



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Elizabeth Kikkert MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City Services

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 27-28]

In relation to: William Hovell Drive duplication project timelines

Hearing Date: 24/07/2024

QTON lodgement date: 24/07/2024

Answer Due Date: 30/07/2024

**MRS KIKKERT:** Could you then put on notice where the previous \$26.5 million from previous budget statements went to, because William Hovell Drive has not been duplicated? Also, just quickly so Jo can have her time, when is the William Hovell Drive duplication planned to be constructed? The beginning of it?

**Ms Cheyne:** As soon as possible. You may be aware, Mrs Kikkert, that the environmental approvals have finally got to a stage where the DA has been renotified. It closes for public comment on 5 August. After that, EPSDD will go through their final approvals process, and that DA being approved allows for construction to get underway, and so I hope it is imminent. In the meantime, we are working on finalising our construction tender so that we can contract for the work so it can get underway. It has taken much longer than any of us would have liked, but I can say that we are much closer than we have been the last few years.

**MRS KIKKERT:** Absolutely. Back in March 2020, a question on notice: the construction would be completed by late 2023. In March 2021, question on notice: it said that the construction would be completed by mid-2023. March 2024, Minister Cheyne, your response to that question of when the duplication of William Hovell Drive will be completed: you stated the completion date is 2026.

Now, if I can draw your attention to the budget statement. The forward budget years 2024-25, 2025-26, ranges about \$2.2 million and then in the budget years of 2026-27 it is projected with an increase spending of \$15.5 million. I could only assume that it is the construction of William Hovell Drive Duplication is going to cost that much, so I would assume that in 2026-27 estimation, based on your projection of your spending cost, that is when the William Hovell Drive Duplication construction will actually being.

**Ms Cheyne:** No.

**MRS KIKKERT:** So then why is an increase amount in your estimation projection of how much you will be spending in 2026-27 \$15.5 million, and in the next two years it is only a mere \$2.2 million?

**Ms Cheyne:** Mrs Kikkert, that is how the funding has been profiled, and I note that is just a portion of the total cost of the project, and that relates to the new funding. So if you have been following along with the project since March 2020—

**MRS KIKKERT:** I have. On the questions on notice, you have stated a number of times different year of construction will be completed, different years.

**Ms Cheyne:** Mrs Kikkert, the reason—Mrs Kikkert, may I answer?

**MRS KIKKERT:** So how are we supposed to believe you and to understand you—

**THE CHAIR:** Mrs Kikkert, give the minister the opportunity to answer your question.

**MRS KIKKERT:** —that construction will actually begin on 2026?

**THE CHAIR:** Mrs Kikkert, your original question, the minister is answering.

**Ms Cheyne:** Mrs Kikkert, I am explaining why those dates have changed. Is that what you would like to know?

**MRS KIKKERT:** I would like to know the date of the construction of William Hovell Drive, when it will begin, and if you could commit to that—if the detailed design is done and the environmental study has completed, surely you will have an estimation of when the construction will begin and when it will end. In previous years the government has estimated a time. Why cannot you do that today?

**THE CHAIR:** Can I just ask, minister, if you could take that on notice so we could just take a minute or two to give Ms Clay another question.

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:**

The 2024-25 Budget Statement H, on page 42, incorrectly reports the ACT contribution for ***Constructing the William Hovel Drive*** at \$80.750m and the Commonwealth contribution at \$26.500m. The correct "Total Project Values" should be: ACT Contribution \$53.625m and Commonwealth contribution \$53.625m. Remaining information, including the annual profile of anticipated expenditure from the ACT contribution and Commonwealth contribution, is correct.

The current profile of expenditure published in the Budget Statements reflects the funds allocated for both the ACT component and the Commonwealth component for this project. These expenditure profiles are reviewed twice per year by the TCCS, Treasury and Major Projects Canberra.

Procurement of construction is due to commence once the planning and environmental approvals are finalised and incorporated into the tender documents. Once the contractor is engaged, they will be required to seek approvals for Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Land Management Protection Plan (LMPP).

On this basis, the procurement of the construction contractor is planned to occur in the coming months, with major construction to commence shortly after the appointment of a contractor.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 30/7/24

By the Minister for City Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA