



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner- Gibbings MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Transport

In relation to: : Light Rail and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise Capability
Subcontractors

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 20-21

Transcript provided: 26 November 2025

Answer Due: 3 December 2025

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Yes, I do. Thank you very much. Page 63, the light rail project's 2 per cent spend target on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise capability through providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise subcontractors. So that is a specific ...(indistinct)... [1.39.48] spend target. From what I can find, other projects have varying spend targets. So how was the light rail target determined?

Mr Cahif: So I will throw to Anthony in a sec. The light rail target built on—noting it was with Canberra Metro. So stage 2A is effectively an extension of the stage 1 system which built on the stage 1 contract, with many of the contractual terms and risk allocations repeated, as well as the local industry. So that was used as a benchmark. We did take some of the learnings through that process where some of the targets that they had—not in this space—they were not able to achieve for various reasons. And so there was some amendment to that schedule in terms of what their targets were. I believe that this one was a repeat of what they successfully delivered on stage 1.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Was it someone else ...(indistinct)... [1.41.00]

Mr Cahif: Just if Anthony has got anything further.

Mr Haraldson: I can just add that currently they are achieving a 6 per cent workforce. That is—

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: That was my next question, is what are we tracking against that target?

Mr Haraldson: Well, so the workforce for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is at 6 per cent the total workforce for Canberra Metro on the project.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: And the target is again subcontract opportunities?

Mr Haraldson: There are subcontract opportunities there, yes, and so total spend at the moment—I do not have a figure on what they are currently achieving, but the 2 per cent total is the target. The 6 per cent is the amount of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees working on the project.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Yes, okay. So do you have to wait until the project is finished to determine whether or not the target has been achieved? Or we are tracking against the target and we look to be well in front of it, or we are behind it?

Mr Haraldson: I would have to check how we are tracking at the moment, but over the timeline of the project it will go up and down. But as a total of the project it would be at the end of the total spend for the project. So depending on what stage you are at and then what subcontracts you have with those identified contractors, it will depend on where you are in the process on how much the spend is.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Okay. Well, I would appreciate a couple of lines on what it is looking like right now, with best case scenario, worst case scenario.

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

For Light Rail Stage 2A (LRS2A), Canberra Metro has committed to a 2 per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise spend target under the Local Industry Participation Plan.

Canberra Metro reports monthly on the percentage of total project costs spent with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises, demonstrating progress toward the project target.

As of October 2025, Canberra Metro had achieved 0.97 per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise spend towards the target of 2 per cent, which is assessed over the full project duration. This percentage is expected to fluctuate throughout the project period as subcontracting activity varies by stage.

In the 2023-24 financial year, Canberra Metro spent \$227,786.04 (excluding GST) with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises. Full data for the 2024-2025 financial year is expected to be available to Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) by the end of December 2025.

iCBR continues to work closely with Canberra Metro to ensure efforts are made to achieve the 2 per cent target.

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

Signature: 

By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA

Date: 1/12/25