to address the individual behavioural issues, governance and structural issues raised and take deliberate action to deal with these issues.

Recommendation 80

The Committee recommends that an independent review be undertaken of the governance arrangements for JACS Directorate and ESA or that the next statutory review of the Emergency Services Act 2004 be undertaken by an independent reviewer.

Police staffing

- 6.15. The Committee asked about staffing levels of ACT Policing during the public hearing on 19 July 2023.
- 6.16. The Chief Police Officer told the Committee that an apparent drop in police numbers since 2012 could be largely explained by some functions, such as tactical operations and forensics officers, being supported from within the national police cohort, and some tasks moving from sworn staff to civilian staff, such as police operations and police intelligence. Numbers of sworn police staff had increased in areas such as crime prevention and sexual assault and child abuse.⁷³⁴
- 6.17. The Committee heard that ACT Policing had no current vacancies and that the graduation of a further 25 sworn officers in July 2023 would ‘put us, technically, above our affordable FTE moving into the second month of the financial year’.⁷³⁵
- 6.18. In response to a Question Taken on Notice, the Minister advised the Committee that, as of 19 July 2023, ACT Policing had 726 sworn police officers, comprising 637 full-time police, 19 part-time officers, and 70 non-operational or inoperative sworn police. Non-operational staff are those at work but with medical restrictions preventing them from performing operational duties, while inoperative staff are those absent on long term paid or unpaid leave.⁷³⁶

⁷³⁴ Mr Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 312.

⁷³⁵ Mr Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 313.

⁷³⁶ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 034: ACT Policing Sworn Officers*, 19 July 2023 (received 27 July 2023).

Recommendation 81

The Committee recommends the Minister update the Assembly annually on police recruitment including how many sworn police officers have been employed, how many have left, and a progress update set against the stated goal of recruitment outlined in the Budget each year in the last sitting of the calendar year.

Police facilities

- 6.19. The Committee inquired as to the status of a strategic facilities review for ACT Policing, which the Minister confirmed was under way.
- 6.20. The Minister observed that some work had been completed, and that the Traffic Operations Centre in Hume had recently opened. Increased accommodation services for police across the territory were planned, with areas already identified for improvement including Winchester Police Centre, Woden and the City police stations.⁷³⁷
- 6.21. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate noted that it was working closely with ACT Policing to develop ‘a 20-year pipeline of infrastructure work’, as well as a strategic asset management plan to ensure the ongoing sustainability of facilities. Budget funding secured for 2023–2024 would enable due diligence to be commenced for works on headquarters, the city police station, Woden and Molonglo. This funding was not for capital works, and would allow the Directorate to ascertain whether the needs at each location included expansion or refurbishment.⁷³⁸

Recommendation 82

The Committee recommends a full audit of police facilities and resources be conducted and tabled in the Assembly.

Recommendation 83

The Committee recommends that ACT Policing, EPSDD, TCCS and SLA should work collaboratively to determine the future of Winchester Police Station and a future City headquarters for ACT Policing and undertake early consultation and planning for the future of the current Winchester Police Station site in Belconnen.

Dangerous Driving

- 6.22. The Committee noted that dangerous driving was a persistent problem, particularly in known locations near Uriarra, and asked whether a long-term solution was being sought.
- 6.23. The Chief Police Officer noted that the problem was widespread, and that ACT Policing was considering working with New South Wales Police to combine efforts to combat dangerous

⁷³⁷ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 320.

⁷³⁸ Ms Danielle Krajina, Chief Operating Officer, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 320–321.

driving. The use of cameras to detect when such behaviour was occurring, allowing police to identify perpetrators despite the efforts of ‘cockatoos’ or lookouts, was also under consideration. The Chief Police Officer undertook to provide an update on this work within ‘the next couple of months’.⁷³⁹

Recommendation 84

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government seek a solution and report back to the Assembly to the dangerous driving problem at the two specific sites in close proximity to the Uriarra township.

- 6.24. ACT Policing also noted that Operation TORIC, which focussed on ‘the rapid identification and apprehension of high-risk, high-harm recidivist offenders’ to address an increase in motor vehicle thefts, associated dangerous driving and other crimes,⁷⁴⁰ had had positive results and was to be made an ongoing taskforce.⁷⁴¹

Recommendation 85

The Committee recommends the government provide further resources to monitor and deal with traffic and dangerous driving offences.

Minister for Corrections

- 6.25. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:

- Corrective Services.⁷⁴²

Matters considered

- 6.26. During the Minister for Corrections’ appearance before the Committee on 18 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- electronic monitoring;⁷⁴³
- technology changes;⁷⁴⁴
- Health Prison Review’s Recommendation 29;⁷⁴⁵
- detainees in the Transitional Release Centre;⁷⁴⁶
- number of detainees in the Transitional Release Program;⁷⁴⁷

⁷³⁹ Mr Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 316–317.

⁷⁴⁰ Mr Doug Boudry, Deputy Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 319.

⁷⁴¹ Mr Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 319.

⁷⁴² Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 9.

⁷⁴³ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 147–149.

⁷⁴⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 147–150.

⁷⁴⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 150–151.

⁷⁴⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 151, *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 164–165.

⁷⁴⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 151.

- the transition to a smoke-free prison;⁷⁴⁸
- the number of detainees on nicotine replacement therapy;⁷⁴⁹
- education program run at AMC;⁷⁵⁰
- access to tertiary education and computers for detainees;⁷⁵¹
- the Reintegration Centre;⁷⁵²
- the Reintegration Precinct;⁷⁵³
- recidivism reduction;⁷⁵⁴
- Justice Reform Initiative calls for the establishments of a Justice Reinvestment Coordinator-General;⁷⁵⁵
- management of transgender detainees out of AMC;⁷⁵⁶
- COVID-19 Protocols in place at AMC;⁷⁵⁷
- provision of additional custodial staff at AMC;⁷⁵⁸
- increasing women officers in AMC;⁷⁵⁹
- improving morale and culture for custodial staff;⁷⁶⁰
- Overtime of Correction Officers;⁷⁶¹
- frequency of lockdowns, cancelled escorts and cancelled activities resulting from staff shortages;⁷⁶²
- review of rates and causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration;⁷⁶³
- women's accommodation at AMC;⁷⁶⁴
- new staff accommodation and use of old buildings for detainee program and education spaces;⁷⁶⁵
- Blueprint for Change recommendation implementation;⁷⁶⁶ and

⁷⁴⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 152.

⁷⁴⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 152.

⁷⁵⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 152 – 154.

⁷⁵¹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 154., *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 165.

⁷⁵² *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 154 – 155.

⁷⁵³ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 155 – 157.

⁷⁵⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 157 – 158.

⁷⁵⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 158 – 159.

⁷⁵⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 159.

⁷⁵⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 159 – 161, *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 165.

⁷⁵⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 161.

⁷⁵⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 161.

⁷⁶⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 161 – 162.

⁷⁶¹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 162 – 163.

⁷⁶² *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 163.

⁷⁶³ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 163 – 164.

⁷⁶⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 166 – 168.

⁷⁶⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 168.

⁷⁶⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 168 – 169.

- Symonston Remand Centre.⁷⁶⁷

Key issues

Electronic monitoring

- 6.27. At the public hearing on 18 July 2023 the Committee heard that the ACT Government had examined the use of electronic monitoring in other jurisdictions, and had funded a feasibility study to consider introducing electronic monitoring in the ACT.⁷⁶⁸
- 6.28. The Committee noted that the ACT Government had made two earlier attempts to introduce electronic monitoring in the ACT, neither of which resulted in its permanent introduction.⁷⁶⁹
- 6.29. In response to a Question Taken on Notice, the Minister said that an electronic monitoring scheme introduced in 2001 was restricted by the technology available at the time, which was capable of detecting whether a person was at a monitored place, normally their residence, but not capable of detecting where they were if they left that place. The scheme was phased out due to low numbers of people being found suitable and completing their Home Detention Orders.⁷⁷⁰
- 6.30. ACT Corrective Services cited technological improvements in electronic monitoring and research into outcomes such as a reduction in domestic violence incidents as impetus for the feasibility study.⁷⁷¹

Recommendation 86

The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish a statement on why the previous two attempts to introduce electronic monitoring failed and how effectively and how long electronic monitoring has been used in other jurisdictions.

Justice Reinvestment Coordinator-General

- 6.31. Noting that the Justice Reform Initiative has called for the establishment of a Justice Reinvestment Coordinator-General in the ACT, the Committee asked whether this would ensure that the ACT Government could meet its recidivism goal.
- 6.32. The Director-General of JACS responded that funding such a position would not by itself enable the goal to be met and did not have a view on whether there should be a Justice Reinvestment Coordinator-General. He believed that the current range of governance

⁷⁶⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 169.

⁷⁶⁸ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 30.

⁷⁶⁹ Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 30.

⁷⁷⁰ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *answer to QTON 13: Electronic Monitoring of Offenders*, 18 July 2023 (received 26 July 2023).

⁷⁷¹ Mr Bruno Aloisi, Acting Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 31.

mechanisms in justice reinvestment and other programs were providing effective oversight.⁷⁷²

Recommendation 87

The Committee recommends the ACT Government strongly consider the appointment of a Justice Reinvestment Coordinator-General.

Alexander Maconochie Centre development

- 6.33. The Committee asked about planning for a reintegration centre and the long-term accommodation needs of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- 6.34. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate advised the Committee that planning for the future development of the AMC was focused not only on the reintegration centre and precinct, but across the entire facility, with many interdependencies involved,⁷⁷³ and that consideration was being given to the needs of the facility in the next ten, fifteen and twenty years.⁷⁷⁴
- 6.35. The Directorate described the reintegration centre as being ‘essentially a residential facility in a low security environment for people who are transitioning out of the AMC into community’, while the reintegration precinct was intended to be available to all detainees regardless of where they were in the reintegration process.⁷⁷⁵
- 6.36. The Committee heard that part of the development process would include a unit for staff accommodation, which would release space for programs and educational activities within the reintegration program.⁷⁷⁶

Recommendation 88

The Committee recommends the ACT Government create a timeline for the development, construction and completion of the Reintegration Centre and Precinct.

Recommendation 89

The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide further details on planning for future development of the Alexander Maconochie Centre, including timeframes.

⁷⁷² Mr Richard Glenn, Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 41–42.

⁷⁷³ Mr Bruno Aloisi, Acting Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 38.

⁷⁷⁴ Mr Richard Glenn, Director General, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 38.

⁷⁷⁵ Mr Richard Glenn, Director General, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 38.

⁷⁷⁶ Mr Richard Glenn, Director General, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 38.

Recommendation 90

The Committee recommends that, as part of the Alexander Maconochie Centre masterplan development, the ACT Government also consider expansion of the Alexander Maconochie Centre to include separated remandee and sentenced detainee accommodations.

Alexander Maconochie Centre detainee visitor café

- 6.37. During the public hearing on 18 July 2023, the Committee heard that the detainee visitor café at the AMC remains closed.⁷⁷⁷
- 6.38. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate told the Committee that while the impact of COVID-19 was the original reason for the café's closure, the challenges associated with its reopening mainly related to the need to recommence detainee training, which was expected to resume soon.⁷⁷⁸
- 6.39. The Directorate also noted that the café had a positive impact on detainee skills and abilities, and that similar programs in other jurisdictions have proven effective.⁷⁷⁹

Recommendation 91

The Committee recommends the ACT Government reopen the detainee visitor café at the Alexander Maconochie Centre as a matter of priority.

Attorney-General

- 6.40. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Administration of justice;
 - Civil and criminal law;
 - Justice reinvestment;
 - Policy relating to incorporation of associations;
 - Policy relating to liquor;
 - Policy relating to sex work;
 - Policy relating to security;
 - Policy relating to the registration of deeds and charitable collections;

⁷⁷⁷ Mr Ray Johnson, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 43.

⁷⁷⁸ Mr Ray Johnson, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 43.

⁷⁷⁹ Mr Ray Johnson, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 43.

- Policy relating to the registration of land titles and tenancies;
- Reducing recidivism;
- Restorative justice; and
- Sentence Administration Board.⁷⁸⁰

Matters considered

6.41. During the Attorney-General's appearance before the Committee on 27 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- the Sofronoff Inquiry;⁷⁸¹
- recidivism rate;⁷⁸²
- Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List;⁷⁸³
- ACT Crime Act;⁷⁸⁴
- Dangerous Driving Inquiry recommendations;⁷⁸⁵
- appointment of Magistrate Taylor to the Supreme Court;⁷⁸⁶
- Sentencing Advisory Council;⁷⁸⁷
- recruitment for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in 2019;⁷⁸⁸
- Operations of the Coroner's Court;⁷⁸⁹
- DPP Appeals;⁷⁹⁰
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response report;⁷⁹¹
- civil cases;⁷⁹²
- Galambany Court;⁷⁹³
- the quality of court recordings;⁷⁹⁴
- community legal centre funding;⁷⁹⁵

⁷⁸⁰ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 10.

⁷⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 986–988.

⁷⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 988–989., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 990.

⁷⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 989–990.

⁷⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 990–991.

⁷⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 991–993.

⁷⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 994.

⁷⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 994–1000.

⁷⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1000–1001., *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1009 – 1010.

⁷⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1001–1004.

⁷⁹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1004–1007.

⁷⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1006.

⁷⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1007–1009.

⁷⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1010–1011.

⁷⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1011–1014.

⁷⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1014–1016.

- demand of legal need;⁷⁹⁶
- systemic issues within social housing matters;⁷⁹⁷ and
- female-owned ACT Government legal panels.⁷⁹⁸

Minister for Consumer Affairs

6.42. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Fair trading policy relating to Australian consumer law, fuel prices and licensing motor vehicle repairers;
- Policy relating to retirement villages, egg labelling, sale of goods and uncollected goods; and
- Policy relating to the licensing of agents, hawkers, pawnbrokers, motor vehicle dealers, second-hand dealers and x-films.⁷⁹⁹

Matters considered

6.43. During the Minister for Consumer Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- potential retirement village ombudsman;⁸⁰⁰
- Commissioner for Fair Trading conflicts of interest;⁸⁰¹
- 'right to repair';⁸⁰² and
- Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council.⁸⁰³

Key issues

Retirement villages

6.44. The Committee heard from the ACT Retirement Villages Residents Association on 17 July 2023 that it had sought funding from the ACT Government to establish basic administrative functions to support their growing membership.⁸⁰⁴

6.45. The Association said that funding would allow them to become established as an active effective body representing retirement village residents and 'to develop effective communication with residents, management, developers and other stakeholders'. Funding

⁷⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1016 – 1017.

⁷⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, p 1017.

⁷⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2023, pp 1017 – 1018.

⁷⁹⁹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 10.

⁸⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 551–554.

⁸⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 554–556, 561–562, 567–570.

⁸⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 565–566.

⁸⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 566–567.

⁸⁰⁴ Ms Janine Lewis, Vice President (Village Liaison), ACT Retirement Village Residents Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 52.

would also allow the Association to liaise with similar organisations in other jurisdictions and to advocate for their members.⁸⁰⁵

Recommendation 92

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund the ACT Retirement Village Residents Association to continue their advocacy.

- 6.46. The ACT Retirement Villages Residents Association also told the Committee during the hearing that there was ‘a significant lack of hard data on the actual size, composition and operations of the ACT retirement village sector’ and that there was no requirement for such information to be centrally held.⁸⁰⁶
- 6.47. In response to a Question on Notice, the Minister for Consumer Affairs advised the Committee that, while the *Retirement Villages Act 2012* does not establish a central or public register of retirement villages in the ACT, operators of retirement villages are required by the Act to lodge a notice under the *Land Titles Act 1925* that the land is used as a retirement village.⁸⁰⁷

Recommendation 93

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the data collected and held by Access Canberra regarding retirement villages, including the establishment of a register of retirement villages.

- 6.48. The ACT Retirement Villages Residents Association also told the Committee during the hearing on 17 July 2023 that there was a strong need for a retirement village ombudsman or similar agency to assist in the resolution of disputes between residents and operators.
- 6.49. During the hearing with the Minister for Consumer Affairs on 21 July 2023, Ms Nadia Marjan of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate noted that the ACT Government was at the ‘very preliminary stages’ of consultation on the matter. Ms Marjan said that the government was considering options relating to the establishment of a retirement village ombudsman, and outlined other dispute resolution pathways available to residents, such as internal disputes committees, the ACT Human Rights Commission, and the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal dispute resolution pathway.⁸⁰⁸

⁸⁰⁵ Ms Anne Caine, Secretary, ACT Retirement Village Residents Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 53–54.

⁸⁰⁶ Ms Anne Caine, Secretary, ACT Retirement Village Residents Association, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 53.

⁸⁰⁷ Mr Shane Rattenbury, *answer to QON 045: Retirement Villages and Aged Care Facilities in Canberra*, 21 July 2023 (received 31 July 2023).

⁸⁰⁸ Ms Nadia Marjan, Senior Director, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 552.

Recommendation 94

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider establishing a retirement village ombudsman or similar.

Special Minister of State

6.50. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:

- Electoral policy; and
- Racing policy.⁸⁰⁹

Matters considered

6.51. During the Special Minister for State's appearance before the Committee on 31 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Canberra Racing Club;⁸¹⁰ and
- MoU with the racing industry.⁸¹¹

Minister for Human Rights

6.52. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner;
- ACT Human Rights Commission;
- Human rights and anti-discrimination policy;
- Policy relating to births, deaths, parentage, marriages, civil unions, domestic relationships, voluntary assisted dying/end of life;
- Victims of Crime Commissioner; and
- Voluntary assisted dying.⁸¹²

Matters considered

6.53. During the Minister for Human Rights appearance before the Committee on 25 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- establishment of the Child Safe Standards Scheme;⁸¹³
- Human Rights ACT Policy;⁸¹⁴

⁸⁰⁹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 13.

⁸¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1134 – 1135.

⁸¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1135 – 1136.

⁸¹² Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 16.

⁸¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 760 – 761.

⁸¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 761.

- “No Rights Without Remedy” petition;⁸¹⁵
- policy development of Human Right Commission conciliation;⁸¹⁶
- Family Violence Safety Action Program;⁸¹⁷
- Right to a Healthy Environment Bill drafting and consultation;⁸¹⁸
- key findings from the Voluntary Assisted Dying consultation;⁸¹⁹
- implementation period of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill;⁸²⁰
- support for Victims of Crime;⁸²¹ and
- Territory Rights.⁸²²

⁸¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 761 - 765

⁸¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 765.

⁸¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 766 – 767.

⁸¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 767 – 769.

⁸¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 769 – 771. *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 773 – 774.

⁸²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 771 – 773.

⁸²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 774.

⁸²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 775.

7. Education Directorate

7.1. According to Budget Statements F, the Education Directorate is responsible for the following:

1. the provision of public preschools, primary, secondary and specialist schools and colleges;
2. access to quality teaching, specialised learning programs and wellbeing supports for individual student needs;
3. enrolment and support of international students; and
4. the registration and regulation of home education, early childhood education and care services and non-government schools.⁸²³

Minister for Early Childhood Development

7.2. The area of responsibility covered by this Directorate is:

- Early childhood development and education (including early childhood education and care regulated services; preschool programs; and Koori preschool programs).⁸²⁴

Matters considered

7.3. During the Minister Early Childhood Development's appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- cost of and access to early child care;⁸²⁵
- child development services;⁸²⁶
- children and Young Person Equipment Loan Scheme;⁸²⁷
- three-year-old preschool program;⁸²⁸ and
- professional learning and resourcing portal.⁸²⁹

Key issues

The expansion of the Child Development Service (CDS)

7.4. The Committee noted that Budget statements show that total hours of services provided at the Child Development Service (CDS) last financial year dropped 28 per cent below the average of what has been provided since the CDS was first launched in 2016, and that the

⁸²³ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements F*, p 2.

⁸²⁴ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 6.

⁸²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 478-481.

⁸²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 486-490.

⁸²⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 490.

⁸²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 481-486.

⁸²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 493-494.

target for this financial year is even lower due to staffing vacancies and the implementation of a new management system.⁸³⁰

- 7.5. There are workforce constraints in expanding the CDS due to national and international labour shortages. *Best Start for Canberra's Children* is an expanded service for two- to three-year-olds with funding for 14 positions filled and two vacancies in speech pathology.⁸³¹
- 7.6. As at 20 July, there were 167 families waiting for assessment on the autism assessment wait list, and generally the families are waiting 12 to 13 months for an assessment from the point that they are referred to the wait list. To address these issues, funding of \$1.357 million has been allocated in the budget to expand the autism spectrum disorder assessment service to allow the CDS to recruit four psychologists to continue the autism assessment services for children up to 12 years old.⁸³²
- 7.7. The Committee also noted that the Community Services Directorate is expanding the Child Development Service (CDS) to provide early intervention therapeutic services including funding towards additional service centres in Gungahlin, West Belconnen and Tuggeranong, as well as the current Holder site. Within the budget, there is investment in the *Children and Young People Equipment Loan Scheme* and the autism assessment service, as well as funding for the redesign of service delivery within the CDS. Funding is also being provided to expand the service to provide intervention for children aged two to three years old.⁸³³

Recommendation 95

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to support the expansion of the Child Development Service.

Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

- 7.8. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Board of Senior Secondary Studies;
 - Government and non-government schools;
 - Home education;
 - Schools education; and
 - Teacher Quality Institute.⁸³⁴

⁸³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 487-488.

⁸³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 487-488.

⁸³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 487-489.

⁸³³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 486-487.

⁸³⁴ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 6.

Matters considered

7.9. During the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- the evacuation of Canberra schools following threatening phone calls;⁸³⁵
- planning process for new schools;⁸³⁶
- Evelyn Scott School in Molonglo Valley;⁸³⁷
- the recent ACT Youth Assembly at the Australian National University;⁸³⁸
- diagnostic assessments for ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder);⁸³⁹ and
- comparative enrolments for government and non-government schools.⁸⁴⁰

Key issues

School in Belconnen Town Centre

7.10. The Committee heard that there was a need for a school in Belconnen Town Centre:

I definitely see it as a need, and the planning should happen now. A common theme throughout our submission is that population growth is occurring. There are people moving in, but the infrastructure just is not keeping up. A Belconnen town centre primary school has been raised with us by a number of people. ... We have been calling for one for Belconnen town centre. We made a submission on the district strategies being a bit lacking when it comes to planning out our districts, moving forward. The short answer to that question is: yes, we do see it as a need.⁸⁴¹

7.11. The Government stated that there is no plan for a new school in Belconnen and that there is no need at this stage because there is capacity within the other schools in the area.⁸⁴²

7.12. The Committee notes that the ACT Government's 2019 *Infrastructure Plan* references as part of its indicative project pipeline, new or expanded schools in the Belconnen Town Centre.⁸⁴³

Recommendation 96

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government plan a school for Belconnen Town Centre to meet current and future needs of that population.

⁸³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 278-279.

⁸³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 279-281.

⁸³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 281-282.

⁸³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 282-283.

⁸³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 284-285.

⁸⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 285-287.

⁸⁴¹ Mr Lachlan Butler, Chair, Belconnen Community Council, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 49-50.

⁸⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 279-280.

⁸⁴³ ACT Government, *Infrastructure Plan: Planning for the Future*, October 2019, P 44.

8. ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services

8.1. Budget Statements C list the functions of the Health Directorate as follows:

- Providing strategic leadership, policy advice, and oversight of the health system;
- Leading engagement and negotiation with other jurisdictions on health funding agreements and national policy initiatives;
- Administering the ACT Government's legislative program on health matters;
- Engaging with health system partners and stakeholders to ensure health outcomes and impacts are considered in whole-of-government policy and health services planning;
- Delivering effective communications to ensure the ACT community can make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing;
- Supporting and enabling clinical excellence, safe high-quality care, and research across the health system;
- Delivering a range of health prevention, promotion, and protection services;
- Implementing innovative digital technologies across the health system and supporting information and communication technology (ICT) solutions that enable person-centred care;
- Conducting health system planning and evaluation for sustainable services, workforce and infrastructure, that supports effective resource allocation, innovation, and safe high quality care;
- Delivering Territory-wide health infrastructure strategy and design, including public hospital campus planning and planning for new health services;
- Commissioning value-based care that improves health outcomes; and
- Evaluating health system performance to ensure it meets community expectations and performance criteria.⁸⁴⁴

8.2. Budget Statements C also describes the purpose of Canberra Health Services (CHS) as follows:

Canberra Health Services partners with the community and consumers, creating exceptional health care together, by:

- delivering personal health services;
- working in partnerships to improve people's health;
- improving the experience of our consumers by engaging and listening;
- providing leadership in research, education, and clinical excellence; and

⁸⁴⁴ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements C*, p 1.

- designing models of care that deliver the highest standards of safety and quality.⁸⁴⁵

Minister for Health

8.3. The areas of responsibility covered by these Directorates are:

- Minister for Health:
 - Aged care and rehabilitation policy;
 - Cancer policy;
 - Child health development;
 - Commissioning health services;
 - Community health policy and programs (excluding justice health and mental health);
 - Digital health;
 - Drug and alcohol policy and programs;
 - Health infrastructure planning;
 - Health protection and population health;
 - Health research and innovation policy and programs;
 - Health services planning and policy (excluding justice health and mental health);
 - Health system policy, planning and performance monitoring;
 - Local hospital network arrangements; and
 - Regulation of health services;⁸⁴⁶
- Canberra Health Services:
 - Health services and facilities operated by the ACT Government (excluding justice health and mental health).⁸⁴⁷

Matters considered

8.4. During the Minister for Health's appearance before the Committee on Wednesday 19 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- progress on the Canberra Hospital expansion project;⁸⁴⁸
- the development and implementation of the Digital Health Record;⁸⁴⁹

⁸⁴⁵ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements C*, p 37.

⁸⁴⁶ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 11.

⁸⁴⁷ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 11.

⁸⁴⁸ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 247-249.

⁸⁴⁹ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 237-244.

- new community-based health services;⁸⁵⁰
- cases of golden staphylococcus bacterial infections;⁸⁵¹
- transition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce to Canberra Health Services;⁸⁵²
- new north-side hospital;⁸⁵³
- design and planning of the freestanding birth centre;⁸⁵⁴
- ADHD and autism assessments for children;⁸⁵⁵
- implementation of the healthcare workers code of conduct;⁸⁵⁶
- PwC contracts for new northside hospital;⁸⁵⁷ and
- redundancy payments for staff at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.⁸⁵⁸

8.5. During the Minister for Health's appearance before the Committee on Thursday 20 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- use of medical imaging equipment past its end-of-life date;⁸⁵⁹
- Asthma Australia's bid to phase out wood fire heaters;⁸⁶⁰
- recruitment of cardiologists and frontline workers;⁸⁶¹
- funding to support junior doctors;⁸⁶²
- number of staff resignations and retirees;⁸⁶³
- Medical Training Survey 2022;⁸⁶⁴
- Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm;⁸⁶⁵
- Digital Health Record;⁸⁶⁶
- impact of climate change on health services;⁸⁶⁷
- training accreditation in obstetrics and gynaecology;⁸⁶⁸

⁸⁵⁰ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 244–247.

⁸⁵¹ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 250–252.

⁸⁵² Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 252–256.

⁸⁵³ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, p 256.

⁸⁵⁴ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 256–257.

⁸⁵⁵ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 257–259.

⁸⁵⁶ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, p 259.

⁸⁵⁷ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 258–261.

⁸⁵⁸ Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 261.

⁸⁵⁹ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 359–362.

⁸⁶⁰ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 362–364.

⁸⁶¹ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 364–366.

⁸⁶² Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 366–367.

⁸⁶³ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, p 367.

⁸⁶⁴ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, p 368.

⁸⁶⁵ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 368–372.

⁸⁶⁶ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 372–376.

⁸⁶⁷ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 376–380.

⁸⁶⁸ Proof Committee Hansard, 20 July 2023, pp 380–383; p 384.

- dental care;⁸⁶⁹
- reduction of harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;⁸⁷⁰
- drug-testing trials;⁸⁷¹
- Watson Community Health Precinct;⁸⁷²
- Canberra Health Services' new logo;⁸⁷³ and
- use of operating theatres.⁸⁷⁴

Key issues

Golden staphylococcus bacterial infections

8.6. On 18 July 2023, the *Canberra Weekly*, reported that the 'ACT was the only jurisdiction in Australia where rates of golden staph (*Staphylococcus aureus*) in public hospitals exceeded the national benchmark in 2021–22, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data'.⁸⁷⁵

8.7. The Minister for Health was asked about:

- the number of cases/breakdown of cases across hospitals in 2022/23
- the death rate in 2022/23 and comparison with previous years
- how many patients responded, or not, to antibiotics treatment.⁸⁷⁶

These questions were taken on notice but as of the report-writing the answers to the above had not been forwarded to the Estimates Committee.

8.8. The Committee heard that the ACT reports its data differently from other jurisdictions which may account for the higher rates of golden staph as reported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Specifically:

Canberra Health Services data includes non-inpatient hospital-acquired infections that are associated with health care that was received as a non-inpatient—in an emergency department, in an outpatient clinic and in a community health service. That methodology increases the numerator without necessarily increasing the denominator, compared to the way some other jurisdictions count the data.

⁸⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 383–384.

⁸⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 385–386.

⁸⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 387–388.

⁸⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 387–388.

⁸⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 388–389.

⁸⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 389–392.

⁸⁷⁵ Nick Fuller, 'ACT had highest rate of golden staph in Australia', *Canberra Weekly*, July 18, 2023

<https://canberraweekly.com.au/act-had-highest-rate-of-golden-staph-in-country/>

⁸⁷⁶ Ms Leanne Castley, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 249–250.

In terms of those national comparisons, there is a clear caveat, and it is included in the AIHW table, that specifically says that the ACT data may not be comparable with other jurisdictions' data.⁸⁷⁷

- 8.9. The Committee also heard that despite or because of observed data-reporting discrepancies, the ACT Government is committed to the reduction of the incidence of golden staph infections through Canberra Health Services' strategy:

The infection prevention and control unit...convene a review that looks at ...the likely source... what is in the blood cultures and the pattern over the duration of the admission..... We...also review relevant factors—not only the things about an individual patient that might make them more susceptible but also our hand hygiene rates within that area and what procedures have been undertaken to try and identify specifically, around each of those cases, what the contributing factors were in order to address them. There is a very intentional review of every one of those cases that looks at how this can be prevented in future.

In addition, there are a series of strategies around things like hand hygiene rates, and ensuring that we are above the national benchmark that has been set for that. The raft of strategies that are outlined in the national standards for safety and quality in health care talk about how to prevent and improve infection prevention and control across the organisation. The quality and safety team are working with the infection prevention team on identifying additional strategies that may be required.⁸⁷⁸

Recommendation 97

The Committee recommends the ACT Government review their current strategies for reducing *Staphylococcus Aureus* Bacteraemia (SAB) in ACT public hospitals.

Minister for Justice Health

- 8.10. The areas of responsibility covered by these Directorates are:

- Justice health policy; and
- Justice health services and facilities operated by the ACT Government.⁸⁷⁹

Matters considered

- 8.11. During the Minister for Justice Health's appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matter was considered:

- detainee Health and Wellbeing Strategy;⁸⁸⁰

⁸⁷⁷ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 251.

⁸⁷⁸ Ms Janet Zagari, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 250–251.

⁸⁷⁹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 17.

⁸⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 587–588.

Minister for Mental Health

8.12. The areas of responsibility covered by these Directorates are:

- Mental health (Coordinator-General);
- Mental health policy; and
- Mental health services, facilities and programs operated by the ACT Government.⁸⁸¹

Matters considered

8.13. During the Minister for Mental Health's appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- expenditure, construction, and operation of a residential treatment centre for eating disorders;⁸⁸²
- funding for community-based mental health services;⁸⁸³
- Dhulwa mental health service;⁸⁸⁴
- Mental Health Workforce Strategy Action Plan;⁸⁸⁵
- National Mental Health Workforce Strategy;⁸⁸⁶
- ACT trauma-informed care policies in mental health services;⁸⁸⁷
- progression and consultation of the MyHome project;⁸⁸⁸
- Hume Health Centre and Winnunga refurbishment and expansion;⁸⁸⁹
- mental health peer worker access to training;⁸⁹⁰
- peer worker job requirements;⁸⁹¹
- Safe Haven in Belconnen;⁸⁹²
- funding for a Safe Haven on the Canberra Hospital campus;⁸⁹³
- Southside Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service;⁸⁹⁴
- funding decisions for youth mental health programs;⁸⁹⁵

⁸⁸¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 17.

⁸⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 571–578.

⁸⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 576.

⁸⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 575–576.

⁸⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 579–580.

⁸⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 579–581.

⁸⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 581–583.

⁸⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 583–586.

⁸⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 586–588.

⁸⁹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 588–589.

⁸⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 589–590.

⁸⁹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 590–594.

⁸⁹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 591–594.

⁸⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 594.

⁸⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 594–596.

- National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan;⁸⁹⁶ and
- use of the National Mental Health Service Planning Framework.⁸⁹⁷

Key issues

The first action plan for the Mental Health Workforce Strategy

- 8.14. The Committee heard that the ACT Health Directorate is nearing completion of work on the first action plan for the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy. The Minister for Mental Health noted the four priority areas of the strategy and the incorporation of the peer workforce into future workforce plans.⁸⁹⁸
- 8.15. The Mental Health Workforce Strategy has linkages with the Health Workforce Strategy in terms of governance, as the provision of mental health services involves both the general health workforce and the specialised mental health workforce.⁸⁹⁹
- 8.16. The strategy will have a 10-year timeframe, while the action plan will cover the first three years of that period. The ACT Health Directorate explained that delays in development of the national mental health workforce strategy is also impacting work on the ACT strategy. The Committee noted the delays in releasing the strategy and the lack of substantive action since 2018.⁹⁰⁰

Recommendation 98

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, as a matter of priority, release the first action plan for the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy.

⁸⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 595–596.

⁸⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 596.

⁸⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 579–580.

⁸⁹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 579–580.

⁹⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 579–580.

9. Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

9.1. Budget Statements H describe the responsibilities of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) as follows:

The Directorate is responsible for the planning, building and maintenance of many of the ACT Government's infrastructure assets such as roads, bridges, cycling and community paths, and the streetlight network. It also plays an important role in managing the city's open space, parks, neighbourhood play areas and playground equipment, sportsgrounds, recreational facilities, and local shops. The Directorate improves community safety by making ACT roads safer for all users including vulnerable users.

The range of community services delivered by the Directorate includes libraries, waste and recycling services, safer walking and cycling around schools and city amenity. In designing and delivering these services, the Directorate strives to make them accessible for all members of the community.⁹⁰¹

Minister for Sport and Recreation

9.2. The area of responsibility covered by these Directorates is:

- Sports ground management.⁹⁰²

Matters considered

9.3. During the Minister for Sport and Recreation's appearance before the Committee on 20 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- details of the expansion of the Belconnen basketball facility;⁹⁰³
- Royal Life Saving ACT funding;⁹⁰⁴
- delivery of sporting participation opportunities;⁹⁰⁵
- gender-specific and gender-diverse swim teams;⁹⁰⁶
- Canberra Arena ice rink in Greenway;⁹⁰⁷
- Throsby Home of Football funding;⁹⁰⁸
- cost of the Amaroo tennis centre;⁹⁰⁹

⁹⁰¹ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements H*, p 1.

⁹⁰² Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 8.

⁹⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 461–462.

⁹⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 462–463.

⁹⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 463.

⁹⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 463–464.

⁹⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 464–465.

⁹⁰⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 465–467.

⁹⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 467.

- addressing light and noise pollution concerns of the Throsby Home of Football;⁹¹⁰
- future plans for indoor sports facilities across the ACT;⁹¹¹
- Southside hydrotherapy pool funding;⁹¹²
- funding for renovation of the Gungahlin Leisure Centre;⁹¹³
- funding for upgrades and maintenance of the Civic and Dickson pools;⁹¹⁴
- dive pool facility at Mount Stromlo;⁹¹⁵
- tenders for five pool sites;⁹¹⁶
- Aquatic Facility Strategy;⁹¹⁷
- plans for Woden indoor aquatic facilities;⁹¹⁸
- funding for Belconnen half-pipe skatepark and Casey Community Recreation Park;⁹¹⁹
- Hawker District Playing Fields;⁹²⁰
- role of Sport and Recreation in mountain biking in the ACT;⁹²¹
- centralised contact point to Stromlo;⁹²²
- public liability insurance and the hiring of ACT Government facilities by the public;⁹²³
- memorandum of Understanding with the AIS in Bruce;⁹²⁴
- climate adaption measures;⁹²⁵ and
- charge rates for clubs and groups in the ACT for sporting assets.⁹²⁶

Minister for Transport and City Services

9.4. The areas of responsibility covered by these Directorates are:

- active travel (including road crossing supervision);
- autonomous vehicle policy;

⁹¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 467.

⁹¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 468.

⁹¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 468.

⁹¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 469.

⁹¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 469.

⁹¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 469–470.

⁹¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 470.

⁹¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 470–471.

⁹¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 470–471.

⁹¹⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 471–472.

⁹²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 472.

⁹²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 472–473.

⁹²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 473.

⁹²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 474.

⁹²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 474–475.

⁹²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, pp 475–476.

⁹²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 20 July 2023, p 476.

- Community transport;
- Footpaths;
- Mowing and verge maintenance;
- Municipal services;
- Parking policy;
- Policy relating to transport regulation and safety;
- Public space amenity;
- Recycling and waste policy (including clinical waste policy);
- Roads and bridges;
- Stormwater;
- Transport Canberra; and
- Transport planning and reform.⁹²⁷

Matters considered

9.5. During the Minister for Transport and City Service's appearance before the Committee on 18 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO);⁹²⁸
- Yerrabi Pond District Park;⁹²⁹
- Casey Community Recreation Park;⁹³⁰
- Zero Emissions Transition Plan, including bus depot upgrades and electric buses;⁹³¹
- contract with Canberra Metro to retrofit batteries to Light Rail Vehicles and buses;⁹³²
- road construction budget;⁹³³
- Gungahlin Transport Plan;⁹³⁴
- urban forest;⁹³⁵
- Southern Memorial Park;⁹³⁶
- New Materials Recovery Facility (MRF);⁹³⁷

⁹²⁷ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 12.

⁹²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 57–61.

⁹²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 61–63.

⁹³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 63.

⁹³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 63–68.

⁹³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 68–69.

⁹³³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 69–74.

⁹³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 74.

⁹³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 76–78.

⁹³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 78–80.

⁹³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 80–82.

- rapid response mowing team funding;⁹³⁸
- landfill capping process at Mugga Land Landfill;⁹³⁹
- West Belconnen green waste facility;⁹⁴⁰
- waste audits;⁹⁴¹
- School Safety Program;⁹⁴²
- disposal of batteries;⁹⁴³
- budget for early works on Parkes Way;⁹⁴⁴
- upgrade of the Garden City Cycle Route;⁹⁴⁵ and
- buses fleet management.⁹⁴⁶

Key issues

Waste facilities

- 9.6. Budget Statements H notes that the government aims to ‘Strengthen resource recovery and manage the interim solution for recycling whilst progressing procurement for a new MRF and for a new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing facility’, as well as ‘Continuation of the FOGO Pilot in Belconnen to inform the future rollout of FOGO across the ACT as well as the establishment of a new green waste drop off facility in West Belconnen.’⁹⁴⁷
- 9.7. In April 2023, it was announced that the government would be constructing a new MRF after the previous MRF burned down on Boxing Day in 2022, and that the construction of the ACT’s first FOGO processing facility will not become operational until 2026.⁹⁴⁸
- 9.8. The Minister noted in the April media release that the construction of the new MRF was a priority:

Building a new recycling facility has to be the priority after the Boxing Day fire to ensure that we have the basic infrastructure to process and recycle materials in yellow bins.⁹⁴⁹

⁹³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 82–85.

⁹³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 85–86.

⁹⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 86–88.

⁹⁴¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 92–93.

⁹⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 93–94.

⁹⁴³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 94–97.

⁹⁴⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 99–100.

⁹⁴⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 100–101.

⁹⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 101–102.

⁹⁴⁷ ACT Government, *Australian Capital Territory Budget 2023–34: Budget Statements H*, June 2023, pp 2–3.

⁹⁴⁸ Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, ‘[Update on MRF and FOGO following Boxing Day fire](#)’, *Media Release*, 24 April 2023.

⁹⁴⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, ‘[Update on MRF and FOGO following Boxing Day fire](#)’, *Media Release*, 24 April 2023.

- 9.9. This was similarly confirmed by the Minister during the public hearing.⁹⁵⁰
- 9.10. During the public hearing, the Minister was also asked about the planned green waste facility in West Belconnen.⁹⁵¹
- 9.11. The Directorate noted that the facility will be run in the short term (3 years) by Canberra Sand and Gravel. The Committee also heard that the Development Application for the facility is still pending approval by EPSDD, and that there has been a delay in the reconsideration of the Development Application due to EPSDD requesting further information, with a decision expected by the end of July.⁹⁵²
- 9.12. The Committee also asked about the delay of the city-wide rollout of FOGO and construction of a FOGO waste facility.⁹⁵³ The Minister noted to the Committee that the budget provides for the continuation of the existing FOGO pilot in Belconnen and that the government is still committed to a full city-wide rollout.⁹⁵⁴
- 9.13. Both the Minister and officials noted that the government still needs to go out to market for the FOGO facility; however, due to the re-building of the MRF being a priority, it will take longer than originally planned, with an anticipated operational FOGO facility by 2026.⁹⁵⁵
- 9.14. The Committee made the observation that a lot of capital projects are running late, and that the delay with the FOGO facility will mean lost opportunity to take climate action, with any organic waste sent to landfill in 2026 still generating emissions in 2046, potentially compromising the ACT's commitment to net zero by 2045.⁹⁵⁶
- 9.15. The Directorate responded that they are conscious of reducing those emissions, and are working with the landfill gas operator to 'achieve a higher level of recovery from methane emitted from that material going to landfill', and are looking at alternative ways to manage organic materials.⁹⁵⁷
- 9.16. The Minister also was confident that despite the delay in the FOGO facility, the ACT could still meet the National Waste Action Plan target of halving food waste and organics going into land fill by 2030:⁹⁵⁸

We think it is still possible to meet the National Waste Action Plan target of halving food waste and organics into landfill by 2030. We have seen in a very short period of time with the pilot rolling out in Belconnen that, as a result of the

⁹⁵⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 57.

⁹⁵¹ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 87.

⁹⁵² Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 87.

⁹⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 57.

⁹⁵⁴ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 57.

⁹⁵⁵ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 57; Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 57.

⁹⁵⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 57.

⁹⁵⁷ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 58.

⁹⁵⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 59.

waste audit that we have just recently released, which was undertaken in 2022, compared to 2014 when there was 34.9 per cent of food waste in Canberra garbage bins, it is only 15.9 per cent in the FOGO suburbs—so, basically, more than a halving of food waste in the garbage bins.

So once that is rolled out, be it at a slightly later point in time, we expect there to be an immediate reduction that will enable us to meet that National Waste Action Plan target.⁹⁵⁹

Recommendation 99

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Transport and City Services provide a biannual statement to the ACT Legislative Assembly on the progress of waste facilities in the ACT, including FOGO, due to the ongoing delays and the negative impact these delays are having on the climate crisis.

Yerrabi Pond District Park

9.17. The Committee asked the Minister about ongoing projects in Gungahlin, one of which was Yerrabi Pond.⁹⁶⁰

9.18. The Minister told the Committee that the Yerrabi Pond projects are part of a broader investment in the budget into several parks, arising from the Better Suburbs Statement and planning consultation with the community:⁹⁶¹

The Yerrabi Pond upgrades are really focused on meeting the needs of what is obviously a very fast-growing community. It is a very popular park. Currently, the picnic facilities are not adequate. We are looking at providing new picnic facilities, as well as new toilets on both sides of Yerrabi Pond. Parking has obviously been an issue as well. Lighting will be included in the upgrades there as well.⁹⁶²

9.19. This was echoed by Ms Sophie Clement, Acting Executive Branch Manager of Infrastructure Delivery and Waste at TCCS, who noted that feedback from the Gungahlin community was around the condition and amenity of the surrounds of the park, in particular public toilet facilities.⁹⁶³

9.20. Ms Clement informed the Committee that the budget has \$3.27 million allocated to delivering the project and would include replacement of toilets at the existing picnic facility, together with an upgrade to the facility, and the provision of additional public toilet

⁹⁵⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 59.

⁹⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 61.

⁹⁶¹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 61–62.

⁹⁶² Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 62.

⁹⁶³ Ms Sophie Clement, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 62.

facilities at the Bizant Street Playground, as well as additional car parking and lighting upgrades.⁹⁶⁴

- 9.21. The Committee also heard that the project is still in the planning phase, with the Directorate expecting a construction tender out before the end of 2023, with construction at a couple of sites expected to commence in the 2023-2024 financial year and be completed in the 2024-2025 financial year.⁹⁶⁵

Recommendation 100

The Committee recommends that the Government continue to upgrade Yerrabi Pond District Park to meet growing demand.

Bus depot

- 9.22. The Minister was asked to give an update for a timeline on a fourth zero emissions bus depot. The Minister assured that there is ongoing work on the fourth depot:

There is still feasibility work and planning work being undertaken around planning for the fourth depot, which would be located on the north side, and we are looking at a range of different options about where that could be located. West Belconnen is one option, close to the transmission lines there, which already has high-capacity electrical connections capability, but also potentially at Mitchell as well.⁹⁶⁶

- 9.23. However, the Minister also stated that the construction of the fourth depot has been pushed back, due to the third depot (the Tuggeranong depot) expected to be completed next year in 2024, four years ahead of schedule.⁹⁶⁷

I draw your attention to the Zero-Emission Transition Plan, pages 12 and 13. The decision was made by government to move forward the Tuggeranong conversion to an earlier period. We expect that to be completed next year, with the infrastructure work that is currently being undertaken by Evoenergy to provide a high-capacity feeder line through to the Tuggeranong depot to charge up to 200 buses.

That was originally slated under The Preferred Pathway, from 2028 through to 2034. We are now bringing that forward by at least four years, if not more. As a result, we believe that a fourth depot, which had been planned earlier in the Pathway, will no longer need to happen until some years into the future.⁹⁶⁸

⁹⁶⁴ Ms Sophie Clement, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 62.

⁹⁶⁵ Ms Sophie Clement, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p. 63.

⁹⁶⁶ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 63–64.

⁹⁶⁷ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 63.

⁹⁶⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 63.

- 9.24. The Committee was of the view that in order to achieve a better bus service that will reduce reliance on private vehicles, there was a need to expand the fleet quite rapidly, in order to meet the emissions targets. However, the Minister responded that this would occur after assessments:

We have brought forward Tuggeranong considerably. So the need for that fourth depot is now being considered around when that would actually be required. We have to look at the fleet size, and I do not think the fleet will reach a size that will require a fourth depot for some years. So we have to work through what the requirements are for Transport Canberra before we make a decision, but we are updating the plan and the Preferred Pathway to reflect that.⁹⁶⁹

Recommendation 101

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government re-commit to delivering a fourth fully-electric bus depot on the northside of Canberra as soon as practicable, in order to grow the size of the bus fleet to deliver improved services to the growing city.

Bus timetable

- 9.25. During this year and last year's Estimates hearings, the Committee inquired about the interim bus timetable.
- 9.26. Last year's Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23 recommended that the 'ACT Government move the public transport services off the interim timetable and to the permanent timetable as soon as possible.'⁹⁷⁰ The government agreed to this recommendation in its government response, noting that the 'ACT Government is preparing bus network improvements to be implemented for Term 1 2023.'⁹⁷¹
- 9.27. When asked by the Committee whether the bus timetable will be moved back to a 'regular timetable', the Minister stated:

In relation to the timetable, since you mentioned it, we are of course exploring the opportunities. Now that we have a sense of the disruption on the road network associated with major infrastructure projects, public and private, and there is still more disruption to come, we are planning for improvements to the frequency of services. That work is underway and we will be looking at that as soon as we can.⁹⁷²

- 9.28. The Committee is concerned that the revised Term 1 2023 timetable was supposed to be the timetable which moved away from the reduced interim timetable, with improved

⁹⁶⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 64.

⁹⁷⁰ Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23, *Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023*, September 2022, p 147.

⁹⁷¹ ACT Government, *Government Response to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23 Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023*, October 2022, p 47.

⁹⁷² Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 102.

services and additional resources. Instead, there has been even more of a reduction in services.

- 9.29. Transport Canberra have stated that it has targeted the cuts where buses are used the least – that is, off-peak and evening services – however, these are the services which people who are disadvantaged rely on the most. For example, dropping late night services means that people who work in the evenings in the food & services industry can't get home from their shifts. It also impacts healthcare practitioners such as doctors, nurses, and paramedics, and emergency and protective service employees such as firefighters, police officers, and security guards.

Recommendation 102

The Committee recommends that Transport Canberra move off the current interim bus timetable to the previous full services timetable and adopt improved weekend services by December 2023.

Budget Statement H – Estimated Employment Levels

- 9.30. Estimated Employment Levels sections in the Budget provides the Territory entity's projected staffing numbers for the upcoming financial year, with the budgeted numbers for the previous year and the estimated outcome for 2022-23 for the Territory entity. Employment levels are presented in terms of full-time equivalent employee numbers, which is a measure of labour resources employed in the delivery of services to the community.⁹⁷³
- 9.31. In Budget Statements H, Transport Canberra has its Estimated Employment Levels on page 5, across two lines – staffing for Transport Canberra and City Services and staffing for Transport Canberra Operations.⁹⁷⁴
- 9.32. The Committee would like to see the FTE staffing numbers for bus drivers as a separate line, to increase transparency over the number of bus drivers employed at TCCS.

Recommendation 103

The Committee recommends that future Transport Canberra 'Estimated Employment Levels' tables separately show bus drivers' FTE for the budget and forward estimates.

Budget Statement H – Accountability Indicators

- 9.33. Accountability indicators form part of a Territory entity's performance information framework. They are designed to help measure a Territory entity's success in delivering its outputs (goods and/or services). Accountability indicators correspond to Territory entity's

⁹⁷³ ACT Government, [Reader's Guide to the 2023-24 Budget](#), June 2023, p 10.

⁹⁷⁴ ACT Government, [Budget 2023-24 Budget Statements H](#), June 2023, p 5.

output classes and specified outputs, and Territory entities are audited on their achievement against their accountability indicators.⁹⁷⁵

- 9.34. In Budget Statements H, Transport Canberra Operations (TCO) has its Accountability Indicators on page 60, across three key deliverables – Light Rail, Public Transport Passenger Boardings, and Bus Operations.⁹⁷⁶
- 9.35. Under Bus Operations, there are currently five separate indicators:
- Percentage of in-service fleet Euro 5 or better emission standard compliant;
 - Bus service availability;
 - Bus service punctuality;
 - Total network operating cost per network kilometre; and
 - Number of Zero Emission Buses in the in-service fleet.⁹⁷⁷

Recommendation 104

The Committee recommends that future Transport Canberra Operations Accountability Indicators provide up-to-date information showing separate line items for the current number of public transport passenger vehicles in the Transport Canberra Operations fleet, such as electric buses, and the projected fleet size for these vehicles over forward estimates.

- 9.36. The Committee would also like to see details of the number of bus passenger boardings as a separate indicator to that of the total figure for public transport passenger boardings. Currently, the indicator ‘public transport passenger boardings’ measures the patronage number for both buses and rail, combined.

Recommendation 105

The Committee recommends that future Transport Canberra Operations Accountability Indicators include the number of bus passenger boardings as a separate indicator to that of the total figure for public transport passenger boardings.

Cost-benefit analysis of infrastructure projects

- 9.37. During the public hearing on 18 July 2023, the Committee noted escalating costs on road construction projects, particularly the duplication of William Hovell Drive, and asked the Minister for Transport and City Services how value for money was determined when project costs had risen.
- 9.38. The Minister responded that all proposals for additional funding for such projects would be raised for consideration through a business case process in the budget. Benefits of the

⁹⁷⁵ ACT Government, [Reader's Guide to the 2023-24 Budget](#), June 2023, p 12.

⁹⁷⁶ ACT Government, [Budget 2023-24 Budget Statements H](#), June 2023, p 60.

⁹⁷⁷ ACT Government, [Budget 2023-24 Budget Statements H](#), June 2023, p 60.

augmented transport connections would include active travel components, public transport access, and connectivity for new housing and new commercial land releases.⁹⁷⁸

- 9.39. The Minister advised the Committee that such business cases were not typically published, as it was not the usual practice for governments in Australia to do so, but that contracts were released through the contracts register when road corridor upgrades were funded, ‘so that it is clear about what we are delivering and what the costs are’.⁹⁷⁹
- 9.40. In response to a Question Taken on Notice, the Minister advised that the original construction budget for the duplication of William Hovell Drive was \$63.25 million, including a \$36.75 million contribution from the ACT and \$26.5 million Commonwealth contribution. The construction budget was increased in the 2023–2024 Budget by \$44 million, approximately 70 percent.⁹⁸⁰
- 9.41. The original construction budget for the John Gorton Drive extension and Molonglo River Bridge was \$176.20 million, including \$2 million for design and planning and comprising \$88.7 million ACT contribution and \$87.5 million Commonwealth contribution. This budget was increased in the 2022–2023 Budget Review by \$25 million, approximately 14 percent.⁹⁸¹
- 9.42. The Minister advised that the increases could be attributed to several factors, including global instability causing higher costs and demand for raw construction materials, global demand on international freight, and a high level of post-pandemic economic stimulus being undertaken nationally and globally to progress a backlog of infrastructure works.⁹⁸²
- 9.43. During the public hearing on 25 July 2023, the Committee raised these matters with the Auditor-General, who noted that it was ‘notoriously difficult to say that a \$26 million project that started at a particular point in time is necessarily the same project as the \$80 million project you are looking at now’.⁹⁸³
- 9.44. Nonetheless, the Auditor-General was of the view that it would be good practice to have a cost-benefit analysis for every publicly-funding infrastructure project:

... and, in the interests of taxpayers knowing where their money is going, that information should be publicly available so that the value for money test is being applied in a public way and in a transparent way.⁹⁸⁴

⁹⁷⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 69–70.

⁹⁷⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 70.

⁹⁸⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *answer to QTON 029: Original cost for William Hovell Drive duplication*, 18 July 2023 (received 25 July 2023).

⁹⁸¹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *answer to QTON 029: Original cost for William Hovell Drive duplication*, 18 July 2023 (received 25 July 2023).

⁹⁸² Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *answer to QTON 029: Original cost for William Hovell Drive duplication*, 18 July 2023 (received 25 July 2023).

⁹⁸³ Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 732.

⁹⁸⁴ Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 732.

- 9.45. The Auditor-General further noted that high demand for infrastructure projects such as housing and road construction made it more difficult to contain costs, especially as labour and supply markets were ‘very tight’.⁹⁸⁵
- 9.46. In response to a Committee question regarding the provision of a cost-benefit analysis for light rail but not for a road extension, the Auditor-General said that a cost analysis for light rail would be ‘much more difficult’ than one for ‘a small road extension’:

The complexity generally comes in the benefits analysis rather than the hard numbers. The hard numbers are easy to predict and to manage. The soft numbers, which relate to the social benefits in particular, are the difficult ones, and they are the ones that are generally subjective in nature and based on assumptions. Every cost-benefit analysis lives or dies on the assumptions that underpin the analysis, so it is not actually the numbers you should look at; it is the assumptions that sit underneath, particularly the discount rate that is used to determine the current value of future cash flows.⁹⁸⁶

Recommendation 106

The Committee recommends that, for major capital projects budgeted at over \$50 million, projects be re-evaluated for value for money where costs increase by more than 25 percent of the original budget and results of that re-evaluation be reported publicly.

Walking and cycling infrastructure on all major roads

- 9.47. The Committee heard from Pedal Power that cycling infrastructure in Canberra requires development.

I think we are actually at the risk of Canberra losing the status as being a cycling mecca. I think that is the biggest fear I have when you ask that question. We look at cities around the world and cities in Australia: they are investing heavily in cycling infrastructure, both for commuters but also for people who want to visit. My reading and the reading of the people in our organisation is that Canberra has become a little bit complacent and in turn that we risk losing a lot of that status.⁹⁸⁷

- 9.48. Concerns with cycling on main roads were raised:

I would say with something like Monaro Highway, there has been a lot of discussion about the construction of a separated cycle lane, similar to that part of Majura Parkway. I have used it multiple times and I feel safer and also cleaner than if I were to ride on the road. I have ridden that quite a few times. The advice we have received from the government is that they feel it is too expensive during

⁹⁸⁵ Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 733.

⁹⁸⁶ Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 733.

⁹⁸⁷ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, pp 67–68.

the duplication there to add in a separated lane. We are worried it will not be built, and that is disappointing and frustrating because it means that you still get stuck on the road in that instance.

Going back to the question about duplications, for example, we still think there should be a discussion about whether duplication is the best thing to do but when they are happening, the minimum is that they should also include a separated shared path or cycle lane. We know that is happening with William Hovell Drive and we support that. We are not sure that is going to happen with Monaro Highway and that is a real worry for us. That would help solve some of your problems because you do not get the debris from the cars coming off when it is a separated infrastructure.⁹⁸⁸

- 9.49. The Minister told the Committee that it was not intended to have cycle lanes for safety reasons:

With the intention of the project, because we are making the Monaro Highway safer, there is the possibility of increasing the speed limit to 100 kilometres an hour. It is currently 80 kilometres around the section in Hume. As a result of that, based on Australian standards, you are quite correct. It would be inappropriate to have on-road cycle lanes for safety reasons.⁹⁸⁹

- 9.50. He went on further to say that it was planned to have an off-road shared path separated from the road.⁹⁹⁰

Recommendation 107

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government deliver fully separated walking and cycling infrastructure on all major roads projects including all stages of the Monaro Highway Project in order to be compliant with Australian road standards for safe cycling infrastructure.

Gungahlin Transport Plan

- 9.51. The Committee noted that the 2023-24 Budget funds the development of a new Gungahlin Transport Plan, and inquired as to what this involves.⁹⁹¹
- 9.52. The Minister told the Committee that some work has already commenced in this area owing to funding from previous Budgets, with modelling work on traffic in the Gungahlin region and town centre. The Minister pointed out that the next step in the process is development of the actual transport plan.⁹⁹²

⁹⁸⁸ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Pedal Power, ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 17 July 2023, p 69.

⁹⁸⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 74.

⁹⁹⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 74.

⁹⁹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 74.

⁹⁹² Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 74–75.

9.53. Mr Geoff Davidson, Executive Branch Manager of Development Coordination Branch at TCCS, outlined that 'This Gungahlin transport plan will seek to implement the vision and the strategic objectives of that strategy to provide a long-term plan for the Gungahlin town centre and its surrounding road network.'⁹⁹³

9.54. Mr Davidson highlighted to the Committee that the plan, which will be finalised in the first quarter of 2024, will look at multimodal network planning.⁹⁹⁴

It is about looking at different scenarios, having regard to changing land use for the Gungahlin town centre and how that changing land use might then impact on the surrounding road corridors, and providing that long-term strategy and program of initiatives to achieve that vision.⁹⁹⁵

9.55. This will include looking at active travel connections, identified through a feasibility study,⁹⁹⁶ in addition to road connections.⁹⁹⁷

9.56. The feasibility study looked at prioritisation of the concept designs using different weighting scenarios based on route status, safety, and infrastructure, and identified the following works packages as of being high priority under each weighting scenario:

- Link 2 – Gribble Street to Wunderlich Crescent LCR;
- Link 3, East Package – The Valley Avenue northern verge trunk path from Gozzard Street to Gungahlin Place;
- Link 4, Package 1 – Anthony Rolfe Avenue, improvements to the Franz Bormann Close intersection;
- Link 4, Package 5 – Anthony Rolfe Avenue mode separation from Hinder Street to Hamer Street;
- Link 6, Package 2 – Gungahlin Place median PCR from Efkarpidis Street to Anthony Rolfe Avenue;
- Link 8, Package 1 – Anthony Rolfe Avenue raised crossings; and
- Link 8, Package 3 – Gundaroo Drive signalised pedestrian crossing.⁹⁹⁸

9.57. The TCCS website further notes that:

In the 2023-24 ACT Budget, funding was provided to progress high priority segments through to detailed design. The first stage of the project will review the report to identify the high priority sections to be taken to detailed design to ensure continuity and best outcome for the community. This may include links

⁹⁹³ Mr Geoff Davidson, Executive Branch Manager, Development Coordination Branch, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 75.

⁹⁹⁴ Mr Geoff Davidson, Executive Branch Manager, Development Coordination Branch, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 75.

⁹⁹⁵ Mr Geoff Davidson, Executive Branch Manager, Development Coordination Branch, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 75.

⁹⁹⁶ GHD Pty Ltd, [Gungahlin Town Centre Active Travel Feasibility Study](#), September 2022, accessed 3 August 2023.

⁹⁹⁷ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 75.

⁹⁹⁸ GHD Pty Ltd, [Gungahlin Town Centre Active Travel Feasibility Study](#), September 2022, accessed 3 August 2023, p 72.

such as the shared path along Gundaroo Drive and the connection from the Town Centre to Yerrabi Pond District Park.⁹⁹⁹

Recommendation 108

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government complete the Gungahlin Transport Plan as a matter of priority.

Performance metrics for shrubs and ground cover

- 9.58. As part of the implementation of the *Urban Forest Act 2023* from 1 January 2024, additional resources have been allocated to assessing tree damage applications, tree inspections and tree maintenance including end of life tree removal and planting new trees.¹⁰⁰⁰
- 9.59. The government plans to plant 54,000 trees by 2024 in the ACT to enhance the urban forest.¹⁰⁰¹ The Committee heard that further funding will be considered after this, after considering updated LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) modelling to determine the number of trees that would be required to meet the target of 30 percent tree canopy cover by 2045.¹⁰⁰²
- 9.60. Using 2020 LiDAR data, Canberra's 2020 tree canopy cover has been estimated at 22.5 percent as a percentage of total land area with trees above three meters in height.¹⁰⁰³
- 9.61. When the Minister was asked if shrubs and ground cover is also part of current considerations, the Committee was told that the same target also applied to permeable surfaces under the Living Infrastructure Plan, and that shrubs and ground covers are not key to the canopy benefits being sought.¹⁰⁰⁴
- 9.62. Recommendation 122 of the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23 report recommended that the ACT Government provide performance reporting of shrub and ground cover plantings. However, the government response to this recommendation did not address the issue given there are targets for both canopy cover and permeable surfaces:

Government response

Noted.

The priority for the ACT Government is to provide reporting on the progress towards 30 per cent canopy cover as articulated through the Urban Forest Strategy.¹⁰⁰⁵

⁹⁹⁹ ACT Government, *'Active travel in the Gungahlin Town Centre'*, accessed 3 August 2023.

¹⁰⁰⁰ ACT Government, *2023-24 Budget Outlook*, p 191.

¹⁰⁰¹ ACT Government, *Urban Forest Strategy*, [Urban Forest Strategy - City Services \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy), accessed 8 August 2023.

¹⁰⁰² Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 193–194.

¹⁰⁰³ ACT Government, *Urban Forest Strategy*, [Urban Forest Strategy - City Services \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy), accessed 8 August 2023.

¹⁰⁰⁴ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 193–195.

¹⁰⁰⁵ ACT Government, *Response to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-23*, p 49.

- 9.63. Providing more permeable surfaces is described as important for drought proofing and stormwater use:

Drought-proofing the city means providing more permeable surfaces to capture and use rain; investing in waterway naturalisation, and retrofitting existing infrastructure to divert, harvest, store and use stormwater at all scales.¹⁰⁰⁶

The ACT's new 30% permeable surfaces target will support the revised Territory Plan and Water Sensitive Urban Design Code. It also sends a clear message to all in our community that we need to reduce urban run-off, and that stormwater is a valuable resource, to be used wherever possible to hydrate the ground, sustain vegetation and reduce pollution in our waterways.¹⁰⁰⁷

- 9.64. Given that action 2 in the Living Infrastructure Plan is to achieve 30 percent tree canopy cover (or equivalent) and 30 percent permeable surfaces in Canberra's urban footprint by 2045,¹⁰⁰⁸ the Committee considers that it is necessary for performance metrics to be implemented for planting of shrubs and ground covers.

Recommendation 109

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should develop and implement performance metrics for the planting of shrubs and ground cover.

Canopy Contribution Fund

- 9.65. The Budget Outlook identifies offsets of \$1,488,000 for 2023-24 as part of the government's funding to support the implementation of the *Urban Forest Act 2023*.¹⁰⁰⁹ The Minister explained to the Committee that these offsets are revenue from the Act's Canopy Contribution Scheme:

The scheme is premised on when a tree cannot be replaced onsite, as a result of having to be removed for various reasons that are set out in the Urban Forest Act, then a contribution would have to be made through a canopy contribution agreement to the canopy contribution fund. That fund would then be used to undertake more plantings and fund tree maintenance activities. That is what we have achieved through the budget, using that revenue that has been forecast. We will not know exactly how much revenue will come in until the scheme actually begins next year, but we are forecasting a certain amount of revenue, and we will be using that revenue to fund activities.¹⁰¹⁰

¹⁰⁰⁶ ACT Government, [Living Infrastructure Plan](#), p 14.

¹⁰⁰⁷ ACT Government, [Living Infrastructure Plan](#), p 23.

¹⁰⁰⁸ ACT Government, [Living Infrastructure Plan](#), p 19.

¹⁰⁰⁹ ACT Government, *Australian Capital Territory Budget 2023-2024, Budget Outlook*, June 2023, p 191.

¹⁰¹⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 76.

Recommendation 110

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish online the quarterly revenue and expenditure of the canopy contribution fund once it is established.

Renewable burial options

- 9.66. During the public hearing, the Committee inquired with the Minister as to the status of the Southern Memorial Park project, and the potential for issues in operating the crematorium, given the ACT's transition away from gas.¹⁰¹¹
- 9.67. The Committee heard that the Directorate is currently delivering the detailed design of Stage 1, as well as preparing documentation for the submission of the Development Application.¹⁰¹² Mr Neale Guthrie, Chair of the Canberra Memorial Parks Board, informed the Committee that the Southern Memorial Park is expected to be operational by 2027-2028.¹⁰¹³
- 9.68. Mr Guthrie also told the Committee that there are alternative methods of body disposal that could potentially replace gas in the longer term, such as human composting, which is being considered and monitored for Southern Memorial Park.¹⁰¹⁴
- 9.69. The Minister however indicated that human composting was 'not a priority for the government':

Just to be clear on that one, it is not a priority for government to be looking at that. Obviously, we monitor developments in the sector, but it is not a priority for us to look at that. Our priority is getting the site established at Southern Memorial Park to enable burial and, in the future, potential cremation. We are not focused on human composting.¹⁰¹⁵

Recommendation 111

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate renewable burial options, such as human composting, during the development of Southern Memorial Park.

Soft plastics recycling

- 9.70. During the discussion on the new MRF, the Committee posed to the Minister the deficiencies of the previous MRF when it came to supermarket waste, such as not being able to take shredded paper, small plastics, and various hard and soft plastics, and asked

¹⁰¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 78–79.

¹⁰¹² Ms Sophie Clement, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 78.

¹⁰¹³ Mr Neale Guthrie, Chair, Canberra Memorial Parks Board, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 78.

¹⁰¹⁴ Mr Neale Guthrie, Chair, Canberra Memorial Parks Board, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 79.

¹⁰¹⁵ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 80.

whether the new facility would be able to take all the standard waste produced by supermarkets.¹⁰¹⁶

- 9.71. The Minister noted that the new MRF would not be able to do so, highlighting the need for greater regulation of packaging materials towards recyclable products, particularly by the Commonwealth.¹⁰¹⁷ The Minister however did note that:

The new MRF will provide greater capability to process and sort materials, particularly adding capability like being able to flake certain plastic products and actually sort them into different polymers, so that we can effectively eliminate the waste stream of mixed plastic that used to exist. It was actually the only waste stream that was going overseas from the ACT. We will have those extra capabilities, which means that we can see more of that material go, hopefully, to things like food grade remanufacturing into new products, and we will see them on the supermarket shelves rather than going into landfill.¹⁰¹⁸

- 9.72. Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager of Infrastructure Delivery and Waste at TCCS, also added that as part of considerations for the new MRF, the Directorate is looking at ensuring strong end markets for the sorted material:

It is one thing to receive the material; it is another to have processing capacity in order to make that material into something beneficial. As part of the procurement, we will ask industry to make sure that the material is not just sorted and stockpiled but that it is actually processed to a higher quality standard.¹⁰¹⁹

- 9.73. The Committee also asked what the government was planning on doing with soft plastics in the near future.¹⁰²⁰

- 9.74. Mr Fitzgerald outlined to the Committee some of the work being done in this space:

At the moment we are working with some of the large retailers. We know that some of the big supermarkets have been working on solutions with the ACCC as to how they manage that material. Opportunities for collection through the yellow bin have been considered previously. They do come with problems, in that there are opportunities for them to effectively foul in the sorting machine. They have to be considered in the broader sense of value when it comes to their impact in the recycling process.

We have looked at opportunities like Curby, which I think is what is being implemented in Adelaide—a yellow plastic bag that collects the material. I still come back to the problem of processing. We still do not have sufficient processing capacity within Australia to handle the material gathered. We are working with some of those other industries on where the materials go once they are collected.

¹⁰¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 80.

¹⁰¹⁷ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 80.

¹⁰¹⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 80–81.

¹⁰¹⁹ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 81.

¹⁰²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 82.

Until we have found those strong end markets for the material, the collection is still problematic.¹⁰²¹

Recommendation 112

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigates initiatives relating to recycling of soft plastics at waste facilities in the ACT.

Recycle right campaign

- 9.75. During the discussion on the new MRF, battery fire risk arising from incorrect disposal was raised, given this was the cause of the destruction of the previous MRF.¹⁰²²
- 9.76. The Committee heard that the occurrence of fires from batteries has increased in the last couple of years, and in response, the Directorate has been coordinating an education campaign to promote safe disposal of batteries:

This is a known risk across all materials recovery facilities, and hot loads have been occurring in waste trucks right across Australia. It has been increasing over time, as we see the proliferation of batteries used in consumer electronic goods. We have been running an education campaign, together with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, for some time. It is called Recycle Right, which had as one of its core messages “Keeping it Safe”, particularly not putting batteries into either bin—whether it is the garbage bin or the recycle bin that goes to the MRF.¹⁰²³

- 9.77. The Minister also informed the Committee that since the 2022 Boxing Day fire, it has aimed to increase education efforts and work with neighbouring local governments on consistent messaging.¹⁰²⁴ The Minister however acknowledged that it is a challenging space, owing to the onus on citizens to do the right thing:

Well, we cannot, because, ultimately, it is up to and is a responsibility of individual citizens to do the right thing—to recycle in the right way and not contaminate our waste stream with batteries. We can try to better educate the community, provide them with better drop-off points and try to manage those contaminants better when they reach the facility. But if people do not do the right thing, it makes it very challenging. It is an issue that all local governments are facing right around the country at the moment. It is becoming an increasing risk over time; there is no doubt about that.¹⁰²⁵

¹⁰²¹ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 82.

¹⁰²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 94.

¹⁰²³ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 95.

¹⁰²⁴ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 95.

¹⁰²⁵ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 96.

Recommendation 113

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government evaluate the effectiveness of the 'Recycle Right' campaign particularly in relation to the 'Keeping it Safe' message and investigate what improvements can be made to the campaign.

Rapid response mowing team

- 9.78. The 2023-24 Budget provides further funding (\$2,688,000) for the rapid response mowing team (RRMT).¹⁰²⁶ The Minister explained that this was to allow the RRMT to continue its work in mowing and weeding throughout the city.¹⁰²⁷
- 9.79. Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager of City Presentation at TCCS, added that the RRMT initiative had been well received by the public, and allows for greater responsiveness by the Directorate, with 19 percent of the Fix My Street complaints related to line of sight being dealt with quickly by the RRMT.¹⁰²⁸
- 9.80. Mr Iglesias also noted there have been several positive outcomes arising from the initiative:

The rapid response team gets to know where the pressure points are. Over the course of the year, they start to learn where the problems might arise ahead of even the public reporting it to us. These are the sorts of intangibles that feed back, in quite a positive way, to see the public presentation of the mowing area but also staff's perception of their work, which really translates to a great outcome.

So we can see that not only are we getting to the areas we need to get to more often in a challenging period but we are also getting the priorities right in that ever-complex mix of where do we go to next. We do have our schedule, where we go through quite systematically the entire length and breadth of the ACT. This team gives us the capacity to be agile and to pivot when we need to. From my perspective, it has been a great initiative.¹⁰²⁹

Recommendation 114

The Committee recommends that the rapid response mowing team becomes a permanent part of the ACT mowing program.

¹⁰²⁶ ACT Government, *Australian Capital Territory Budget 2023-24: Budget Statements H*, June 2023, p 29.

¹⁰²⁷ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 82.

¹⁰²⁸ Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 82.

¹⁰²⁹ Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 83.

10. Major Projects Canberra

- 10.1. Budget Papers I states that Major Projects Canberra's purpose is '...to build infrastructure for our community that makes Canberra the world's most liveable city.'¹⁰³⁰

Minister for Health

- 10.2. The area of responsibility covered by these Directorates is:

- Delivery of the Canberra Hospital Expansion.¹⁰³¹

Matters considered

- 10.3. During the Minister for Health's appearance before the Committee on Wednesday 19 July, 2023, the following matter was considered:

- progress on the Canberra Hospital expansion project;¹⁰³²

Minister for Transport and City Services

- 10.4. The area of responsibility covered by these Directorates is:

- Delivery of the City to Woden light rail project and finalisation of the Gungahlin to the City light rail project.¹⁰³³

Matters considered

- 10.5. During the Minister for Transport and City Service's appearance before the Committee on 18 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Light Rail Stage 2A and 2B;¹⁰³⁴ and
- Light Rail Stage 2B proposed route and cost.¹⁰³⁵

Key issues

Light Rail Stage 2A and 2B

- 10.6. The Committee asked the Minister about large-scale projects such as road construction and the Light Rail, and how the ACT Government determines these projects' value for money against rising associated costs.

¹⁰³⁰ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements I*, p 1.

¹⁰³¹ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 11.

¹⁰³² Proof Committee Hansard, 19 July 2023, pp 247–249.

¹⁰³³ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 30.

¹⁰³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 53–57.

¹⁰³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 88–92.

- 10.7. The Minister responded that there are business case processes, notwithstanding the necessity to continue to invest in transport connections that support the Territory's growth:¹⁰³⁶

That needs to be considered when we are considering the costs of delivering these projects. It is why we still remain committed to many of these road projects, because they do deliver such substantial benefits, despite the fact that there has been a cost escalation because of the cost of materials going up—asphalt, gravel and those sorts of materials—for a range of different reasons, including the war in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain interruptions, the cost of labour and so forth.¹⁰³⁷

- 10.8. The Committee asked the Minister whether these business cases are published. The Minister stated that 'typically, they are not.'¹⁰³⁸

- 10.9. When questioned about the business case specifically for Light Rail Stage 2B, the Minister outlined how 'business cases are completed years ahead of actually going through a procurement process' and that 'things happen in between':¹⁰³⁹

That is typically the way that things would be done with a business case completed first, before we go through the planning process. But, with this one, the level of risk is so high, because we are literally having to go through four different planning processes, we need to understand what the scope of the project is and if there are any changes that need to be made to the route and an alignment of light rail stage 2B. We need to consider what the options are in the business case and we need to go through this process first. That is important. That will enable government to make better decisions about what we do and how we deliver stage 2B.¹⁰⁴⁰

- 10.10. Further, the Committee requested for a breakdown of the \$196.8 million four-year investment on Light Rail Stages 2A and 2B. The government took the question on notice, and the Minister provided a response on 25 July 2023 with the following breakdown of the 2023-24 Budget item 'Better Transport Infrastructure – Light Rail Stage 2A and 2B'.¹⁰⁴¹

Better Transport Infrastructure – Light Rail Stage 2A and 2B	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Four-year investment
Light Rail Vehicle Procurement, Retrofit and Depot Expansion Modification	\$49,496	\$38,965	\$32,162	-	\$120,623

¹⁰³⁶ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 70.

¹⁰³⁷ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 70.

¹⁰³⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 70.

¹⁰³⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 90.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 90.

¹⁰⁴¹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, *answer to QTON 25: Breakdown of Light Rail Stage 2 costs*, 18 July 2023 (received 25 July 2023).

Light Rail Stage 2A Design and Procurement	\$26,173	-	-	-	\$26,173
Light Rail Stage 2B Design and Approvals	\$27,750	\$22,250	-	-	\$50,000
Total	\$103,419	\$62,215	\$32,162	-	\$196,796

Table 2: Breakdown of Light Rail Stage 2 costs (\$'000), see Mr Chris Steel MLA, *answer to QTON 9: Breakdown of Light Rail Stage 2 costs*, 18 July 2023 (received 25 July 2023), p 1.

- 10.11. Whilst the Committee understands that there are commercial sensitivities surrounding procurement processes, the Committee sees benefit in providing transparency to the public due to significant community interest, and would therefore like for the government to release a preliminary business case for Light Rail Stage 2B.
- 10.12. The Committee would also like for the government to include a dedicated overview of Light Rail Stages 2A and 2B in a subsection of future ACT Budget papers, along with associated enabling projects such as the raising of London Circuit.

Recommendation 115

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release a preliminary business case for Light Rail Stage 2B as soon as practicable.

Recommendation 116

The Committee recommends that future ACT Budget papers contain a dedicated overview of all budget aspects of Light Rail Stages 2A and 2B and associated projects. This would include indicators on construction progress, budget and forward estimates' expenditure provisions and projections, and estimated completion dates for budgeted activities and procurements.

Minister for Skills

- 10.13. The area of responsibility covered by these Directorates is:
- Delivery of the Canberra Institute of Technology campus redevelopment.¹⁰⁴²

Matters considered

- 10.14. During the Minister for Skills' appearance before the Committee on 31 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- arts space on CIT Woden campus;¹⁰⁴³ and
 - CIT expansion.¹⁰⁴⁴

¹⁰⁴² Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 30.

¹⁰⁴³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1082–1083.

¹⁰⁴⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1105–1106, 1108.

Minister for the Arts

10.15. The area of responsibility covered by these Directorates is:

- Delivery of the Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment project.¹⁰⁴⁵

Matters considered

10.16. During the Minister for the Arts' appearance before the Committee on 24 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Canberra Theatre Centre Redevelopment project.¹⁰⁴⁶

¹⁰⁴⁵ Administrative arrangements 2022 (No 2), Notifiable instrument NI2022-697, p 14.

¹⁰⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2023, pp 598-600.

11. Office of the Legislative Assembly

- 11.1. Under section 6 of the *Legislative of the Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012*, the function of the Office of the Legislative Assembly (the Office) is to provide impartial advice and support to the Legislative Assembly, its committees, and members of the Assembly. Funding for Office is laid out in Budget Statements A.¹⁰⁴⁷

Matters considered

- 11.2. During the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly's appearance before the Committee on 21 July 2023, the following matters were considered:
- Committee Support restructure;¹⁰⁴⁸
 - temporary employment register;¹⁰⁴⁹
 - 2013 Legislative Assembly Review;¹⁰⁵⁰
 - upgrades to the front entrance;¹⁰⁵¹
 - Digital Transformation Strategy;¹⁰⁵²
 - WHS Commissioner;¹⁰⁵³
 - zero emissions arrangements;¹⁰⁵⁴ and
 - the provision of cleaning.¹⁰⁵⁵

Key issues

Electrification program

- 11.3. The Committee heard that the Office of the Legislative Assembly have updated the lighting, heating and cooling systems with an aim towards achieving zero emissions. However, there is still gas use which would need to be addressed next time the heating and gas is replaced, noting that this was only done about three years ago.¹⁰⁵⁶
- 11.4. The Office of the Legislative Assembly advised that since 2002 they have had a program in place for undertaking condition and lifecycle assessments of key portfolio assets. This was updated in 2018. The only gas fired item is a boiler which provides heating to the

¹⁰⁴⁷ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements A*, p 45.

¹⁰⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 535–537, 540.

¹⁰⁴⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 536.

¹⁰⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 537–539.

¹⁰⁵¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 539.

¹⁰⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 539–540.

¹⁰⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 540–541, 543–544.

¹⁰⁵⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 541–543.

¹⁰⁵⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, p 543.

¹⁰⁵⁶ Ms Joy Burch, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2023, pp 541–542.

Assembly building which was installed in 2013 and planned for review and replacement from 2028 onward.¹⁰⁵⁷

Recommendation 117

The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly should undertake an audit of fossil fuel powered assets and prepare a zero-emissions transition plan which sees the Assembly achieve zero-emissions before 2045 in line with ACT Government commitments.

¹⁰⁵⁷ Ms Joy Burch MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, *answer to QTON 68: Asset Management plan – replacing gas with electric*, 26 June 2023 (received 27 July 2023).

12. Officers of the Legislative Assembly

ACT Audit Office

- 12.1. According to Budget Statements A, the ACT Audit Office ‘aims to promote public accountability for the effective and efficient provision of ACT public services by providing independent, evidenced-based audit reports to the ACT Legislative Assembly and ACT community.’¹⁰⁵⁸

Matters considered

- 12.2. During the Minister for Gaming’s appearance before the Committee on 25 July, the following matters were considered:
- Performance audits;¹⁰⁵⁹
 - Transparency of road infrastructure cost-benefit analyses;¹⁰⁶⁰
 - Strategic Review of the Auditor-General’s Office;¹⁰⁶¹
 - Addressing Agency concerns with Audit Reports;¹⁰⁶² and
 - Retention and recruitment of staff.¹⁰⁶³

ACT Electoral Commission

- 12.3. The ACT Electoral Commission is an independent statutory authority with the responsibility to ‘deliver trusted, transparent, secure and accessible electoral services.’ The funding for the Electoral Commission is laid out in Budget Papers A.¹⁰⁶⁴

Matters considered

- 12.4. During the ACT Electoral Commissioner’s appearance before the Committee on 25 July, the following matters were considered:
- boundary redistribution program;¹⁰⁶⁵
 - trust in political advertising laws;¹⁰⁶⁶
 - use of electronic voting booths in 2024 election;¹⁰⁶⁷
 - expenditure on capital projects;¹⁰⁶⁸ and

¹⁰⁵⁸ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements A*, p 34.

¹⁰⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 729–731.

¹⁰⁶⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 731–734.

¹⁰⁶¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 734.

¹⁰⁶² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 734–735.

¹⁰⁶³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 735–737.

¹⁰⁶⁴ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements A*, p 1.

¹⁰⁶⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 714–716.

¹⁰⁶⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 716–717.

¹⁰⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 717–719.

¹⁰⁶⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 719–721.

- telephone interception powers proposal.¹⁰⁶⁹

ACT Integrity Commission

- 12.5. The ACT Integrity Commission is an independent statutory authority established by the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*. According to Budget Statements A, its functions are to:
- Investigate conduct that is alleged to be corrupt conduct;
 - Refer suspected instances of criminality or wrongdoing to the appropriate authority for further investigation and action;
 - Prevent corruption;
 - Publish information about investigations conducted by the Commission, including lessons learned;
 - Provide education programs about the operation of this Act and the Commission, including providing advice, training and education services;
 - Foster public confidence in the Legislative Assembly and public sector.¹⁰⁷⁰

Matters considered

- 12.6. During the Integrity Commissioner's appearance before the Committee on 19 July, the following matters were considered:
- investigation into the integrity of the CIT contacts and Campbell school modernisation projects;¹⁰⁷¹
 - Auditor-General's investigation into Human Resources management program;¹⁰⁷²
 - increase in investigative and legal resources;¹⁰⁷³
 - National Anti-Corruption Commission;¹⁰⁷⁴ and
 - contact with the ACT Government Solicitor.¹⁰⁷⁵

Key issues

Integrity Commission funding

- 12.7. During the hearing, the Committee asked about funding and staffing levels for the Integrity Commission.
- 12.8. The Commissioner advised the Committee that a proposed increase to the Commission's funding for investigative and legal resources would primarily provide two and a half full-

¹⁰⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 355–356.

¹⁰⁷⁰ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements A*, p 22.

¹⁰⁷¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 350–352.

¹⁰⁷² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 352–353.

¹⁰⁷³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 353–354.

¹⁰⁷⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 354–355.

¹⁰⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 355.

time equivalent (FTE) staff for one year and three FTE in the following year. When funding ceased after two years, the Commission would lose those staff.¹⁰⁷⁶

- 12.9. The Commissioner noted that there were three matters ‘on the cusp of being reported’, but that because they were all historical matters, priority was being given to publishing reports on matters of current importance and ‘where we can currently change things as distinct from historical matters where we can do little else but wag the finger and move on’.¹⁰⁷⁷
- 12.10. The Committee notes that the *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2022–2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022–2023* (last year’s Estimates Report) expressed concern that the Commission was significantly under-resourced and that its funding needs were likely to increase as it became more established in performing what is an essential role.¹⁰⁷⁸

Recommendation 118

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ACT Integrity Commission has sufficient funding to meet its increased workload to allow it to complete investigations in a timely manner.

ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of the Integrity Commission

- 12.11. The ACT Integrity Commission is an independent statutory authority established by the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*. According to Budget Statements A, its functions are to:
- Investigate conduct that is alleged to be corrupt conduct;
 - Refer suspected instances of criminality or wrongdoing to the appropriate authority for further investigation and action;
 - Prevent corruption;
 - Publish information about investigations conducted by the Commission, including lessons learned;
 - Provide education programs about the operation of this Act and the Commission, including providing advice, training and education services;
 - Foster public confidence in the Legislative Assembly and public sector.¹⁰⁷⁹

¹⁰⁷⁶ The Hon Michael Adams KC, Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 353; Mr Scott Hickey, Chief Financial Officer, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 353.

¹⁰⁷⁷ The Hon Michael Adams KC, Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 354.

¹⁰⁷⁸ Select Committee on Estimates 2022–2023, *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2022–2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022–2023*, Recommendation 140.

¹⁰⁷⁹ ACT Government Budget 2023–2024, *Budget Statements A*, p 22.

Matters considered

12.12. During the Inspector and Ombudsman's appearance before the Committee on 31 July, the following matters were considered:

- observations of the Inspector of the Integrity Commissioner role or the Ombudsman role;¹⁰⁸⁰
- complaints;¹⁰⁸¹
- length of time for Integrity Commission to complete reports;¹⁰⁸²
- review of the Integrity Commission Act;¹⁰⁸³
- surge teams arrangements;¹⁰⁸⁴
- recommendations implementation monitoring report;¹⁰⁸⁵
- integration of an aged care ombudsman or rental ombudsman;¹⁰⁸⁶
- increased funding for Freedom of Information;¹⁰⁸⁷
- Transparency of government;¹⁰⁸⁸ and
- complaints about public housing or Housing ACT.¹⁰⁸⁹

Freedom of Information appeals

- 12.13. During the public hearing on 31 July 2023, the Committee heard that, while complaints to the Ombudsman were decreasing overall in line with a national trend, there was an increase in areas such as reportable conduct and Freedom of Information (FOI) matters.¹⁰⁹⁰
- 12.14. The Ombudsman advised the Committee that the number of reviews of FOI decisions had more than doubled in the past year, from 26 to 55 requests for reviews,¹⁰⁹¹ and that his office expected further increases in FOI-related workload due to recent legislation changes. They were seeking funding for additional staffing to meet the expected increase.¹⁰⁹²

¹⁰⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1165–1166

¹⁰⁸¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1166–1168.

¹⁰⁸² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1169.

¹⁰⁸³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1169–1171.

¹⁰⁸⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1171.

¹⁰⁸⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1171–1172.

¹⁰⁸⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1172–1173.

¹⁰⁸⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1173–1175.

¹⁰⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1175–1176.

¹⁰⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, pp 1176–1177.

¹⁰⁹⁰ Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1165.

¹⁰⁹¹ Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1174.

¹⁰⁹² Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2023, p 1173.

Recommendation 119

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increases funding to the ACT Ombudsman to deal with the increase in FOI appeals.

13. Other agencies

Solicitor-General for the ACT

- 13.1. The ACT Government Solicitor provides 'legal services, including advice and representation to the ACT, its government agencies, ministers and office holders.'¹⁰⁹³

Matters considered

- 13.2. During the Solicitor-General's appearance before the Committee on 18 July, the following matters were considered:
- mediations to achieve deed of settlement between the Ngambri and the ACT Government;¹⁰⁹⁴
 - litigation matters;¹⁰⁹⁵
 - housing matters in the ACT Civil & Administrative Tribunal;¹⁰⁹⁶
 - additional resourcing to response to claims of breaches of the *Human Rights Act 2004*;¹⁰⁹⁷ and
 - conflict of interest matter involving the Commissioner for Fair Trading.¹⁰⁹⁸

Director of Public Prosecutions

- 13.3. The principal duties of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) are:
- to institute and conduct prosecutions, both summary and indictable;
 - to institute and respond to appeals;
 - to assist the coroner in inquests and inquiries;
 - to restrain and confiscate assets used in, or derived from, the commission of criminal offences; and
 - to provide advice to the police and other investigative agencies.¹⁰⁹⁹

Matters considered

- 13.4. During the Acting DPP's appearance before the Committee on 18 July, the following matters were considered:
- training to DPP staff;¹¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁹³ ACT Government Solicitor, *What we do* (<https://www.actgs.act.gov.au/what-we-do>, accessed 14 July 2023).

¹⁰⁹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 103–105.

¹⁰⁹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 105–106.

¹⁰⁹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 106–107.

¹⁰⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 107.

¹⁰⁹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 107–111.

¹⁰⁹⁹ The Office of the Director of the Public Prosecutions, *The functions of the Director* (https://www.dpp.act.gov.au/about_the_dpp/the_functions_of_the_director, accessed 14 July 2023).

¹¹⁰⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 112.

- staff morale;¹¹⁰¹
- duration of the Acting Director's acting appointment;¹¹⁰²
- legislating sentencing submissions;¹¹⁰³
- issues in prosecuting fraud-related matters;¹¹⁰⁴
- criminal case conferencing;¹¹⁰⁵
- domestic violence and sexual offence charges and prosecutions during Covid lockdowns;¹¹⁰⁶ and
- engagement of external legal advice or representation.¹¹⁰⁷

Legal Aid ACT

13.5. Budget Statements D states that the primary purpose of Legal Aid is to provide vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians with access to justice through a range of legal aid services.¹¹⁰⁸

Matters considered

13.6. During Legal Aid ACT's appearance before the Committee on 19 July, the following matters were considered:

- decreased funding for 2025-26;¹¹⁰⁹
- means testing for legal aid;¹¹¹⁰
- funding in response to the 2022 Hacking incident;¹¹¹¹
- staffing levels;¹¹¹²
- office space refit;¹¹¹³
- Galambany Circle Sentencing Court and Drug and Alcohol Court;¹¹¹⁴
- cost of living pressures and demand for services;¹¹¹⁵

¹¹⁰¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 112–113.

¹¹⁰² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 113.

¹¹⁰³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 113–115.

¹¹⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 115–116.

¹¹⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, pp 116–117.

¹¹⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 117.

¹¹⁰⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 18 July 2023, p 118.

¹¹⁰⁸ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements D*, p 59.

¹¹⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 341–342.

¹¹¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 342–344.

¹¹¹¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 344.

¹¹¹² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 344–345.

¹¹¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 345–347.

¹¹¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 347–348.

¹¹¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 348.

- procurement for improvements;¹¹¹⁶ and
- access for children to lawyers.¹¹¹⁷

Key issues

Lawyers for children

- 13.7. During the public hearing on 19 July 2023, the Committee asked about access for children to independent children's lawyers, particularly in complex and family violence cases.
- 13.8. Legal Aid ACT said that there was not enough access to lawyers for children. They noted that independent children's law work was complex and difficult, and the rates that Legal Aid could pay did not attract enough lawyers to this work. Legal Aid said that while there were 'some very generous lawyers out there who do this work', the pool of available lawyers was diminishing. Consequently, most of the children's law work was conducted in-house by Legal Aid:

It is not unusual for one of our senior lawyers to have about 45 independent children matters he is managing.¹¹¹⁸

Recommendation 120

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide sufficient funding to enable Legal Aid to offer independent children's lawyers to all children involved in domestic and family violence allegations.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

- 13.9. The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is an independent statutory position. Their functions are:
- Investigating complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a territory authority; and issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the ACT;
 - Conduct investigations as directed by the Minister;
 - Conduct on the Commissioner's own initiative, investigations into actions of an agency where those actions would have a substantial impact on the environment of the ACT; and
 - Deliver state of the environment reports.¹¹¹⁹

¹¹¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, p 348.

¹¹¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 348–349.

¹¹¹⁸ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 19 July 2023, pp 348–349.

¹¹¹⁹ Office for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, *About* (<https://envcomm.act.gov.au/about>, accessed 14 July 2023).

Matters considered

13.10. During the Commissioner's appearance before the Committee on 25 July 2023, the following matters were considered:

- the response to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's (the Office) report on wood heaters in the ACT;¹¹²⁰
- assessment of Scope 3 Greenhouse gas emissions in budget decision-making;¹¹²¹
- complaints received by the Office in the 2022-2023 financial year;¹¹²² and
- staffing and resourcing for the Office.¹¹²³

Key issues

Delays on requests for information

13.11. During the public hearing, the Committee heard from the Commissioner that, although they are sufficiently resourced, the 'major barrier' to undertake legislative functions such as complaints-handling investigations and the publishing of State of the Environment reports is, in fact, the time that the Office spends requesting and obtaining information from government directorates.¹¹²⁴

13.12. Dr Sophie Lewis, the Commissioner, told the Committee that 'it takes a considerable amount of our time to follow up and obtain that data':¹¹²⁵

For example, Victoria [Ms Herbert] spoke to the State of the environment report and the work we have undertaken to date. The time frame that we provided to directorates for providing us with that information was mid-April. We are yet to receive information from some directorates.¹¹²⁶

13.13. Whilst the Commissioner noted that these delays were not experienced across all government directorates, the issue is not exclusive to the State of the Environment reports:

In the wood heater report, we also encountered this issue. There are the FTEs that I outlined—and you will see, if you dig into it, that we underspent in the last financial year—and we are well resourced in that regard, but the capacity of the office to obtain and receive information is where we really struggle to undertake the work that is required of us under our legislation.¹¹²⁷

¹¹²⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 722–724.

¹¹²¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 725–726.

¹¹²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 726.

¹¹²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 727–728.

¹¹²⁴ Dr Sophie Lewis, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 727.

¹¹²⁵ Dr Sophie Lewis, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 727.

¹¹²⁶ Dr Sophie Lewis, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 727.

¹¹²⁷ Dr Sophie Lewis, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, p 728.

- 13.14. The Committee is of the view that, in order for a tangible improvement to the flow of information to the Office, that all government directorates must respond to requests for information from the Office within 30 working days.
- 13.15. This is to ensure that both the Commissioner and the Office are able to carry out their core functions under the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*, which includes ensuring regular and consistent reporting on matters relating to the condition and management of the environment in the Territory, and ensuring regular reporting on progress towards ecologically sustainable development by the Territory and Territory authorities.

Recommendation 121

The Committee recommends that all government directorates must respond to requests for information from the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment within 30 business days.

Inspector of Correctional Services

- 13.16. The functions of the Inspector of Correctional Services are to ‘provide independent oversight of ACT correctional and youth justice facilities, focusing on continual improvement and prevention of ill-treatment.’¹¹²⁸

Matters considered

- 13.17. During the Inspector of Correctional Services appearance before the Committee on 25 July, the following matters were considered:
- funding for the Inspector’s Office;¹¹²⁹
 - Health Prison Review;¹¹³⁰
 - Review of Bimberj;¹¹³¹ and
 - Alexander Maconochie Centre Master Plan.¹¹³²

Key issues

ACT Human Rights Commission

- 13.18. The ACT Human Rights Commission has the following functions:
- handle complaints in relation to health, disability and community services, abuse of vulnerable people, and complaints under discrimination law;

¹¹²⁸ ICS: ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, About Us (<https://www.ics.act.gov.au/about-us>, accessed 14 July 2023).

¹¹²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 738–739.

¹¹³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 739–740, 744–745.

¹¹³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 740, 741–742.

¹¹³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 742–744.

- increase awareness of the rights and responsibilities of service users and service providers, and encourage service improvement;
- provide advice to government and others regarding their human rights obligations;
- advocate for children, young people and adults experiencing vulnerability; and
- advocate for and supports victims of crime.¹¹³³

Matters considered

13.19. During the ACT Human Rights Commission's appearance before the Committee on 25 July, the following matters were considered:

- Victim Support ACT's Court Support Program;¹¹³⁴
- increased demand of the Commission's services;¹¹³⁵
- funding for Child Safe Standards;¹¹³⁶
- Healthcare professional complaints to AHPRA;¹¹³⁷
- engagement opportunities with Government;¹¹³⁸
- sunset clause for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility;¹¹³⁹
- client surveys;¹¹⁴⁰
- kinship carers;¹¹⁴¹ and
- Commission Reports.¹¹⁴²

Key issues

Kinship carers

13.20. 'Kinship care' refers to the practice of a child or young person living with another family member or someone with whom they are already familiar:

This is the preferred form of care in the ACT as it helps maintain the child's connection to their family and culture. It can also reduce the child's stress of being separated from their birth parents and family home.¹¹⁴³

¹¹³³ ACT Human Rights Commission, Promoting & respecting rights for all (<https://hrc.act.gov.au/>, accessed 14 July 2023).

¹¹³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 746–748.

¹¹³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 748–751.

¹¹³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 751–752.

¹¹³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 752–753.

¹¹³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 753–754.

¹¹³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 754–756.

¹¹⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 756–757.

¹¹⁴¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 757–758.

¹¹⁴² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 July 2023, pp 758–759.

¹¹⁴³ ACT Government-Community Services, *Kinship Carers*, 16 May 2023.

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/children-and-families/adoption-kinship-and-foster-care/kinship-carers>

- 13.21. The Committee heard that kinship carers may feel unsupported by government or by those providers to whom the government outsources provision of care services to children and young people:

Kinship care is a really solid way of meeting the needs of many children and young people, particularly where culture is a consideration for those children and young people. We have certainly noted over a number of reporting periods concerns that there may not be enough support provided for kinship carers to enable them to undertake those responsibilities, including front-end identification of the needs of a particular child and young person, and what that might mean in terms of support for family to enable them to be able to hold strong regarding children placed into their care. It is an area where there needs to be ongoing improvement, by way of both resourcing of support and the engagement that they might experience.¹¹⁴⁴

Recommendation 122

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more support for kinship carers in the ACT.

Public Trustee and Guardian

- 13.22. Budget Statements D states that the Public Trustee and Guardian ‘aims to promote and support the rights, interests and life decisions of our clients and to deliver excellent trustee outcomes for the ACT community.’¹¹⁴⁵

Matters considered

- 13.23. During the Public Trustee and Guardian’s appearance before the Committee on 26 July, the following matters were considered:
- Auditor-General’s Report No. 3 of 2023;¹¹⁴⁶
 - number of private financial managers in Canberra;¹¹⁴⁷
 - Unclaimed Bodies Scheme;¹¹⁴⁸
 - the Public trustee and Guardian IT infrastructure renewal project performance audit;¹¹⁴⁹
 - engagement of PwC;¹¹⁵⁰

¹¹⁴⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 5 July 2023, pp 757-758.

¹¹⁴⁵ ACT Government Budget 2023-2024, *Budget Statements D*, p 84.

¹¹⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 820–821.

¹¹⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 821–824.

¹¹⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 824.

¹¹⁴⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 824–825.

¹¹⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 825–826.

- customer Relationship Management system;¹¹⁵¹ and
- GreaterGood Foundation.¹¹⁵²

Key issues

Unclaimed Body Scheme

- 13.24. During the hearing on 26 July 2023, the Committee asked for an update on the Unclaimed Body Scheme.
- 13.25. The Public Trustee and Guardian described the scheme as ‘a small but important piece’ of the organisation’s function. He noted that at times there were communication problems which hindered progress, but not so significant as to suggest that the scheme was not working as intended.¹¹⁵³
- 13.26. In response to a Question Taken on Notice during the hearing, the Public Trustee and Guardian advised that, since the scheme came into effect in 2021, the office had made arrangements for nine deceased persons.¹¹⁵⁴

Recommendation 123

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the Public Trustee and Guardian to implement any required changes to ensure the smooth operation of the Unclaimed Body Scheme.

¹¹⁵¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 826–827.

¹¹⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, pp 827–829.

¹¹⁵³ Mr Aaron Hughes, ACT Public Trustee and Guardian, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 July 2023, p 824.

¹¹⁵⁴ Mr Aaron Hughes, ACT Public Trustee and Guardian, *answer to QTON 115: Unclaimed Body Scheme*, 26 July 2023 (received 3 August 2023).

14. Conclusion

- 14.1. The Committee wishes to extend its appreciation to all inquiry participants for their engagement throughout the inquiry process and for the valuable contributions they made in assisting and informing the Committee's deliberations.
- 14.2. The Committee has made 123 recommendations in this report.

Mr Mark Parton MLA
Chair
18 August 2023

Appendix A: Witnesses

17 July 2023

Advocacy For inclusion

- **Mr Craig Wallace**, Head of Policy

ACTCOSS

- **Dr Devin Bowles**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Gabrielle Robertson**, Policy Officer

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

- **Ms Anke van der Sterren**, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Master Builders Association Of the ACT

- **Mr Michael Hopkins**, Chief Executive Officer

Real Estate Institute of the ACT

- **Ms Maria Edwards**, Chief Executive Officer

Canberra Law Society

- **Ms Genevieve Bolton**, Executive Director/Principal Solicitor

Support Link

- **Mrs Donna Evans**, Executive Director
- **Ms Melanie Thompson**, Referral Coordinator

Weston Creek Community Council

- **Mr Bill Gemmell**, Chair
- **Ms Michelle Bourdet**, Secretary

Belconnen Community Council

- **Mr Lachlan Butler**, Chair

ACT Retirement Village Residents Association

- **Ms Janine Lynn Lewis**, Vice President (Village Liaison)
- **Ms Josephine (Anne) Caine**, Secretary

Pedal Power ACT

- **Dr Simon Copeland**, Executive Director

ACT Down Syndrome Association

- **Ms Sharon Kolak**, Chief Executive Officer

ACT Gifted Families Support Group

- **Mrs Elizabeth Singer**, President

Australian Education Union

- **Dr Bianca Hennessy**, Research and Policy Officer
- **Ms Angela Burroughs**, Branch President

Youth Coalition of the ACT

- **Dr Justin Barker**, Chief Executive Officer

YWCA

- **Ms Leah Dwyer**, Director of Policy, and Advocacy

Karinya House

- **Ms Lavinia Tyrrel**, Chief Executive Officer

Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region

- **Ms Elena Rosenman**, Chief Executive Officer

Asthma Australia

- **Ms Michele Goldman**, Chief Executive Officer

Healthcare Consumer Association

- **Ms Darlene Cox**, Chief Executive Officer

Nutrition Australia

- **Ms Leanne Elliston**, Executive Officer

18 July 2023

Ministers

Mr Mick Gentleman, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services and Minister for Planning and Land Management

Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Transport and City Services

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer

- **Ms Georgeina Whelan**, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Jason Jones**, Assistant Commissioner, Operations, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety
- **Mr Baruno Aloisi**, Acting Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services
- **Ms Narelle Pamplin**, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Reintegration, ACT Corrective Services

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director General
- **Dr Erin Brady**, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development
- **Mr Stephen Algeria**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
- **Mr George Cilliers**, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

- **Mr Jim Corrigan**, Deputy Director General, City Services
- **Mr Bruce Fitzgerald**, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure, Delivery and Waste
- **Ms Sophie Clement**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
- **Mr Geoff Davidson**, Executive Branch Manager, Development and Coordination
- **Mr Daniel Igelesias**, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation
- **Mr Ben McHugh**, Deputy Director General, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Ms Ashley Cahif**, Project Director, Light Rail Project

Office of the Solicitor - General

- **Mr Peter Garrisson AM SC**, Solicitor General

Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions

- **Mr Anthony Williamson SC**, Acting Director of Public Prosecutions

19 July 2023

Ministers

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health

Ms Yvette Berry, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women

Mr Mick Gentleman, Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services

ACT Health Directorate

- **Ms Liz Lopa**, A/g Deputy Director – General, Infrastructure and Engagement

Canberra Health Services

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Janet Zagari**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Dr Grant Howard**, Group Director, Clinical Operations

Major Projects Canberra

- **Mr Martin Little**, Deputy Chief Projects Officer

Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kristy Windeyer**, Acting Deputy Director – General
- **Ms Jo Wood**, Acting Director-General
- **Ms Sanzida Akhter**, Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth and Multicultural Affairs

Education Directorate

- **Ms Katy Haire**, Director – General
- **Ms Deb Efthymiades**, Deputy Director-General, System Policy and Reform
- **Ms Angela Spence**, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery
- **Mr David Matthews**, Executive Group Manager, Business Services
- **Mr Mark Huxley**, Executive Group Manager, School Improvement Division

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Ms Ben Ponton**, Director – General
- **Ms Alexandra Magee**, Executive Branch Manager, Communications
- **Dr Erin Brady**, Deputy Director-General

Justice and Community Services Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director – General
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer

ACT Policing

- **Mr Neil Gaughan**, Chief Police Officer

- **Mr Doug Boudry**, Deputy Chief Police Officer
- **Mr Peter Whowell**, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Dr Damian West**, Deputy Director-General and Secure Local Jobs Registrar, Office of Industrial Relations, and Workforce Strategy
- **Mr Michael Young**, Executive Group Manager, Work Safety Group, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy

Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner

- **Ms Jacqueline Agius**, Work Health and Safety Commissioner

ACT Long Service Leave Authority

- **Ms Tracy Savage**, Chief Executive Officer, and Registrar

Legal Aid ACT

- **Dr John Boersig**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Brett Monger**, Chief Financial Officer

ACT Integrity Commission

- **Hon Michael Adams KC**, Commissioner
- **Mr Scott Hickey**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Ms Cari Gardiner**, Assistant Director, Corruption Prevention

20 July 2023

Ministers

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Ms Yvette Berry, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women

ACT Health Directorate

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Director – General
- **Ms Liz Lopa**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Infrastructure and Engagement
- **Dr Kerry Coleman**, Chief Health Officer, Population Health Division

- **Ms Jacinta George**, Executive Group Manager, Health System Planning and Evaluation
- **Mr Michael Culhane**, Executive Group Manager, Policy, Partnerships and Programs Division
- **Ms Christine Murray**, Executive Group Manager, Population Health Division

Canberra Health Services

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Janet Zagari**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Dr Grant Howard**, Chief Operating Officer

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water. and Conservator of Flora and Fauna
- **Dr Rosie Cooney**, Senior Director, Office of Nature Conservation
- **Mr Chris Glennon**, Senior Director, Resilient Landscapes
- **Ms Eliza Larson**, Conservator Liaison, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Ms Alexandra Magee**, Executive Branch Manager, Communications, Engagement and Media

Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Acting Director-General.
- **Mr Geoff Ainger**, Acting Executive group manager, Housing Assistance Division
- **Mr Ben Naughton**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts
- **Ms Lauren Callaghan**, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Division

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Under-Treasurer, Office of the Under Treasurer
- **Mr Stephen Miners**, Deputy Under Treasurer, ERI and Coordinator-general for Housing
- **Dr Damain West**, Deputy Director-General, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Ms Rebecca Kelley**, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General.

Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr John Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Tom Gordon**, Executive Director, Development Delivery
- **Mr Simon Tennent**, Development Director, Molonglo Greenfield Development

Transport Canberra and City Services

- **Ms Sophie Clement**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
- **Ms Daniel Iglesias**, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation

21 July 2023

Ministers

Ms Yvette Berry, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women

Mr Shane Rattenbury, Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Ms Emma Davidson, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Veterans and Seniors

Education Directorate

- **Ms Katy Haire**, Director – General
- **Ms Deb Efthymiades**, Deputy Director-General, System Policy and Reform
- **Mr Sean Moysey**, Executive Branch Manager, Education and Care Regulation and Support
- **Ms Angela Spence**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery
- **Dr Nicole Moore**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy
- **Mr David Matthews**, Executive Group Manager, Business Services Group
- **Ms Kate McMahon**, Executive Group Manager, Safe at School Taskforce
- **Mr John Nakkan**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Works
- **Mr Mark Huxley**, Executive Group Manager, School Improvement Division

Community Services Directorate

- **Mrs Jessica Summerrell**, Executive Branch Manager, Support Services for Children

Office of the Legislative Assembly

- **Ms Joy Burch**, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Tom Duncan**, Clerk
- **Dr David Monk**, Acting Deputy Clerk, Parliamentary Support Branch
- **Ms Rachel Turner**, Executive Manager, Business Support Branch
- **Mr David Skinner**, Senior Director, Office of the Clerk
- **Mr Don Shashika**, Chief Financial Officer, Business Support Branch

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Nadia Marjan**, Senior Director, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs
- **Mr Joshua Ceramidas**, Senior Director, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr David Pryce**, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra
- **Ms Yu-Lan Chan**, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Branch Manager, Fair Trading and Compliance

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Ms Fiona Wright**, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy Programs
- **Ms Ros Malouf**, Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change and Energy Programs, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction

ACT Health Directorate

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Acting Director-General
- **Ms Liz Lopa**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Infrastructure and Engagement
- **Dr Elizabeth Moore**, Coordinator-General, Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing
- **Ms Cheryl Garrett**, Executive Branch Manager, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Division

Canberra Health Services

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Chief Executive Officer

- **Ms Katie McKenzie**, Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services

24 July 2023

Ministers

Mr Andrew Barr, Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism

Ms Tara Cheyne, Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Cultural Facilities Corporation

- **Mr Gordon Ramsay**, Chief Executive Officer

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Caroline Fulton**, Executive Branch Manager, Arts ACT, Economic Development
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development
- **Mr David Pryce**, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra; Registrar-General; Acting Commissioner for Fair Trading
- **Ms Margaret McKinnon**, Chief Operating Officer, Access Canberra
- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection Branch; Construction Occupations Registrar; Architects Registrar
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Commissioner for Fair Trading and Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registrations Branch, Access Canberra
- **Ms Emily Springett**, Executive Branch Manager, Service Delivery and Engagement, Access Canberra
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Branch Manager, Fair Trading and Compliance, Access Canberra
- **Dr Jodie Vaile**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategy and Planning, Access Canberra
- **Dr Su Wild-River**, Senior Director, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection, Access Canberra; Environment Protection Authority; Delegate for Lakes; Clinical Waste Controller
- **Ms Fiona Chesworth**, Executive Branch Manager, Better Regulation Taskforce – Policy and Cabinet Division
- **Ms Wilhelmina Blount**, Acting Coordinator-General, Office for Climate Action and Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy and Cabinet Division
- **Mr Kieran Lawton**, Executive Branch Manager, Program Delivery, Policy and Cabinet Division

- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Office of the Under Treasurer
- **Mr Stephen Miners**, Deputy Under Treasurer, ERI, Office of the Under Treasurer
- **Mr Patrick McAuliffe**, Executive Branch Manager, Investments and Borrowings

Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Sanzida Akhter**, Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth and Multicultural Affairs

Major Projects Canberra

- **Ms Karen Doran**, Acting Chief Projects Officer, Office of the Chief Projects Officer
- **Mr Martin Little**, Deputy Chief Projects Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief Projects Officer

25 July 2023

Ministers

Ms Tara Cheyne, Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Ms Emma Davidson, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Disability, Minister for Justice Health, Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Veterans and Seniors

ACT Electoral Commission

- **Mr Damian Cantwell AM CSC**, Electoral Commissioner
- **Mr Rohan Spence**, Deputy Electoral Commissioner
- **Mr Scott Hickey**, Chief Financial Officer

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment

- **Dr Sophie Lewis**, Commissioner
- **Mrs Miranda Gardner**, Director, Complaints, and Investigations
- **Ms Victoria Herbert**, Acting Assistant Director

ACT Audit Office

- **Mr Michael Harris**, Auditor – General
- **Ms Caroline Smith**, Chief Operating Officer, Professional Services

Office of the Inspector of Correctional Services

- **Ms Rebecca Minty**, Inspector of Correctional Services
- **Ms Pip Courtney-Bailey**, Assistant Inspector of Correctional Services

ACT Human Rights commission

- **Dr Helen Watchirs**, President and Human Rights Commissioner
- **Ms Karen Toohey**, Discrimination, Health Services, Disability and Community **Services** Commissioner
- **Ms Jodie Griffiths – Cook**, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner
- **Ms Heidi Yates**, Victims of Crime Commissioner

Justice and Community Services Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer, Strategic Finance
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Executive Branch Manager, Civil and Regulatory Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Gabrielle McKinnon**, Senior Manager, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division

Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Acting Director-General
- **Ms Anita Perkins**, Executive Group Manager, Communities Division
- **Mr Nick Stathis**, Executive Branch Manager; Office for Disability, Seniors and Veterans and Social Recovery
- **Dr Louise Bassett**, Executive Branch Manager; Commissioning, Policy and Service Design
- **Ms Jacinta Evans**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy Division
- **Ms Anne Maree Sabellico**, Executive Group Manager; Children, Youth and Families Division
- **Ms Tina Brendas**, Executive Group Manager, Youth Justice Branch

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Ross Triffitt**, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT
- **Ms Fiona Chesworth**, Executive Branch Manager, Better Regulation Taskforce—Policy and Cabinet Division
- **Mr Glenn Hassett**, Senior Director, Business and Innovation
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy, Economic Development

26 July 2023

Ministers

Mr Andrew Barr, Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism

Mr Shane Rattenbury, Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Public Trustee and Guardian

- **Mr Aaron Huges**, Public Trustee and Guardian
- **Mr Callam Huges**, Senior Director, Finance Unit
- **Ms Danae Lacey**, Acting Senior Director; Wills, Estates and Trusts Unit

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Chief Minister, Treasury
- **Mr Stephen Miners**, Deputy Under Treasurer; Economic, Revenue and Insurance
- **Mr Nathan Brown**, Acting Executive Branch Manager; Economic and Financial Analysis
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Economic Development
- **Mr Hugh Maclachlan**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation
- **Mr Matthew Elkins**, Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra
- **Mr Jonathan Kobus**, Executive Branch Manager, VisitCanberra
- **Mr Ross Triffitt**, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT

Major Project Canberra

- **Ms Karen Doran**, Acting Chief Projects Officer
- **Mr Adrian Piani**, Executive Group Manager and ACT Chief Engineer; Infrastructure Delivery Partners

Icon Water Ltd

- **Ms Joy Yau**, Chief Financial Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Alison Pratt**, General Counsel

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General

- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction
- **Ms Fiona Wright**, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy
- **Ms Ros Malouf**, Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change and Energy
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Dr Ralph Ogden**, Program Manager, ACT Healthy Waterways

27 July 2023

Ministers

Mr Andrew Barr, Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Mr Shane Rattenbury, Attorney-General, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Mr Stuart Jeffress**, Senior Director, ACT Heritage
- **Ms Meaghan Russell**, Manager, Approvals and Advice, ACT Heritage
- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Mr James Bennett**, Executive Branch Manager; Building Reform, Unit Titles and Design Services

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kathy Leigh**, Head of Service and Director-General
- **Ms Trish Johnston**, Executive Group Manager; Communications and Engagement
- **Ms Lessa Croke**, Deputy Director-General; Policy and Cabinet Division
- **Mr David Clapham**, Executive Branch Manager; Regional, Infrastructure, Planning and Transport

- **Mr Andrew Mehrton**, Executive Branch Manager; Policy and Cabinet Division
- **Mr Robert Gotts**, Executive Branch Manager, Wellbeing

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Jennifer McNeil**, Deputy Director-General, Justice
- **Mr Peter Garrisson AM SC**, Solicitor-General, ACT Government Solicitor
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Executive Branch Manager; Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Executive Branch Manager; Justice Reform Branch; Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Amanda Nuttall**, Principal Registrar and CEO, ACT Courts and Tribunal

Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Director-General
- **Mr Geoff Aigner**, Executive Group Manager, Housing Assistance Division
- **Ms Valerie Spencer**, Executive Branch Manager, Homelessness and Housing Programs
- **Ms Samantha Henry**, Executive Branch Manager, Client Services Branch

28 July 2023

Ministers

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Families and Community Services and Minister for Health

Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Director-General
- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Executive Group Manager; Children, Youth and Families Division
- **Ms Jacinta Evans**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy Division
- **Mr Chris Simpson**, Executive Branch Manager, Aboriginal Service Development
- **Mr Brendan Moyle**, Executive Branch Manager, Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

- **Mrs Jessica Summerrell**, Executive Branch Manager, Support Services for Children

31 July 2023

Ministers

Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Mr Mark Harriott**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Skills Canberra, Economic Development, Skills Canberra

ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority

- **Mr Glenn Carter**, Chief Executive Officer

Major Projects Canberra

- **Ms Karen Doran**, Acting Chief Projects Officer
- **Mr Martin Little**, Deputy Chief Projects Officer
- **Ms Rebecca Power**, Project Director, CIT Campus—Woden Project

Canberra Institute of Technology

- **Ms Kate Lundy**, CIT Board Chair
- **Ms Christine Robertson**, Acting Chief Executive
- **Ms Josephine Andersen**, Executive Director, Education Futures and Students
- **Mr Craig Jordan**, Executive Director, Strategic Finance and Transformation
- **Mr Craig Neiberding**, Chief Information Officer

Appendix B: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	97
Male	89
Gender neutral	1
No data	1

Appendix C: Submission

No.	Submission by	Received	Published
1	Advocacy for Inclusion	11/07/2023	13/07/2023
2	Real Estate Institute of the ACT	17/07/2023	04/08/2023

Appendix D: Questions on notice and taken on notice

Questions on notice

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Electric Fire Trucks	25/07/2023
2	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Patient Transport Services	25/07/2023
3	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Structure Fires	25/07/2023
4	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Staff Recruitment	27/07/2023
5	18/07/2023	Milligan	Treasurer	Fire Emergency Services levy	28/07/2023
6	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Supporting ACSFR staff and volunteers	27/07/2023
7	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Remediating of PFAS and other hazardous materials	25/07/2023
8	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Upgrades to Emergency Service Accommodation	25/07/2023
9	18/07/2023	Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Acton, Molonglo and Casey	27/07/2023
10	18/07/2023	Clay	Police and Emergency Services	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
11	19/07/2023	Clay	Education and Youth Affairs	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	03/08/2023
12	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
13	19/07/2023	Clay	Women	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
14	18/07/2023	Clay	Director of Public Prosecutions	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	28/07/2023
15	18/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	28/07/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
16	18/07/2023	Clay	Corrections	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	02/08/2023
17	19/07/2023	Clay	Legal Aid ACT	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
18	19/07/2023	Clay	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	02/08/2023
19	18/07/2023	Clay	Solicitor-General for the ACT	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
20	19/07/2023	Clay	Health	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
21	19/07/2023	Clay	ACT Integrity Commission	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	28/07/2023
22	20/07/2023	Clay	Housing and Suburban Development	Growing and Renewing Public Housing Since 2019	08/08/2023
23	20/07/2023	Clay	Housing and Suburban Development	SLA West Belconnen Joint venture	31/07/2023
24	19/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Planning 70/30 Calculations	31/07/2023
25	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Monaro Highway Project	31/07/2023
26	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	TCCS Road Projects Costs	01/08/2023
27	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Parkes Way Early Work	27/07/2023
28	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Path Maintenance	27/07/2023
29	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Contract TC2222250	31/07/2023
30	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Path Sweeping	27/07/2023
31	18/07/2023	Cain	Transport and City Services	Parking	31/07/2023
32	18/07/2023	Milligan	Transport and City Services	Stormwater Improvements in Hall	27/07/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
33	18/07/2023	Milligan	Transport and City Services	Raised Crossing for Gold Creek School	27/07/2023
34	18/07/2023	Milligan	Transport and City Services	Yerrabi District Park Upgrade	31/07/2023
35	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Schedule of ESA Equipment Replacements	31/07/2023
36	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	ESA Incident Preparedness	31/07/2023
37	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Fire and Rescue Wellbeing initiatives	31/07/2023
38	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	132 500 Callouts by Responding Service	02/08/2023
39	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Boosting equipment for the ESA	31/07/2023
40	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Acton Station Details	31/07/2023
41	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Fire and Rescue Costs for Overtime and ECO Substitution	01/08/2023
42	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Reasons for Change in 2022-23 Employment Outcome	02/08/2023
43	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Fire and Rescue Cost Pressures	31/07/2023
44	18/07/2023	Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Molonglo Valley Station details	31/07/2023
45	21/07/2023	Braddock	Consumer Affairs	Retirement Villages Aged Care Facilities in Canberra	31/07/2023
46	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Transitional Release Centre	31/07/2023
47	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Additional Custodial Staff	31/07/2023
48	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Transitional Release Centre	07/08/2023
49	21/07/2023	Hanson	Early Childhood Development	Early Childhood 3-Year Program (Early Childhood Development)	04/08/2023
50	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Year 1 Phonics (Output Class 1 Public Education)	03/08/2023
51	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Scott Review (Output Class 1 Public School Education)	04/08/2023
52	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Violence in ACT Schools (Output Class 1 Public School Education)	04/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
53	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Facilities and Maintenance in ACT Government Schools	04/08/2023
54	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Inclusion Coaches (Output Class 1 Public Education)	03/08/2023
55	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Australian Curriculum (Output Class 1 Public School Education)	04/08/2023
56	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Education and Youth Affairs	Strathnairn Primary School	04/08/2023
57	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Education and Youth Affairs	Positive Behaviour for Learning	04/08/2023
58	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Education and Youth Affairs	Roof Replacement for Latham Primary and Cranleigh Primary School	04/08/2023
59	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Funding for Prisoner's Aid	07/08/2023
60	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Transport and City Services	Playgrounds	31/07/2023
61	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Sport and Recreation	Hawker District Playing Fields	02/08/2023
62	25/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Workforce	01/08/2023
63	21/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Staff and Passenger Safety	31/07/2023
64	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	Transport Canberra Customer Satisfaction	31/07/2023
65	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	Light Rail Infrastructure and Light Rail	31/07/2023
66	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	Light Rail Stage 2B	31/07/2023
67	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Accountability Indicators	01/08/2023
68	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	Transport Canberra Bus Fleet	01/08/2023
69	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	Tram Platform Extensions	31/07/2023
70	24/07/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Debt	07/08/2023
71	24/07/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Taxation	02/08/2023
72	24/07/2023	Castley	Health	Calvary takeover - costs so far	17/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
73	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Inspector of Correctional Services	Critical Incident Reports	01/08/2023
74	25/07/2023	Milligan	Disability	Disability Budget Submission	15/08/2023
75	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Overtime Payments for Corrections Officers	31/07/2023
76	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Justice Health, Budget Statement C, Output 1.2	07/08/2023
77	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Staffing for Justice Health	02/08/2023
78	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Winnunga, Justice Health and ACTCS Relationship	17/08/2023
79	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Health Justice Partnerships	11/08/2023
80	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Funding for Refuges	17/08/2023*
81	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Pilot Programs for Children and Young People	08/08/2023
82	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Safer Families Levy	17/08/2023*
83	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	YWCA Budget for Domestic Violence Support Service	16/08/2023
84	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Room4Change Men's Behaviour Change Program	08/08/2023
85	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Multidisciplinary Centre with specialist sexual violence responses and services	17/08/2023*
86	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Safer Families (Domestic and Family Violence Training and Resources)	08/08/2023
87	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Safer Families (Community-Led Family Violence Responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities)	08/08/2023
88	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Capital Works Program (Budget Paper C)	16/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
89	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Calvary Hospital Redundancy Payments	16/08/2023
90	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	ACT Health and Canberra Health Services - staffing	17/08/2023
91	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Health (DHR Data Not Available)	08/08/2023
92	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Funding for Primary Care in the ACT	16/08/2023
93	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Health (Budget Paper C)	07/08/2023
94	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Theatre Utilisation and Clinic Room Availability	15/08/2023
95	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	DHR	17/08/2023
96	19/07/2023	Castle	Health	Misconduct Investigations in Health	08/08/2023
97	20/07/2023	Davis	Economic Development	Nursing and Midwifery Study Support Payments	01/08/2023
98	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Calvary Takeover (Non-Disclosure Agreements)	08/08/2023
99	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Transport and City Services	Charnwood Shops and Tree Pavement Works	01/08/2023
100	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Sport and Recreation	Macquarie and Spence Oval Upgrades	02/08/2023
101	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Transport and City Services	Stormwater Improvements for Kippax Group Centre	31/07/2023
102	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Transport and City Services	William Hovell Drive Duplication	02/08/2023
103	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Transport and City Services	Bus Stops in Ginninderra	01/08/2023
104	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Firewood Delivery Investigation	31/07/2023
105	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Management of Raw Materials	01/08/2023
106	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Contractor (Roads)	31/07/2023
107	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS ICT Procurement	02/08/2023
108	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	TCCS Wilson Parking	31/07/2023
109	21/07/2023	Davis	Education and Youth Affairs	Education Infrastructure Initiatives	03/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
110	21/07/2023	Davis	Education and Youth Affairs	New and Expanded Schools - Region	03/08/2023
111	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Education and Youth Affairs	Fraser Primary School Modernisation	03/08/2023
112	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Education and Youth Affairs	Funding for Youth Engagement	11/08/2023
113	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Planning and Land Management	McKellar Shops Development Application	03/08/2023
114	18/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Entertainment Precincts other than Civic and the City Centre	03/08/2023
115	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Housing and Suburban Development	Kippax Land Sale	10/08/2023
116	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Housing and Suburban Development	Sale of Carparks	03/08/2023
117	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Housing and Suburban Development	Land Release and Development in Lawson Strathnairn and Macnamara	31/07/2023
118	24/07/2023	Kikkert	Climate Action	Fireplaces, Charcoal Grills and Woodfired Pizza Ovens	04/08/2023
119	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Inspector of Correctional Services	Completed Recommendations of the 2022 Healthy Prison Review	01/08/2023
120	18/07/2023	Pettersson	Police and Emergency Services	ACT Emergency Services	07/08/2023
121	21/07/2023	Pettersson	Consumer Affairs	Retirement Villages Aged Care Facilities in Canberra	02/08/2023
122	19/07/2023	Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Domestic Violence training for ACT public servants	17/08/2023*
123	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Economic Development	Expanding the Belconnen Basketball Stadium	02/08/2023
124	21/07/2023	Clay	Mental Health	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis	03/08/2023
125	21/07/2023	Clay	Consumer Affairs	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023
126	21/07/2023	Clay	Gaming	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
127	21/07/2023	Clay	Justice Health	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis	03/08/2023
128	26/07/2023	Clay	Chief Minister	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
129	24/07/2023	Clay	Climate Action	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
130	25/07/2023	Clay	Veterans and Seniors	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023
131	25/07/2023	Clay	Families and Community Services	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023
132	25/07/2023	Clay	Disability	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023
133	21/07/2023	Clay	Early Childhood Development	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	09/08/2023
134	24/07/2023	Clay	Multicultural Affairs	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	04/08/2023
135	19/07/2023	Clay	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023
136	25/07/2023	Clay	Economic Development	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
137	24/07/2023	Clay	Business and Better Regulation	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	02/08/2023
138	26/07/2023	Clay	Economic Development	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
139	20/07/2023	Clay	Sport and Recreation	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	02/08/2023
140	26/07/2023	Clay	Tourism	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
141	20/07/2023	Clay	Environment	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
142	26/07/2023	Clay	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	03/08/2023
143	25/07/2023	Clay	Human Rights	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	17/08/2023*
144	24/07/2023	Clay	Arts	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
145	20/07/2023	Clay	Housing and Suburban Development	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
146	24/07/2023	Clay	Treasurer	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	01/08/2023
147	21/07/2023	Clay	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	31/07/2023
148	25/07/2023	Clay	ACT Audit Office	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	02/08/2023
149	25/07/2023	Clay	ACT Human Rights Commission	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	28/07/2023
150	25/07/2023	Clay	Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	28/07/2023
151	25/07/2023	Clay	Inspector of Correctional Services	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	11/08/2023
152	26/07/2023	Clay	Public Trustee and Guardian	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	04/08/2023
153	25/07/2023	Clay	ACT Electoral Commission	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	02/08/2023
154	25/07/2023	Milligan	Health	Disability Budget Submissions	09/08/2023
155	25/07/2023	Milligan	Treasurer	ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme	02/08/2023
156	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Medical Imaging (Breast Screening)	08/08/2023
157	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Pathology Equipment	04/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
158	20/07/2023	Castley	Mental Health	Comments, Compliments, Complaints	03/08/2023
159	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Energy Efficient Public Housing	08/08/2023
160	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	GEOCON and Public Housing Supply	08/08/2023
161	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Social Housing Resident Details	17/08/2023*
162	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Public and Social Housing Property Data (Public Housing)	Not received
163	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Public housing growth and renewal targets	Not received
164	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Social Housing (CHP) Controlled by the Aboriginal Community	16/08/2023
165	19/07/2023	Parton	Planning and Land Management	Namadgi National Park Huts Proposal	02/08/2023
166	20/07/2023	Paterson	Gaming	Gaming	17/08/2023
167	19/07/2023	Parton	Women	Gender Pay Gap	16/08/2023
168	20/07/2023	Paterson	Gaming	Gaming	16/08/2023
169	27/07/2023	Braddock	Chief Minister	Public Sector Standards Commissioner Referrals	04/08/2023
170	27/07/2023	Kikkert	Chief Minister	Online advertising	11/08/2023
171	27/07/2023	Braddock	Chief Minister	ACT Public Service Inclusivity of CALD Applicants and Employees	04/08/2023
172	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Housing and Suburban Development	Land Release Discussions	Not received
173	27/07/2023	Kikkert	Attorney-General	ACT Public Service inclusivity of CALD applicants and employees	Not received
174	20/07/2023	Kikkert	Health	Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm - Residential Service Pilot	15/08/2023
175	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Staff Classifications	15/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
176	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Data Reporting (National Reporting Submissions)	08/08/2023
177	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Digital Health Record	09/08/2023
178	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	CHS and ACTHD Communications Staff Costs	08/08/2023
179	24/07/2023	Pettersson	Chief Minister	Local Industry Participation Plans (with attachments)	17/08/2023*
180	27/07/2023	Paterson	Attorney-General	Sexual offences in ACT courts	Not received
181	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Early Childhood Development	Redesigning the Child Development Service	16/08/2023
182	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Early Childhood Development	Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessments	10/08/2023
183	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Early Childhood Development	Performance of the Child Development Service	16/08/2023
184	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Human Rights	ATSI Children and Young People Commissioner	15/08/2023
185	26/07/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Budget and Other Grants	08/08/2023
186	26/07/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Taxation	07/08/2023
187	28/07/2023	Clay	Families and Community Services	CYPS reports and rights to appeal to Ombudsman	17/08/2023
188	24/07/2023	Clay	Arts	Transparency of Arts Funding	15/08/2023
189	25/07/2023	Braddock	ACT Electoral Commission	Detection of Errors in Electronic Ballot Systems	07/08/2023
190	25/07/2023	Braddock	ACT Electoral Commission	Audits of Electronic Vote Records Against Paper Ballots	15/08/2023
191	25/07/2023	Braddock	ACT Electoral Commission	Risk Assessment on Overseas Internet Voting	07/08/2023
192	25/07/2023	Braddock	ACT Electoral Commission	Means of Making Software Code Publicly Accessible	07/08/2023
193	25/07/2023	Braddock	ACT Electoral Commission	Enrolments for Referendum Impacting Redistribution	07/08/2023
194	31/07/2023	Clay	Treasurer	MPC Designated Projects Targets Compliance	09/08/2023
195	31/07/2023	Clay	Special Minister of State	Getting off gas 255 Canberra Ave (ACT Property Group)	Not received

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
196	26/07/2023	Clay	Chief Minister	City Renewal Authority Assets	08/08/2023
197	26/07/2023	Clay	Treasurer	MPC IS Ratings	14/08/2023
198	26/07/2023	Clay	Treasurer	Network Facilities Tax	14/08/2023
199	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Support for the Volunteering Sector	17/08/2023
200	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Community Food Pantries	14/08/2023
201	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Youth Justice - Throughcare Program	17/08/2023*
202	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Youth Justice - New Service Responses	17/08/2023*
203	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Youth Justice - Functional Family Therapy - Youth Justice	17/08/2023
204	25/07/2023	Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Youth Justice - Future Strategy	17/08/2023*
205	27/07/2023	Kikkert	Homelessness and Housing Services	Eligibility for Social Housing Assistance	15/08/2023
206	31/07/2023	Clay	Skills	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	08/08/2023
207	27/07/2023	Clay	Sustainable Building and Construction	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	07/08/2023
208	28/07/2023	Clay	Families and Community Services	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	15/08/2023
209	27/07/2023	Clay	Homelessness and Housing Services	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	15/08/2023
210	31/07/2023	Clay	Special Minister of State	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	04/08/2023
211	28/07/2023	Clay	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	15/08/2023
212	27/07/2023	Clay	Heritage	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	07/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
213	27/07/2023	Clay	Attorney-General	Wellbeing Indicators and Gender Impact Analysis Tool	09/08/2023
214	28/07/2023	Clay	Families and Community Services	Corporal punishment of children in the care protective services	17/08/2023
215	26/07/2023	Paterson	Treasurer	Point of Consumption Tax	10/08/2023
216	27/07/2023	Clay	Chief Minister	International Engagement	17/08/2023*
217	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	ATSIEB Secretariat	17/08/2023
218	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Supporting Development of the ACCO Sector	17/08/2023
219	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Progress on the Eminent Panel	17/08/2023
220	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Establishing External Merits Review	17/08/2023*
221	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Safe and Connected Youth	17/08/2023
222	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council	17/08/2023*
223	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Supporting Public Access to Government Information	17/08/2023
224	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Establishing a First Nations Family Support Team within CYPs	17/08/2023
225	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Planned Child and Family Network	17/08/2023
226	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Establishing a Chief Practitioner	17/08/2023
227	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Child and Family Centre Worker Embedded in Primary Schools	17/08/2023
228	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	CSD Staffing and Funding	17/08/2023*
229	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Investment per Out-of-home Care Day	17/08/2023*
230	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Residential Care	17/08/2023*
231	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Multisystemic Therapy	17/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
232	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Indemnity Scheme for OOHHC Providers	17/08/2023*
233	28/07/2023	Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Community Sector Sustainability Program	17/08/2023*

*received after report consideration

Questions taken on notice

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	17/07/2023	Pettersson	SupportLink	Cost of Potential Future Services	20/07/2023
2	17/07/2023	Parton	Australian Education Union	Psychologist to student ratio	20/07/2023
3	17/07/2023	Clay	Youth Coalition of the ACT	Costing for purpose-built facility for homeless people	Not received
4	17/07/2023	Parton	YWCA	Demographic breakdown of food pantry access	26/07/2023
5	17/07/2023	Clay	Women's Legal Centre ACT & Region	Access to Independent Children's Lawyers	17/08/2023
6	17/07/2023	Cain	ACTCOSS	ACT Government Housing Policy	31/07/2023
7	17/07/2023	Cain	ACTCOSS	ACT Government Housing Policy	31/07/2023
8	17/07/2023	Clay	ATODA	Return on Investment	31/07/2023
9	17/07/2023	Cain	ATODA	Drug and Alcohol Services	31/07/2023
10	17/07/2023	Parton	ATODA	Drug and Alcohol Services	31/07/2023
11	17/07/2023	Cain	ATODA	Alcohol and Drug Sentencing	31/07/2023
12	17/07/2023	Clay	ATODA	Alcohol and Drug Sentencing	31/07/2023
13	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Electronic Monitoring of Offenders	26/07/2023
14	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	ACTCS Staff Overtime	26/07/2023
15	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Overrepresentation	27/07/2023
16	18/07/2023	Parton	Corrections	Transitional Release Centre	26/07/2023
17	18/07/2023	Kikkert	Corrections	Blueprint for Change	26/07/2023
18	18/07/2023	Cain	Solicitor-General	Deed of Settlement	25/07/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
19	18/07/2023	Clay	Director of Public Prosecutions	Domestic and Sexual Violence Charges	24/07/2023
20	18/07/2023	Cain	Director of Public Prosecutions	External Legal Advice	24/07/2023
21	18/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Government Commitment for New Housing Developments	26/07/2023
22	18/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Publication of Housing Development Data	26/07/2023
23	18/07/2023	Cain	Planning and Land Management	Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre Funding	25/07/2023
24	18/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	EIS Exemption for Denman Prospect	25/07/2023
25	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Breakdown of LRS2 costs	26/07/2023
26	18/07/2023	Braddock	Transport and City Services	Cost of the purchase for 96 electric buses	25/07/2023
27	18/07/2023	Parton	Transport and City Services	Battery electric buses	25/07/2023
28	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Roads construction budget	25/07/2023
29	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Original cost for William Hovell Drive duplication	25/07/2023
30	18/07/2023	Braddock	Transport and City Services	Gungahlin transport feasibility study	27/07/2023
31	18/07/2023	Clay	Transport and City Services	Soft plastics	26/07/2023
32	18/07/2023	Pettersson	Transport and City Services	Safe Schools Program	25/07/2023
33	18/07/2023	Cain	Transport and City Services	Risks considered in Oct 2022 review at the MRF	26/07/2023
34	19/07/2023	Hanson	Policing and Emergency Services	ACT Policing Sworn Officers	26/07/2023
35	19/07/2023	Braddock	Policing and Emergency Services	ACTP Surveillance Video	26/07/2023
36	19/07/2023	Cocks	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Portable Long Service Leave	28/07/2023
37	19/07/2023	Castley	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Portable Long Service Leave Rebrand	28/07/2023
38	20/07/2023	Paterson	Environment	Wild Dogs in the ACT	28/07/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
39	20/07/2023	Paterson	Environment	Myna Birds in the ACT	28/07/2023
40	19/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Infill Targets - Knock Down Rebuilds	26/07/2023
41	19/07/2023	Clay	Planning and Land Management	Infill Targets - Annual Data for New Dwellings	26/07/2023
42	19/07/2023	Braddock	Planning and Land Management	Lawson Stage 2	26/07/2023
43	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	Valuations Procedure	31/07/2023
44	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	Conversations with Commonwealth	31/07/2023
45	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	Commonwealth NSW Ecological Impact Assessment Report	31/07/2023
46	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	Discussions with Yass Valley Council	31/07/2023
47	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	Conversations with land parcel owners	31/07/2023
48	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	2018 Press release	31/07/2023
49	20/07/2023	Davis	Housing and Suburban Development	Tuggeranong Infill	31/07/2023
50	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Public Housing Properties Vacant for More than Three Months	08/08/2023
51	20/07/2023	Davis	Housing and Suburban Development	Lowana Street Building site and Contracts	28/07/2023
52	20/07/2023	Pettersson	Housing and Suburban Development	Non-compliance with the Secure Local Jobs Code – residential construction building contractors panel	28/07/2023
53	20/07/2023	Pettersson	Housing and Suburban Development	Non-compliance with the Secure Local Jobs Code	28/07/2023
54	20/07/2023	Pettersson	Housing and Suburban Development	Compliance with the Secure Local Jobs Code	28/07/2023
55	20/07/2023	Pettersson	Housing and Suburban Development	Notification to Housing ACT under the Secure Local Jobs Code	31/07/2023
56	20/07/2023	Davis	Housing and Suburban Development	Construction of New Homes and the Purchase of Established Homes	08/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
57	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Program Facilities Maintenance	31/07/2023
58	20/07/2023	Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	Bulk Purchases from Larger Canberra Developers	08/08/2023
59	20/07/2023	Davis	Housing and Suburban Development	Proportion of ratepayers' money provided to external providers	15/08/2023
60	20/07/2023	Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Number of Properties Transferred and the Housing Stock Left	01/08/2023
61	21/07/2023	Clay	Consumer Affairs	Central Register for ACT Retirement Villages	31/07/2023
62	21/07/2023	Cain	Gaming	First Awareness of Conflict of Interest Matter	01/08/2023
63	21/07/2023	Paterson	Gaming	Incidents Reported by Clubs	31/07/2023
64	21/07/2023	Clay	Consumer Affairs	Government Obligation to Respond to Productivity Commission Report	27/07/2023
65	21/07/2023	Cain	Consumer Affairs	Conflict of Interest - Response to Public Service Commissioner	01/08/2023
66	21/07/2023	Cain	Consumer Affairs	Conflict of Interest Risk Level	01/08/2023
67	21/07/2023	Cain	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Digital transformation agenda	26/07/2023
68	21/07/2023	Clay	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Asset Management plan - replacing gas with electric	26/07/2023
69	19/07/2023	Castley	Minister for Health	Staph Infections (Staphylococcus aureus)	17/08/2023
70	19/07/2023	Castley	Health	Calvary Acquisition Business Case	28/07/2023
71	19/07/2023	Paterson	Education and Youth Affairs	Student Referrals to Allied Health Services and Paediatricians	03/08/2023
72	24/07/2023	Clay	Climate Action	Budget Decisions Related to Climate Assessment	01/08/2023
73	24/07/2023	Clay	Climate Action	Enforcement of Food Safety Notices	03/08/2023
74	24/07/2023	Clay	Climate Action	Rapid Regulatory Response Team	03/08/2023
75	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	HRIMS Contractors	15/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
76	24/07/2023	Pettersson	Treasurer	Public Procurements	31/07/2023
77	24/07/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Debt and Borrowing, COVID-19	04/08/2023
78	24/07/2023	Parton	Treasurer	Driver License Cancellations	02/08/2023
79	24/07/2023	Clay	Treasurer	Ambulance levies	14/08/2023
80	24/07/2023	Parton	Treasurer	Financial Statement Impacts	02/08/2023
81	25/07/2023	Cain	ACT Human Rights Commission	Budget Outcomes Identical to Targets	01/08/2023
82	25/07/2023	Cain	Human Rights	Child Safe Standards	03/08/2023
83	25/07/2023	Cain	Human Rights	Unspent Funds from 2022 - 2023	31/07/2023
84	20/07/2023	Parton	Health	Medical Imaging Equipment	07/08/2023
85	20/07/2023	Parton	Health	Canberra Hospital Lost Revenue	Not received
86	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	MRI Machine	Not received
87	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Radiation Incidents Related to Medical Imaging Machines	Not received
88	20/07/2023	Parton	Health	Delays Due to Medical Imaging Machines	Not received
89	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	Staff Separation	07/08/2023
90	20/07/2023	Castley	Health	CHS and ACTHD Staffing	17/08/2023
91	20/07/2023	Clay	Health	Dental Services	07/08/2023
92	20/07/2023	Clay	Health	Southside Hydrotherapy Pool	08/08/2023
93	20/07/2023	Parton	Sport and Recreation	Funding for the Belconnen Half-Pipe Project	02/08/2023
94	20/07/2023	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Public Liability Requirements for Clubs Hiring Sportsgrounds	02/08/2023
95	20/07/2023	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Government Charges for Smaller/Community Clubs	02/08/2023
96	25/07/2023	Pettersson	Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	Investigation into the complaint received last FY	27/07/2023
97	24/07/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Cross Border Payroll Tax Loss	02/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
98	21/07/2023	Kikkert	Early Childhood Development	Age of Children on the Waitlist for Autism Assessment	08/08/2023
99	21/07/2023	Parton	Justice Health and Mental Health	Eating Disorder Treatment Centre	14/08/2023
100	21/07/2023	Cocks	Justice Health and Mental Health	Residential Eating Disorder Treatment Centre update	03/08/2023
101	21/07/2023	Parton / Cocks	Justice Health and Mental Health	Funding for Mental Health Initiatives	03/08/2023
102	21/07/2023	Cocks	Justice Health and Mental Health	Adult Mental Health Unit	02/08/2023
103	21/07/2023	Cocks	Justice Health and Mental Health	MyHome meetings	14/08/2023
104	21/07/2023	Clay	Justice Health and Mental Health	Status of Safe Haven on Canberra Hospital Campus	Not received
105	21/07/2023	Paterson	Justice Health and Mental Health	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	02/08/2023
106	24/07/2023	Cain	Multicultural Affairs	Multicultural Festival Stall Rates; 2018 Figures	03/08/2023
107	24/07/2023	Clay	Arts	Kingston Arts Precinct Funding	02/08/2023
108	24/07/2023	Clay	Arts	Belconnen Arts Centre Funds	02/08/2023
109	24/07/2023	Pettersson	Arts	Gungahlin Arts Program	01/08/2023
110	24/07/2023	Pettersson	Treasurer	Awarding Contracts	31/07/2023
111	24/07/2023	Pettersson	Economic Development	Symphony in the Park Update	01/08/2023
112	26/07/2023	Clay	Public Trustee and Guardian	Private Financial Managers	04/08/2023
113	26/07/2023	Clay	Public Trustee and Guardian	Reminders to Financial Managers	04/08/2023
114	26/07/2023	Clay	Public Trustee and Guardian	Amount in Private Management	04/08/2023
115	26/07/2023	Pettersson	Public Trustee and Guardian	Unclaimed Body Scheme	04/08/2023
116	26/07/2023	Cain	Public Trustee and Guardian	GreaterGood	04/08/2023
117	26/07/2023	Parton	Economic Development	Canberra Innovation Network	04/08/2023
118	26/07/2023	Clay	Economic Development	Canberra Airport MOU	04/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
119	26/07/2023	Castley	Economic Development	The Enlighten Festival	04/08/2023
120	26/07/2023	Parton	Economic Development	Canberra Raiders Revenue	04/08/2023
121	26/07/2023	Clay	Economic Development	UNSW Canberra	01/08/2023
122	26/07/2023	Castley	Economic Development	Supercars	15/08/2023
123	26/07/2023	Castley	Economic Development	The Enlighten Festival	04/08/2023
124	26/07/2023	Castley	Economic Development	UNSW Canberra	02/08/2023
125	26/07/2023	Parton	Economic Development	Venture Capital	04/08/2023
126	27/07/2023	Parton	Heritage	Interim Heritage Council Legal Advice	04/08/2023
127	27/07/2023	Cain	Attorney-General	Sentencing Advisory Council	04/08/2023
128	27/07/2023	Cain	Attorney-General	ACT Coroner	03/08/2023
129	27/07/2023	Paterson	Attorney-General	Galambany Court Panel Members and Elders	04/08/2023
130	27/07/2023	Cain	Attorney-General	Female-Owned Legal Firms on External Legal Advice Panel	04/08/2023
131	26/07/2023	Castley	Economic Development	UNSW CBR	09/08/2023
132	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Capital Works Projects Above \$10 Million	16/08/2023
133	21/07/2023	Parton	Education and Youth Affairs	Annual rate of violent incidents in ACT schools	09/08/2023
134	21/07/2023	Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	ACT Police been called to ACT schools over the last few years	09/08/2023
135	21/07/2023	Clay	Education and Youth Affairs	List of ACT schools that do not have a canteen	09/08/2023
136	27/07/2023	Pettersson	Homelessness and Housing Services	Count of Rough Sleepers in the ACT	11/08/2023
137	27/07/2023	Pettersson	Homelessness and Housing Services	Hotel brokerage	11/08/2023
138	27/07/2023	Parton	Homelessness and Housing Services	Tenants having no Housing Manager in place	11/08/2023
139	28/07/2023	Parton	Families and Community Services	Additional FOI Officers	16/08/2023
140	28/07/2023	Parton	Families and Community Services	Profile of FOI Applicants	09/08/2023
141	28/07/2023	Clay	Families and Community Services	Child Protection Responses - Emotional abuse	15/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
142	27/07/2023	Cain	Chief Minister	ESA Alignment Review	15/08/2023
143	31/07/2023	Clay	Skills	CIT - Cost of CEO salaries	11/08/2023
144	31/07/2023	Milligan	Skills	CIT - Cost of CEO travel, accommodation and other entitlements	11/08/2023
145	31/07/2023	Parton	Skills	CIT - Employment placement for a student living with a disability	11/08/2023
146	31/07/2023	Clay	Skills	CIT - Number of Courses on Offer	11/08/2023
147	31/07/2023	Parton	Skills	CIT - ICT and facilities upgrade on CIT Woden campus	11/08/2023
148	31/07/2023	Parton	Skills	CIT - Silica Training Course	11/08/2023
149	31/07/2023	Milligan	Skills	CEO Relocation Entitlements	08/08/2023
150	31/07/2023	Parton	Skills	Silica Dust Training	11/08/2023
151	31/07/2023	Parton	Skills	Training Package	11/08/2023
152	31/07/2023	Clay	Skills	Gas and electricity efficiency	11/08/2023
153	31/07/2023	Clay	Skills	Sustainability initiatives	11/08/2023
154	26/08/2023	Clay	Treasurer	Gambling machine tax	14/08/2023
155	26/08/2023	Cain	Treasurer	EoGGA Site Cost Estimates	04/08/2023
156	26/08/2023	Cain	Treasurer	GST no worse off guarantee	14/08/2023
157	26/08/2023	Clay	Treasurer	LVC summary table	14/08/2023
158	26/08/2023	Parton	Treasurer	LVC non payment penalties	11/08/2023
159	26/08/2023	Parton	Treasurer	Population modelling and GST	14/08/2023
160	26/08/2023	Clay	Treasurer	ATO land tax data	14/08/2023
161	26/08/2023	Cain	Treasurer	Vacant properties	10/08/2023
162	27/07/2023	Cain	Chief Minister	Universal McCann tender process	17/08/2023*
163	27/07/2023	Cain	Chief Minister	Public Sector Standard Commissioner	11/08/2023
164	27/07/2023	Castley	Chief Minister	Wellbeing Dashboard	15/08/2023
165	27/07/2023	Castley	Chief Minister	Cost of Wellbeing Dashboard	15/08/2023

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
166	27/07/2023	Clay	Chief Minister	Data Sources for Wellbeing Dashboard	17/08/2023*
167	27/07/2023	Castley	Chief Minister	Code Yellow	17/08/2023*
168	27/07/2023	Parton	Chief Minister	Economy vs Business Flights	17/08/2023*
169	27/07/2023	Cain	Chief Minister	ACT public service staff survey	11/08/2023
170	27/07/2023	Braddock	Chief Minister	ACT public service CALD Staff	11/08/2023
171	27/07/2023	Clay	Chief Minister	Monaro Rail Trail	11/08/2023
172	31/07/2023	Clay	Special Minister of State	Callam Offices Building Upgrades	11/08/2023
173	31/07/2023	Clay	Special Minister of State	Callam Offices Building Upgrades	14/08/2023
174	31/07/2023	Pettersson	Special Minister of State	Cost of Payslips Across ACT Government	10/08/2023
175	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	HRIMS Programme and Deloitte Business Case	15/08/2023
176	31/07/2023	Clay	Special Minister of State	Contract for Electric Buses	14/08/2023
177	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Government Procurement Board Public Employee Members	11/08/2023
178	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Government Procurement Board Renewal	11/08/2023
179	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	HRIMS Contractors	15/08/2023
180	31/07/2023	Parton	Special Minister of State	HRIMS Learning	15/08/2023
181	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Procurement Expenditure 2022-2023	11/08/2023
182	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Procurement Panel of Training Providers	15/08/2023
183	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Professional Consulting Services Panel	11/08/2023
184	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Value for Money Union Contracts	11/08/2023
185	31/07/2023	Cain	Special Minister of State	Value of Union Contracts	11/08/2023
186	31/07/2023	Clay	Special Minister of State	YourSay	11/08/2023

*received after report consideration