



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Treasurer

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript p 82

In relation to: Infrastructure projects dependent on Commonwealth funding

Hearing Date: 30 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 31 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 5 August 2024

**MS LEE:** [...] In February this year you did make a public comment about how if a number of these projects, if they did not get commonwealth support, they might not be able to proceed. Given that we have not had—I mean, you might differ in your view, but you know \$10 million for the Bruce precinct and \$25 million plus \$25 million in the outer years for stage 2B, and it is not much commonwealth confirmed contribution as yet. Are there any projects on the chopping block if you do not get commonwealth funding?

**Mr Barr:** No. Well we obviously got money to proceed to do further planning and detailed design with a view then, once that work is complete, to approach the commonwealth for partnership on construction funding. That sits outside the forward estimates of their budget at this point. But of course, they add projects in twice yearly in their mid-year update and their annual budget round. So there is opportunities.

They also then in last year's budget announced the Urban Precincts and Partnership Program, which they have now opened for funding, and they have allocated in the budget—in their budget money. But they have not allocated it to specific projects yet. That is sort of on an application basis. And so we are submitting applications through that process as well. So they have allocated money, but they have not yet determined which projects. So that is the process that we will be undertaking with them.

And then, as I mentioned last week, they have been consulting on a draft master plan for Commonwealth Park, and have indicated a willingness, for example, on a new city pool, to locate that. So sometimes commonwealth contribution will be by way of making land available for particular projects. And then clearly in the housing space there is also work underway, both in that Bruce precinct and the former CSIRO Ginninderra site. So that would be an example.

I will take on notice anything further that we can provide.

**Andrew Barr MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Infrastructure Plan outlines the ACT's future infrastructure priorities that aim to drive significant economic and social benefits for the Territory. The ACT Government continues to work with the Commonwealth Government to explore funding opportunities for these and other projects under a range of Commonwealth programs and priorities. Rather than specific projects being contingent on Commonwealth funding, the speed and timing at which the ACT pipeline is delivered is contingent on a number of factors including deliverability and the fiscal capacity of the Territory. Accordingly any funding provided by the Commonwealth Government allows the ACT Government to accelerate its future pipeline of projects and bring forward those benefits to the community.

Through the National Capital Investment Framework, the ACT Government has already identified some priority projects which would benefit from Commonwealth support and which go to the shared responsibilities of both governments in supporting Canberra as the National Capital as well as projects compatible with Commonwealth funding priorities due to their economic size and scale.

Further information on existing funding commitments from the Commonwealth Government to the ACT can be found within the Commonwealth's annual budget and mid-year economic and fiscal outlook. Any decisions to progress with a specific project or allocate new funding, with or without Commonwealth contribution, is subject to consideration by the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet and a decision for the ACT Cabinet.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 6.8.24

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA