



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Major Projects

In relation to: Kingston Arts Precinct

Hearing: 04 August 2026
Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 102-104
Transcript provided: 5 August 2026
Answer Due: 12 August 2026

Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MS CLAY: Is it possible to get some specific numbers or to hear that has been modelled. I am interested that it was originally a \$78 million contract. I do not know if it is still a \$78 million contract. We do not know how long it has been deferred until if it is 2030 or 2040. Is it now going to be a \$100 million contract or a \$300 million contract. I am assuming all of that work must have been done. Can we get any information on the time at the best. – **Question 1**

Mr Barr: Well, I do not think I can do that verbally in the detail that you are looking for.

MS CLAY: Yes, sure. On notice would be fine.

Mr Barr: But I guess there are some points that are worth making. Yes, there is a time value of money in the construction escalation. This is also on the revenue side of the budget inflation also grows the revenue side so it is not just a straightforward assessment that everything will cost more in the future therefore we must do everything now and approaching the market for different types of projects at different points in an infrastructure cycle noting not just what we have as part of our infrastructure offering, but what is happening in our—basically on the eastern seaboard of Australia which is another fact that is relevant for us. And then there is a question simply of deliverability and prioritisation some of which is a political decision. Do we prioritise the northside hospital over the Kingston Arts Precinct. Yes, we have. Undoubtedly. And I guess I and my colleagues wear that political judgement call but, in this instance, we want to progress the project, we want to get a stage of it delivered; a stage that provides carparking and accommodation all of which were always going to be part of the project. Infrastructure Canberra are undertaking working at the moment, and they may be in a position to talk about that to some extent.

MS CLAY: I would love to either hear some information on specifically the modelling or have that taken on notice. That would be great.

Mr Barr: Okay, we will take that question on notice.

[...]

MS CLAY: I would love to hear it but my colleagues will not. I have one last question which can be taken on notice.

Mr Barr: Yes.

MS CLAY: Can you tell me which organisations you consulted with in the arts world, First Nations world, which unions, which organisations did you consult with when making these decisions to defer this project. Can we get that taken on notice. – **Question 2**

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

- 1) Decisions regarding the Kingston Arts Precinct were made as part of the finalisation of the 2026-27 Budget. These decisions reflected consideration of the upfront capital investment required, the timing of revenues from associated land sales, and broader fiscal constraints across the ACT Government's capital works program.

As a result, the timing for delivery of the Kingston Arts Precinct has been deferred. Given the revised delivery timeframe, the final cost of the project will be subject to future budget and project planning considerations.

The Kingston Arts Precinct is a long-term project and construction market conditions, costs and budget settings have changed since earlier project estimates were developed. The precinct and surrounding land development will be delivered in stages, with Stage 1 comprising car parking, artist accommodation, housing and commercial spaces. Stage 1 is being delivered by the Suburban Land Agency (SLA).

The delivery timeframe for subsequent stages of the Kingston Arts Precinct, including the arts facilities, will be informed by the progress and delivery program for Stage 1. The land release tender for Stage 1 is currently scheduled to close in late October 2026.

- 2) Decisions regarding the Kingston Arts Precinct were considered as part of the 2026-27 Budget process, which reset the Territory's infrastructure program to ensure it is sustainable and deliverable.

The Kingston Arts Precinct is being staged to maintain parking and access open for existing arts tenants, community facilities and the wider Kingston Foreshore precinct.

artsACT continues to engage with affected arts organisations and stakeholders regarding the project. On 17 June 2026, artsACT and Infrastructure Canberra provided a briefing to future arts precinct tenants on the revised staging and delivery approach. Representatives from the following arts organisations were present at the meeting:

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- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space Reference Group
- Canberra Glassworks
- Megalo Print Studio
- M16 Art Space
- Canberra Contemporary
- photo access
- Craft + Design Canberra

A Kingston Arts Precinct Community Reference Group has also been established to support ongoing consultation and provide a mechanism for informing and engaging community stakeholders as the project progresses.

Infrastructure Canberra will continue to work closely with affected organisations, tenants and stakeholders as planning for future stages of the project recommences, ensuring they are kept informed of project developments, timing and delivery arrangements.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date: **12.8.26**

By the Minister for Major Projects, Andrew Barr MLA