



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

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

**Asked by Mark Parton MLA on 31 October 2022:** Dr Erin Brady took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 31 October 2022, PAGE 25

In relation to: Western Edge Funding

**MR PARTON:** Yes, can I just get a clarification just regarding the western edge investigations, because my understanding is that the initial allocation of funding in the 19-20 ACT Budget was \$1.15 million. But then in 2020—sorry the 22-23 ACT Budget, \$389,000 was allocated for western edge. For 22-23 was rolled out from last year with no further funding allocated after 22-23.

Have I read that correctly, and how much have you spent on the western edge investigation studies in total?

**Mr Gentleman:** Yes. So budget allocations are normally for projects, for example. And we would present to Budget Cabinet an argument for a certain amount of funding to complete a certain project in a timeline. And if we need to do more work, and ascertain another project, we would seek more funding for that.

That would occur too if we needed to do more work, and we probably will for the western edge into the future.

**MR PARTON:** So that answers why there is no funding at this stage after 22-23. Are you able to, even if it is on notice, provide a figure of how much has been spent to date on western edge investigation studies?

**Dr Brady:** We can, Mr Parton. Yes.

And the roll over part of that—the rollover of that money was, during COVID we could not do a lot of the site investigations, because we could not get people for the technical studies, and some of the studies are seasonal studies as well. So that is why we rolled some of that over. And then that will be a basis for us understanding what future budget needs may be.

But we give a spend, yes.

**MR PARTON:** All right, thank you.

Thank you.

**Mick Gentleman MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-  
The amount spent on Western Edge investigation studies as at 7 November 2022 is \$543,712.00.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature: 

Date: 9/11/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA