

2024

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

TENTH ASSEMBLY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES –
REPORT 18 - INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2022-23**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
August 2024**

Introduction

On 11 February 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed an amendment to the 2 December 2020 Resolution of Establishment (clause 3) referring the Annual and Financial Reports to the relevant Standing Committee for inquiry and report by 9 April of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

The 2022-2023 Annual and Financial Reports were reviewed by the relevant Standing Committees, and each Committee held hearings and reported separately. The below Government Response addresses the recommendations within the report from the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

The following Annual and Financial Reports or sections of annual reports, were referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services:

- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate; and
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services – Report 18 - Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-23

RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear update on whether there will be a demonstration housing project in Kingston, and if not, explain why.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>In November 2023 the Government withdrew Block 1 Section 68 Kingston (the electrical switching station) from the Demonstration Housing program and advised the applicant that the Territory would not progress the direct sale of the land.</p> <p>The development of Block 1 Section 68 Kingston is currently constrained by the presence of high voltage electrical equipment operated by Evoenergy. It is anticipated that the process to remove electrical infrastructure and address any contamination will take a number of years. Development at the site is not anticipated in the next five years.</p> <p>In early 2018, the Demonstration Housing Project called for Stage 1 Expressions of Interest. Responses were received from individuals, developers, industry groups, community housing providers and organisations (proponents) who had a housing concept they wanted to test and deliver in Canberra. Of the 27 expressions of interest received, 17 proposals were selected to progress and invited to the next evaluation stage, Stage 2 Request for Proposal/Tender. There are no plans for another round of Demonstration Housing Projects at this stage.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide funding to be made available to reduce the time that it takes to bring projects to the National Capital Design Review Panel for its consideration, in order to reduce the time that it takes to get projects through the planning system.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>In the 2023-24 Budget, the ACT Government increased resourcing to meet current and future demands of the NCDRP as an integral component of improving design quality for the benefit of Canberrans. The funding provides for two staff and \$200,000 for sessional costs (expert panel members) per annum for two-years and will be used to address immediate service pressures and reduce the current timeframe to access design review sessions.</p> <p>Additional sessions have been scheduled into the forward NCDRP program, resulting in a current wait period of one to two months.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate consider making public the monitoring and evaluation framework which will be used to compare built form outcomes.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>An evaluation framework outlining the Government’s approach to monitoring and evaluation of the ACT’s outcomes focused planning system is currently being finalised, led by EPSDD.</p> <p>The framework is expected to commence from July 2024 and will be made publicly available on the planning website.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate should be consistent in its areas which have potential for change and show all potential urban regeneration areas.</p>	<p>NOTED</p> <p>The draft district strategies identified future investigation areas which included those areas contemplated and referred in the final version of district strategies as potential urban regeneration areas. The approach taken in the final district strategies was taken in response to community feedback received during consultation. Community raised concerns that future investigation areas would be areas of definite change, which was not the intent of the documents. As a result, the location of future investigation areas was removed from the document and replaced with references to undertaking future investigations into ‘potential urban regeneration areas’. The district strategies outline the criteria and considerations for potential urban regeneration areas. Further investigation of potential urban regeneration areas will be occurring, and updates will be made to district strategies to reflect these outcomes at the appropriate time. Engagement with the community will be undertaken should government pursue Major Territory Plan Amendments in the potential urban regeneration areas.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate review the integrity arrangements for making decisions on Development Applications so they are up to date with the Territory Plan.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>The Statutory Planning Division, within EPSDD, performs the statutory development assessment function and maintains a ‘bespoke’ integrity framework that guides integrity in its decision-making processes. The integrity framework is continually reviewed and updated and will be further reviewed to ensure it remains current and responsive to decisions made under the new planning system, including the new Territory Plan and the <i>Planning Act 2023</i>.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear update for the Acton waterfront development on what the target is for its number of public housing, number of community housing, and number of affordable housing, and report outcomes against these targets.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is currently working on an Estate Development Plan for Acton Waterfront, due for completion late 2025.</p> <p>The Estate Development Plan will investigate a number of built form residential and commercial opportunities for the site, including public, community and affordable housing.</p> <p>The Authority will report against these outcomes in accordance with the <i>City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017 (CRASLA Act)</i>.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report against delivery on the 15 percent Indicative Land Release Program target and separately report how much of the supply are affordable, public, and community housing in its Annual Reports.</p>	<p>EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <p>The Suburban Land Agency publishes outcomes of land releases in its sites against affordable, public and community housing target in its annual report.</p> <p>Housing target releases are reported against requirements in the <i>City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017 (CRASLA Act)</i> and subordinate instruments. Notifiable Instruments under the <i>CRASLA Act</i> reflect housing targets in the Indicative Land Release Program.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT transport emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually.</p>	<p>AGREED IN-PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act) principal target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve zero net emissions in the ACT by 30 June 2045. Reporting on progress of the Act is compiled by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and published under the Minister’s Annual Climate Change Report. This includes the ACT’s Emissions Vehicle Strategy 2022-30 which was released by the Chief Minister and Minister for Energy, Water and Emissions Reduction.</p> <p>Transport Canberra and City Services will investigate/consider setting an accountability indicator against public transport emissions and their reduction, and reporting against this annually.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT waste emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually.</p>	<p>AGREED IN-PRINCIPLE</p> <p>Transport Canberra and City Services will consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT waste emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually. Climate Choices publishes an annual ACT Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Report (Report), which includes a waste section. Waste to landfill emissions increase due to the gradual accumulation of emissions over a landfill’s lifespan due to microbial activity and organic material decomposition occurring within historic waste deposits. The Report uses the NGER Solid Waste Calculator to convert tonnages entering the landfill to greenhouse gas emissions. Tonnages to landfill may be a more relatable indicator for the general public.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress towards the establishment of a textile recycling/recovery hub.</p>	<p>EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <p>Action 4.9 of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan is to scope the establishment of a textiles hub in the ACT. A textiles hub would help to support local designers, crafts people, and industry to realise circular economy opportunities for textiles and educate the broader community on these possibilities. Work to deliver this action has commenced</p>
<p>Recommendation 11</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an update as soon as possible about when it will deliver hourly weekend bus services.</p>	<p>AGREED IN-PRINCIPLE</p> <p>Transport Canberra implemented a new timetable on 6 April 2024 which increased local bus frequency on Saturdays, extending hourly services from first service in the morning until 6:00 pm.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult with Mr Steve Doszpot’s family to have a line-marking machine named in his honour.</p>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>Transport Canberra and City Services will investigate naming the electric sportsground line marker after Mr Steve Doszpot and consult with his family during this process.</p>