



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

In relation to: Theatre Lane Carpark

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 18-19

Transcript provided: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 2 December 2025

MR EMERSON: Thank you. I want to ask about the Lyric Theatre. Did the government push back on the closure of the entire car park when the TTM was submitted by Multiplex?

Mr Barr: Certainly the government's view was that parking arrangements needed to accommodate loading zones and the appropriate relocation of accessible car parking. Obviously we had a discussion in the Assembly in the last sitting in relation to the location of that accessible car parking and the changes we made to reflect one of the outcomes of the Assembly resolution.

MR EMERSON: So I am curious if there was any back and forth, and obviously the government is receiving ...(indistinct)...[9.43.25] all the time to town plans, whether that implies they needed to be closed or not?

Mr Barr: Well, in relation to requirement to maintain parking access is certainly something that we pursued, and that is why there is maintenance of parking access. I think, though, it is worth noting there are two projects underway simultaneously, and one should not conflate the theatre's land take, if you like, the construction of the theatre. One also needs to consider light rail stage 2A. Now, those works are more advanced, and as we debated in the Assembly in the last sittings, once those works conclude a proportion of what was known as the Mooseheads - colloquially known as the Mooseheads Car Park or the theatre lane car park will be returned for parking, so the theatre construction site is not consuming all of that car park, and once light rail stage 2A construction in that section is complete, and this largely relates to a range of important long-term improvements in stormwater management, for example, in that area to avoid floods, responding to what we anticipate to be increased frequency and intensity of storm events in our region, once that work is complete, then more car parking will come back online.

MR EMERSON: Is that - how many rows of car parking does that relate to?

Mr Barr: I will take that on notice for you to give a precise answer.

MR EMERSON: Okay. Do you know when that will be?

Mr Barr: I will also take that on notice to get the most accurate date. I mean, because it can change depending—depending on construction vagaries, good weather, et cetera. Obviously I ask officials every week to be following that up with the contractors. I am very aware of the issues and the

challenges. They are temporary, and we have sought to balance the loading zone and accessible parking needs. General parking is more challenging right at the moment. We acknowledge that. New car parks, new structured car parks have been built and opened within the precinct, and they were open and operational with hundreds of extra car parks. I think, clearly, not everyone is aware of them, and so we have gone to great lengths to publicise their availability, but again, for the record, that includes in Nangari Street, the ten-storey you have got more than 200 space car park that is located very close by to this precinct. Then around City Hill, the one City Hill development which is complete and has a very large car park as well, with EV charging as well, is open and accessible or people. It is a relatively short walk then to the Melbourne Building on the western side of Northbourne Avenue.

MR EMERSON: So perhaps in that response, I notice you could indicate the number of car parks that you anticipate to reopen, the likely time, understanding it is indicative only, if that is okay?

Mr Barr: Yes.

MR EMERSON: Thank you. And then as part of that, how many of those will likely be accessible parking spots.

Mr Barr: Sure, yes, we can.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In early December, Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) completed civil works near Bailey's Corner, enabling the reinstatement of the loading zone in that location. This reinstatement has enabled the temporary loading zone area within the Theatre Lane car park to be converted into four additional accessible parking places, bringing the total to six accessible spaces available from 18 December 2025.

When construction of Light Rail Stage 2A works on London Circuit east is completed (expected late 2026), iCBR will reconfigure the current work area within the Theatre Lane car park back to parking. A single row of parking is planned to be reinstated, which is expected to provide approximately 20 parking spaces, including 10 accessible spaces.

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

Signature: 

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA

Date: 6.1.26