



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Peter Cain MLA:

Reference:

In relation to: Transport and Canberra to Eden Railway Proposal

- (1) What work has the ACT government undertaken to consider and evaluate the benefits and feasibility of the Cooma Monaro Progress Association's proposal for a Canberra-Eden railway line?
- (2) What benefits to the ACT of the proposal for a Canberra to Eden railway were identified?
- (3) What feasibility issues for the ACT were identified in relation to the proposal for a Canberra to Eden railway?
- (4) How much would the proposal for the Canberra to Eden railway cost ACT taxpayers if built?
 - (a) What is the source for the data of this figure?
- (5) What findings did the ACT government note from the NSW government's Canberra to Port of Eden Feasibility Study, published in May 2020?
- (6) Were discussions held with NSW government ministers or officials regarding the Canberra to Eden railway as part of the NSW government's feasibility study?
 - (a) If so, what was the nature of these discussions?
- (7) Has the ACT government discussed the proposal for a Canberra to Eden railway with the Commonwealth government and/or the NSW government since 2022?
 - (a) When was the last such discussion regarding the Canberra to Eden railway?

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

(1-7) The ACT Government has not undertaken its own work to evaluate the benefits and feasibility of the Cooma Monaro Progress Association (CMPA) proposal for a Canberra-Eden railway line.

The NSW Government Feasibility Study into the proposal for a Canberra to Eden railway line was announced in August 2018 and completed in 2020, with only an Executive Summary being released.

The ACT Government was not consulted as a part of the Feasibility Study, and the ACT has not received a copy of the full Study. Given this, the ACT has not identified benefits or feasibility issues for the ACT from the CMPA proposal, and is not aware of what benefits or feasibility issues the NSW study may have identified beyond the summary provided in the Executive Summary.

No discussions have been held around the ACT Government providing funding for a Canberra to Eden railway line.

The ACT Government notes that the NSW Government feasibility study found that the proposal did not offer a positive return on investment.

The Chief Minister attended a meeting with members of the CMPA to discuss their proposal in November 2018. ACT officials also attended separate meetings with CMPA to further discuss the proposal in 2019 while the NSW feasibility study was underway, but did not meet directly with Transport for New South Wales. ACT officials met with CMPA again in 2021 after the findings had been released.

No discussions have been held by the ACT Government with either NSW or Commonwealth officials since 2022 on a Canberra to Eden Railway. The last discussion on the proposal involving the ACT Government was with the CMPA in 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

30/11/23

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