



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 18 July 2023: Mr Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Uncorrected Proof Transcript 18 July 2023, Page 78

In relation to:

Can you confirm the total figure for Roads construction in the Budget is over \$650 million?

MS CLAY: Minister, we have a Canberra public who like a lot of transparency and scrutiny on transport, which I think is great. Judith, good on you, and all around. I am hearing an increasing number of calls from people to seek business cases for roads, because we spend a lot on our roads, and we actually heard another call for that yesterday, but it is coming up quite a lot. My read of the budget papers is it looks like we are spending more than \$650 million on road construction. Is that right? I do not want to start out by verballing you.

Mr Steel: We would have to take that on notice, sorry. Yes.

MS CLAY: Can you take that on notice. Check my figures, and I will proceed as if it is more than \$650 million, but please come back and correct me if I am wrong—on roads construction, not maintenance. Costs on a lot of these projects are escalating, and we understand the national and global reasons why. How do you determine if a project that you started with where the costs have escalated—how do you decide if it is still value for money?

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The 2023-24 Budget includes a five-year infrastructure investment plan. This plan includes specific roads construction projects totalling approximately \$651 million over a five-year period (2023-24 to 2027-28). The following roads projects included are:

- William Hovell Drive duplication;
- Monaro Highway;
- Better Connecting Belconnen and Gungahlin (inc Owen Dixon Drive intersection);
- John Gorton Drive and Molonglo River Bridge;
- Increased road surfacing improvement across Canberra;
- Athllon Drive duplication; and
- Roads to Recovery and Road Investment – Commonwealth programs (includes notional contributions from the Commonwealth Government).

A portion of the above project budgets will be spent on active travel and public transport improvements, such as the inclusion of a new separated shared path as part of the William Hovell Drive duplication as just one example.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Steel', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

25/7/23

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA