QTON No. 266

Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory
Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mrs Deborah Morris

Addressed to: City Renewal Authority

In relation to: $39 million for CRA capital works

Hearing: 3 August 2026
Uncorrected Proof Transcript: pp 129-130
Transcript provided: 5 August 2026
Answer Due: 12 August 2026

Ms Ramsay took on notice the following question(s):

MRS MORRIS: So the budget provides around $39 million for City Renewal Authority capital works in 26-27. Can you give me an overview of what that money is going to deliver?

Mr Gillman: That is largely, this year, made up of works in Ngamawari. That is the biggest single line item in that program. But then there is also the Dickson shops upgrade, where the stormwater asset is also incredibly aged and needs to be replaced. And there was no point doing an upgrade of the pavement and surfaces if the stormwater still caused pooling and flooding. So that is a significant program for next year as well.

MRS MORRIS: Would you be able to come back to the committee with a breakdown of those costs?

Mr Gillman: Sure.

MRS MORRIS: Thank you. Has any funding been allocated to providing relief to businesses that might be struggling with the impacts of light rail construction?

Mr Gillman: To date, we have undertaken a range of grant processes for those businesses that are adjacent to light rail construction works. So we have had a program of in-business grants. There was K-Pop at Mooseheads, Jazz at Molly, various others, you have got the number there.

Ms Ramsay: So yes, about 200,000 was provided in terms of business activation grants to help businesses activate inside their business. This was an idea that was proposed by the City

Centre Marketing Improvements Levy Advisory Group. The businesses who advise us on how we expend that levy talked about the importance of activating inside businesses and we had always sort of looked at activating the public realm and we took that on board, and it has been delivered really well. We have had excellent feedback around it.

So we have done it in different stages. We did one when there was the multicultural festival, so they did multicultural type activations. We did one last winter when people—some of the businesses were saying they were feeling—struggling during winter, so we did some then. They were well received. We have been working with Infrastructure Canberra, who is funded some and we have delivered them, and that was just done recently during the winter period. So it is a really good model. It is mainly funded out of the levy, but it has been a really good model.

MRS MORRIS: Okay. And how much has been allocated for that business relief in the current financial year?

Ms Ramsay: Sorry, for this year or the next year?

MRS MORRIS: Well, keen to actually know, for the last financial year, how much was provided, and then for the current year, how much has been allocated?

Ms Ramsay: Look, I think it was about 200,000 in business activation grants, and we also have another 200,000 in terms of place making grants, which is slightly different. They are just about anyone anywhere can actually use. Anyone can apply for those. So I think it is about 200. I can confirm that.

MRS MORRIS: Yes, happy for you to come back on notice for last financial year and then allocated for the current.

Ms Ramsay: Yes.

MRS MORRIS: Thank you, chair.

Mr Gillman and Ms Ramsay: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The $39.147 million identified as total capital program expenditure for 2026-27, comprises multiple design and construction projects. In some circumstances details cannot be provided as they are still in procurement or procurement planning. If the details of these were to be released the ability for the Territory to achieve value for money would be reduced. As such the below project breakdown can be provided:

- Ngamawari construction $19,334 million
- Dickson Shops revitalisation and stormwater upgrade $7,211 million
- City Centre Paving and Lighting $8,260 million

- City Walk, Cooyong Street, Alinga Street detailed design and the finalisation of other design programs underway comprises the remainder of the budget.

During the 2025/26 financial year, City Renewal delivered three rounds of business activation grants. These grants were developed to support businesses impacted by construction of light rail (stage2A) to create and deliver unique experiences, activities and events that draw people into the city. A total of $189,000 was awarded across all three rounds. The first two rounds (totalling $110,000) were funded by City Renewal, the third round ($79,000) was funded by Infrastructure Canberra.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature: 

Date:12/08/2026

By the Chief Executive Officer, Craig Gillman