



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister Andrew Barr

Redirected to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

Reference: CED

Hearing: 20 November 2025

Question received: 27 November 2025

Answer Due: 04 December 2025

Mr Rattenbury: Thank you. Good morning. I want to ask some questions that fall within the CRA for the right officials.

Mr Barr: Okay.

Mr Rattenbury: Particularly I wanted to ask about some issues that have been raised by the Braddon Collective. Particularly they have been advocating for a couple of issues. One is the provision of toilet facilities in Haig Park.

Mr Barr: Sure, yes.

Mr Rattenbury: They have identified, given the significant number of events and activations there, a capacity issue and I wanted to know the government's response to that.

Mr Barr: Yes, indeed. Sure. Well, I think the actual provision of the toilets and the maintenance of them would sit with the city environment, but we are certainly sympathetic to that issue, and I understand that yes, there is considerable extra use of Haig Park. I consider that to be a fantastic outcome because it was once considered one of the least safe places in Canberra.

Mr Rattenbury: This is a good problem we now have.

Mr Barr: Indeed. So we will endeavour to address that issue in a subsequent budget round, but I accept it is a problem, and we will work on it.

Mr Rattenbury: Has there been any analysis of what it would cost to provide additional toilet capacity in Haig Park?

Mr Barr: Well, look, I think you are lucky to get away with less than—depending on the plumbing. Plumbing is expensive but if you can tap into existing plumbing lines it is less expensive but if you need to dig trenches and put in new plumbing. Having had some done at home recently it is expensive, yes.

Mr Rattenbury: The request is for an upgrade of the existing site so that should deal with the plumbing to a large extent.

Mr Barr: Yes, hopefully, yes. Although, I think anywhere in the inner north where there are lots of trees, the intrusion of tree roots into your plumbing is something you could expect.

Mr Rattenbury: So has there been a costing or analysis by the CRA of what it would take to upgrade the facilities?

Mr Gillman: Craig Gillman, Chief Executive Officer, City Renewal Authority. No there has been—I am sorry, I have read and understood the privileges statement. No, we have not undertaken any costing, that would be the role of the CED as the asset owner maintainer.

Mr Barr: With CED, yes.

Mr Rattenbury: Okay.

Mr Barr: But we may be able to get a sort of indicative, this is how much a toilet expansion has cost in other settings and provide that, but my guess is you are talking hundreds of thousands, if not probably about a million dollars, depending on the extent of work.

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

An upgrade/expansion of the Haig Park toilets is anticipated to cost approximately \$1 - 1.5 million. A feasibility study has not been undertaken; the cost estimate is based on delivering similar projects at other locations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature:

Date:

2/12/25

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA