



# Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

In relation to: Big Canberra Battery Project Cost

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 15

Transcript provided: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 2 December 2025

**MR WERNER-GIBBINGS:** Okay. Thank you. You actually touched on both of my follow up questions in that. And the investment. What is the cost of the project over its life?

**Mr Barr:** We can certainly provide the detail in relation. It is outlined in budget papers. But there is obviously an availability payment, that is made in relation to the Williamsdale Grid Scale Project. And then a revenue sharing arrangement. The details are outlined in the budget papers through each fiscal year.

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

The project agreement with Eku Energy is an offtake agreement, where the Territory pays a fixed offtake amount, known as the "Support Charge", in exchange for 50 per cent of the net revenue.

The total nominal Support Charge (with assumed Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases) over the operational period of 15 years is \$368,250,784 (excluding GST). Based on forecasts at the time the contract was entered into, the Territory's share of net revenue over the life of the agreement is expected to exceed this amount in net present value terms.

The Government intends to update these forecasts periodically and the results will be reflected in the Budget papers, including the upcoming Budget review.

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The 2025-2026 Infrastructure Canberra Budget paper includes expenses related to the project as set out in the table below.

|                   | 2025-26 Budget | 2026-27 Estimate | 2027-28 Estimate | 2028-29 Estimate |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Expenses (\$'000) | 13,874         | 18,816           | 19,375           | 19,950           |

Source: *iCBR Budget Paper G, Table 13, Page 15*

These costs include operational costs such as employee, consultant costs, and block maintenance services totalling approximately \$504,000 (excluding GST) per annum. With an assumed average CPI increase of three per cent, this totals approximately \$10,297,000 (excluding GST) over the life of the project.

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

Signature: 

Date: 4.12.25

By the Chief Minister. Mr Andrew Barr MLA