



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 183

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: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Treasurer.

Redirected to: Minister for City Services

Reference: Major Projects, Budget Outlook, page 90

Hearing Date: 30 July 2024

In relation to: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector Design)

QON lodgement Date: 1 August 2024

Answer Due date: 8 August 2024

The Budget includes a commitment to the staged implementation of the so-called *Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector design* project. The Budget measure is for less than \$1 million.

- (1) Exactly what does the funding cover?
- (2) Does the measure include any construction funding, or is this design work only?
- (3) The Budget talks about staged implementation of the project. What is stage 1? Where does stage 1 start and end?
- (4) Does the budget measure include funding for bridge design or construction?
- (5) Does the budget measure include funding for the grade separated interchange?
- (6) Does the budget measure include funding to design how the road will actually connect to the parkway?
- (7) What is the projected timeline for the completion of the design phase, and when is construction expected to commence?
- (8) Why is the measure funded as capital rather than expenses in line with the approach for other road design projects such as Gungahlin Road Improvements?
- (9) What capital asset will be delivered by the measure?

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

- 1) \$0.850m of provisioned funding has been allocated in the 2024-25 ACT Budget for this initiative. The initiative will undertake early planning and concept option design development for the section of the new Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector from the eastern end of the Molonglo Town Centre to the Tuggeranong Parkway (referred to as Stage 2). The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is delivering Stage 1, which is the section from John Gorton Drive to the eastern end of the Town Centre. The Stage 2 section is likely to

include 1.3km of arterial road, a new bridge over the Molonglo River and a new grade separated interchange at the Tuggeranong Parkway.

Early planning and concept development is required to:

- a. Review the previous assumptions of the concept design, which was done before ACT Treasury released updated population figures in 2023. These updated figures indicated an increase in the Molonglo Population to 70,000 from the previous target figure of 50,000. This investigation work is expected to test the previous project assumptions and develop a concept design that aligns with the work the SLA is undertaking to develop and deliver Stage 1 of the Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector.
 - b. The SLA is progressing the Town Centre design and, as part of this work, the SLA will develop detailed design for Stage 1 of the Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector. This will effectively lock in the cross section, utility servicing requirements and active travel provision for the corridor. A full appreciation of the length of the corridor is needed to be progressed now via a coordinated design to ensure that Stage 1 and Stage 2 design is optimised.
- 2) The initiative will deliver early planning and concept development design work only, it does not include any construction funding.
 - 3) The Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector will be an arterial road that connects from John Gorton Drive in the west, to the Tuggeranong Parkway in the east. The SLA will deliver Stage 1, which is the first approximately 1.5 km of the road to service the new Molonglo Town Centre from John Gorton Drive to the eastern development boundary of the Town Centre. This section is required to support the development of the Town Centre. TCCS will deliver Stage 2, being the section from the eastern limit of the SLA works to the Tuggeranong Parkway, including approximately 1.3 km of road, a new bridge over the Molonglo River and a grade separated interchange at the Tuggeranong Parkway.
 - 4) The provisioned funding does not include construction funding for bridge. It includes funding for early planning and concept design development which will inform the detailed bridge design.
 - 5) The provisioned funding does not include construction funding for grade separated interchange. It includes funding for early planning and concept design development which will inform the interchange detailed design.
 - 6) EPSDD has previously undertaken options analysis on the connection of the interchange to the Tuggeranong Parkway (Stage 2). The provisioned funding will undertake further options analysis based on the SLA's Stage 1 design development, and the updated population figures released by ACT Treasury in 2023.
 - 7) This initiative is funded over two years. Detailed design and construction are subject to future consideration of funding. This project will require significant environmental, planning and approvals, hence the need to progress early planning and concept development design work now.
 - 8) A request for capital funding was submitted as the concept design development work is required to deliver a new capital asset for the Territory. A project such as the Gungahlin

Road Improvements may include planning and feasibility work which will determine the new or upgraded asset/s to be delivered.

- 9) The capital asset to be delivered is a new arterial road including approximately 1.3km of road, a road bridge over the Molonglo River and a grade separated interchange at the Tuggeranong Parkway. Under this measure the next stage of concept development design will be undertaken to further progress the delivery of this new asset.

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

Signature:



Date:

12/1/24

By the Minister for City Services, Tara Cheyne MLA