



Inquiry into Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

In relation to: Wellbeing framework

Hearing: 16 June 2026

Proof Transcript pp 189

Transcript provided: 25 June 2026

Answer Due: 2 July 2026

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

THE CHAIR: Can you give me an example of one capital works decision that was recently made that was influenced by a wellbeing indicator assessment?

Mr Barr: Yes—the construction and the progress of the North Canberra Hospital.

THE CHAIR: It was prioritised because of —

Mr Barr: Because of its benefit and the investments in housing.

THE CHAIR: That is great. That is better than I have had in the past: housing and the hospital.

Mr Barr: I will give you a more fulsome list. You have immediately put me on the spot, and, within two seconds, I have given you the two biggest areas of budget expenditure.

THE CHAIR: If you would like to take that on notice, that would be most helpful.

Mr Barr: I will provide some further examples.

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

All proposals considered in the Budget include an assessment of their wellbeing impacts. Budget decisions related to infrastructure and major projects are informed by a range of factors, including industry's ability to deliver, the ACT fiscal position, Commonwealth or other funding streams, and the wellbeing impact assessment.

As part of the 2026-27 Budget, the Government prioritised infrastructure projects aligned with the Wellbeing Priority Areas, including those related to health infrastructure, such as delivering the new Northside Hospital, and housing, with a focus on public and social housing. Other capital works projects will also have an impact on other domains of wellbeing, such as active travel (access and connectivity, and health) and upgrading venues (social connection and safety).

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The 2026-27 Budget features a plan to release land that would enable close to 26,000 new dwellings across Canberra over the next five years. The first year of this plan includes more housing in new suburbs such as Macnamara and Molonglo, as well as urban infill sites in Belconnen and the City.

In 2026-27, 15 per cent of suitable residential land in the Housing Supply and Land Release Program is being released for public, community and affordable housing. These sites are spread across Canberra and will lead to the delivery of around 300 public, community and affordable housing dwellings.

Infrastructure projects that did not align with these areas and outcomes were, comparatively, not as highly considered and in some cases were deferred or broken into stages with further work to take place in future years.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Signature: 

Date: 2.7.26

By the Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA