



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE** **22 February 2022**

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 22 February 2022: Duncan Edghill took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 22 February 2022, PAGE 3-4]

In relation to: Canberra Hospital Expansion Cabinet Decision

Mr Edghill: So when I am talking about the Canberra Hospital expansion project, I am talking against the project that was approved by cabinet for us to proceed with, and it is my expectation that we are holding to program and budget there. So in terms of progress on that project, there is very clear physical progress which has been made. So as we sit today, we have effectively completed the early works programs. Of course, the Canberra Hospital expansion project is not just the main facility itself. There were a number of other buildings across the campus that we needed to build in order to move the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle around. So those early works are essentially complete. There is some utility works which are happening on Hospital Road which are ongoing, but in terms of building 8, building 28 and a variety of other projects we took across the campus, they are effectively completed.

In terms of the physical progress of the main new building itself, the old buildings 5 and 24 have been demolished, including the tunnels and what not that were under the ground. In terms of excavation of the sites, we have made fantastic progress and we are getting close to the point where—and I do think there is another session on that project in particular, but we are getting to the point where construction on the super structure proper will commence. So 2022 will see a lot of visible building progress on that particular project. That is not to say, of course, that in current market conditions there are not risks associated with the project, and we are certainly monitoring those very closely. But in terms of my expectation today, as to where that project is sitting, I am still expecting that to hold to construction complete in mid-2024.

MS LEE: Just so that there is no confusion whatsoever, right in the beginning of your answer you said that it was in relation to the cabinet decision that was made. Can you tell me what date that was?

Mr Edghill: I would have to take the exact date on notice, but from recollection, the business case was approved just prior to the establishment of Major Projects Canberra and we came into establishment on 1 July 2019.

MS LEE: So you are looking at July 2019. Thank you for taking that on notice. I appreciate it. Thank you.

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

May 2019.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 3.3.22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA