



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 046

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City Services

Reference: Budget Outlook Pg 233

Hearing Date: 24/07/2024

In relation to: Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and Garden City Cycle Route Stages

QON lodgement Date: 26/07/2024

Answer Due date: 02/08/2024

The contract for the Garden City Cycle Route has been split up not just into stages but sub-stages, 1A, 1B, 1C.

1. Why was this decision made?
2. The project was first included in government plans in 2004 and first promised in 2020, why is it taking so long to deliver such short segments?

Minister Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) There are a number of reasons Stage 1 was split into multiple packages:
 - I. This enabled detailed design and tender documentation to be fast tracked for the first substages so that construction tenders could be released to the market, while the final substages have detailed design and tender documents completed.
 - II. The quantum of works to complete the whole scope of stage 1 in a single contract was deemed too large for the market and would have reduced the opportunity for smaller construction companies with lower financial prequalification to tender on the works. This approach will provide the opportunity to spread works across the market.
 - III. Splitting the works into smaller construction stages also enables more flexible construction programs and reduces the impact along the route on local residents and traffic.
- 2) Routes were identified in a study and master plan report commissioned by the ACT Government in 2004. At the 2020 ACT election, ACT Labor committed it would spend \$5 million on a route planning study and the start of construction on the Garden City Cycle Route in the next term of Government. Following the ACT election, work commenced on route identification and early design and planning.

Following the 2022 Federal election, the Australian Government allocated \$5 million towards design and construction of the Garden City Cycleway. Through the 2023-24 ACT Budget, the ACT Government matched this funding contribution, bringing total funding to \$10 million.

Following the allocation in the 2023-24 Budget, detailed design work was able to commence and be completed. This included considerable investigation to understand and manage underground services, tree canopies, a significant number of driveway crossings, queuing and traffic capacity and landscape treatments. Time was also required to undertake a survey along the full length of the cycleway from Watson to the City, including extensive community consultation to ensure a fit for purpose cycleway is delivered.

Following completion of detailed design, the Government has released the first packages for construction procurement and construction has commenced on the first segment, as per the commitment made by ACT Labor in 2020.

Construction contractors work to the most efficient program to deliver works in a safe manner that ensures a quality, lasting outcome for the community. Each short segment requires significant earthworks and preparation work with particular requirements for working under trees to ensure the longevity of the existing canopy from the mature trees in the area, as well as utility works. Subgrade and pavement works, including kerb and kerb ramps, are required. In addition, there are a number of raised pedestrian priority crossings to be built which also require streetlighting.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:



By the Minister for City Services, Tara Cheyne MLA