



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023**

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

**ANSWER TO  
QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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Mark Parton MLA to ask the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Ref: Budget Statement G – Homelessness Services BS – G Page 51 – 2022-23 Budget Technical Adjustments

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 07/09/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 08/09/2022

**In relation to the Construction of Common Ground**

- 1. Can you please explain why the budget 5.8 million for last year was not spent?**
- 2. What will this 5.8 million for the 2022-23 year go towards?**
- 3. Can you explain the underspend of seven hundred and fifty seven thousand and why this was transferred to Public Housing Maintenance?**
- 4. When will Common Ground open given it was due for completion mid 2022?**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Parton".

MARK PARTON  
Shadow Minister for Transport

Minister Vassarotti: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. Consistent with the challenges experienced across the construction industry, progress on site in 2021-22 was slower than originally forecast. This was due to many factors including extended periods of significant wet weather, continued impacts of COVID-19 (industry shutdown, decreased occupancy limits, etc.) and the flow on effects, plus the increased construction activity across Australia/globally which contributed to material and labour/trade shortages. As a result, some works originally forecast for 2021-22 will now be completed in 2022-23 and will be invoiced accordingly.
2. The \$5.8 million reprofiled from 2021-22 to 2022-23 will be used to fund the completion of works on the project.
3. The \$757,000 adjustment is a technical adjustment required to be undertaken by Housing ACT to facilitate bringing forward capital appropriation funding under the "Securing High Quality Public Housing" initiative in 2021-22. This adjustment was undertaken in accordance with the Budget Management Process. The \$757,000 will be returned in 2022-23 to the "Reducing homelessness by delivering another Common Ground" initiative from the "Securing High Quality Public Housing" initiative. This adjustment does not alter the total funding of either initiative.
4. The Common Ground Dickson building was handed over to the tenancy and property managers, Community Housing Canberra, on 15 August 2022, with the first tenants moving in on 23 August 2022. Common Ground Dickson is anticipated to be officially opened in October 2022.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 15/9/2022

By Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services