



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

Redirected to:

In relation to: Business, Arts and Creative Industries and Kingston Arts Precinct commencement

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 4-5

Transcript provided: 26 November 2025

Answer Due: 2 December 2025

MR EMERSON: On the Kingston Arts Precinct, I understand recent reporting – or read recent reporting indicating that an EOI for a delivery contractor for the precincts would be commenced by the end of the year. Has that started?

Mr Pettersson: I would direct it to the session with the Chief Minister. I do not have responsibility for that.

MR EMERSON: We have had such short windows for these sessions, so that is why I am bringing it up here. Has any work been done on—I understand, you know, when this project was originally planned back in late 2015, arts organisations were pushed to make a firm commitment to becoming tenants. Does this session have any involvement in such an arrangement or such conversations this time around? Does that need to be done again?

Mr Pettersson: No, and I appreciate the challenge the committee is in and where they have structured this day, trying to have Infrastructure Canberra in for the day. My portfolio's remit within Infrastructure Canberra is in community arts facilities. So think more to your Belconnen Arts, your Gorman House, Tuggeranong Arts Centre. So Kingston Arts is a project for the Chief Minister.

MR EMERSON: So my question really is, what impact will that new precinct have? It is going to be an attractive option for lots of tenants. What impact will that have on existing community arts facilities and is the government doing work on whether any tenants will be lost to the Kingston Arts Precinct?

Mr Pettersson: You want to field it here?

MR EMERSON: Well, it is really about, like, you know—

Ms Geraghty: We are accountable, so we can talk to the project if the minister is happy to.

MR EMERSON: So it is kind of about what is the impact of the project on the rest of the ecosystem, you know, and has that been considered? What are you anticipating you will see with the rest of your facilities when that comes online? This is kind of why I am asking about the—how many people have been pursued as potential tenants. I have spoken with someone who kind of put themselves down 10 years ago. You know, how does it fit into—look, I understand where you are coming from, but how does it affect the rest of the ecosystem is the question that I think is relevant to this session.

Mr Pettersson: Sure, happy to field it. I think Kingston Arts Precinct presents opportunities, not just for arts organisations that will one day move into Kingston Arts Precinct, but they are what occurs in those spaces that they potentially vacate. They are in wonderful locations across largely the centre of the city. As to the forward planning flow of what is going to occur in those locations, that work is not advanced. But there is a conversation we will need to have as a city as to what the future uses of those spaces are. I am confident that across the ecosystem we can continue to support arts organisations to find the right home for their needs.

MR EMERSON: Okay, so the work on—that is a little bit surprising to me that that work is not commenced yet. Do you know when that work will commence?

Mr Pettersson: These are not the officials taking it. This is Infrastructure Canberra, not Arts ACT. So I will take it on notice or I am happy to pick up this conversation again in the appropriate session.

Michael Pettersson, MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In addition to purpose-built facilities for seven leading visual arts organisations (Canberra Glassworks, Canberra Contemporary, Craft + Design Canberra, M16 Artspace, Megalo Print Studio, photo access and a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation) the Kingston Arts Precinct will also include spaces that benefit the wider arts sector. Multiple mixed-usespaces that would be available to the public are being considered as part of the project.

The ACT Government is undertaking an Arts Assets Needs Analysis, a strategic review of arts infrastructure across the city. A successful supplier has been identified and a contract has been signed.

Stage One of the Arts Assets Needs Analysis is a Creative Spaces Mapping exercise which includes:

- An audit of ACT Government and other arts facilities used by the sector including location, services and artform focus.
- Targeted consultation with stakeholders to understand current use and future needs.
- A demand and gap analysis informed by population growth and visitation trends.

The mapping will consider future changes to the arts facilities portfolio, including potential vacancies or repurposing of sites such as the Canberra Glassworks Chapel, Manuka Arts Centre, and Former Transport Depot, linked to the Kingston Arts Precinct development.

OFFICIAL

Future use of vacated sites will be a decision for Government and will be carefully assessed and aligned with community needs.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature:



Date: 2-12-25

By the [Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, Michael Pettersson