



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

Reference: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Hearing: 17 FEB 2025

In relation to: CMTEDD - Economic Development and Economic development of the town centres

Question received: 20 FEB 2025

Answer Due: 28 FEB 2025

In your 2016 statement of ambition, you said that cities don't succeed by accident or by leaving things to chance – they require design, good governance and great collaboration. the City Renewal Authority (CRA) delivers the design, good governance and great collaboration.

- When you refer to cities in the above statement, does that include Canberra's districts that are outside of the CRA precinct?
- What areas does the Minister for Economic Development cover, who is responsible for economic development for areas that the Minister for Economic Development is not responsible for?
- Who delivers the design, good governance and great collaboration for the districts outside of the CRA area?
- Why is the CRA appropriated budget funding for upgrades and events in the CRA area but the other parts of Canberra do not have the same governance arrangements to deliver these types of upgrades for place making.
- Why does the pipeline of infrastructure projects deliver more social and economic infrastructure to the Golden Triangle (Bruce, Dickson to the lake) which already has most of the publicly supported facilities and activity in Canberra?
- How is the Capital Framework applied and where do we find the business cases and the options analysis for new publicly supported social/economic Infrastructure?
- What is the government's policy for a fair distribution of publicly supported facilities and activity in the town centres across Canberra?

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

- **When you refer to cities in the above statement, does that include Canberra's districts that are outside of the CRA precinct?**

The 2016 Statement of Ambition outlined economic development priorities for that term of the Legislative Assembly. It has been superseded by [CBR Switched on: ACT's Economic Development Priorities 2022-25](#) (the Strategy), which was released in March 2022. *CBR Switched On* is a mission-led strategy that builds on the 2016 Statement of Ambition. The Strategy sets out the pathway for the ACT Government to meet its commitment to continue growing a highly productive, diversified, and progressive economy for the future.

CBR Switched On is a Territory-wide strategy. The missions and initiatives of *CBR Switched On* are not limited to a particular district or area of the ACT.

- **What areas does the Minister for Economic Development cover, who is responsible for economic development for areas that the Minister for Economic Development is not responsible for?**

The economic development portfolio has a high-level and territory-wide remit. It is focussed on significant areas of the Territory economy and infrastructure that contribute to increasing the Territory's Gross State Product (GSP), exports and employment.

The Minister for Business, Arts and Creative industries, the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, the Minister for the Night-Time Economy and the Treasurer have relevant responsibilities in this policy area.

The portfolio responsibilities are outlined in detail in the [Administrative Arrangements 2024 \(No 1\)](#).

- **Who delivers the design, good governance and great collaboration for the districts outside of the CRA area?**

The ACT Government directorates and agencies collectively have a role to play in delivering the priorities of government as they relate to our districts. At a strategic planning level, the district strategies provide direction on how Canberra will change and grow towards 2038 and beyond to 2050. Each strategy captures the special character of its corresponding district, with actions taken by agencies in line with the strategies and government priorities.

The Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) leads work across government in establishing the future planning and design for our districts and this is delivered through a range of government directorates and agencies working together, including the CRA for the city precinct. An element of the ACT's planning system is district strategies – there are nine districts across Canberra. The district strategies look at how the Government manage growth in a way that is sustainable. You can read further here [District Strategies - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate - Planning](#).

Governance is also established through mechanisms such as the *Planning Act 2023* and other related legislation and regulation.

- **Why is the CRA appropriated budget funding for upgrades and events in the CRA area but the other parts of Canberra do not have the same governance arrangements to deliver these types of upgrades for place making.**

The City Renewal Authority delivers public realm upgrades, fund events, promote activities and provides cleaning and security services via City Precinct Renewal Program appropriated funding and the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (CCMIL). These areas are defined via the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act. The CCMIL collection zone is defined under the Rates Act (2004).

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) and the Transport and City Services Directorate (TCCS) undertake upgrade and place making activities in other parts of the Territory.

- **Why does the pipeline of infrastructure projects deliver more social and economic infrastructure to the Golden Triangle (Bruce, Dickson to the lake) which already has most of the publicly supported facilities and activity in Canberra?**

The *ACT Infrastructure Plan* (the Plan), first published in 2019, sets out a long-term vision to build Canberra's future. In 2022, the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) started work on the ACT Infrastructure Plan Update (the Update) and the subsequent Indicative Project Pipeline (the Pipeline). CMTEDD Policy and Cabinet led the work on the Update in collaboration with teams across the ACT Government, delivering seven sector updates, concluding in 2024.

The Plan and Pipeline are not a definitive list of future initiatives. While the Pipeline identifies varying levels of current or potential future investment in districts across Canberra, the priorities in the Plan have been informed by the best information available at the time.

The number of infrastructure projects in the Inner North and City may be influenced by the inclusion of the precinct renewal program projects being undertaken by the CRA, Light Rail Stage 2A and associated projects such as the Raising of London Circuit, and the upgrade of cultural institutions such as the Canberra Theatre Centre Redevelopment. While these projects take place in the Inner North and City, they provide a benefit for all Canberrans. Additionally, the ACT Governments pipeline infrastructure projects extend to other parts of Canberra such as Woden with the future projects including duplication of Athllon drive, the new CIT Campus, upgrades to Phillip District Enclosed Oval and extension of light rail to Woden.

Future investment will be subject to government decisions, informed by strategic priorities, ensuring infrastructure is delivered where and when it is needed. The projects identified in the Pipeline are included under the caveat that any 'priorities identified beyond the current budget are indicative and may change in response to community preferences, shifts in demand for services and the availability of funding'.

- **How is the Capital Framework applied and where do we find the business cases and the options analysis for new publicly supported social/economic Infrastructure?**

The Capital Framework provides guidance for the development and justification of capital proposals as well as the assessment of a project's outcome as part of the broader ACT Government's Infrastructure Investment Lifecycle. The Capital Framework requires early

consultation with Treasury to identify the problem or opportunity that needs to be addressed, the analysis of options and resulting benefits and guides the development of budget business cases. The Framework is also used to support the successful delivery of capital projects in the ACT by requiring assessment of capital projects outcomes and monitoring and reporting on benefits realisation which allows for the feedback of lessons learnt to improve future project outcomes. Further details of the Capital Framework can be found at the website Home - Capital Framework. (<https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/capital-framework/home>)

While business cases, their components (including options analyses) and the Budget process are Cabinet items and therefore subject to Cabinet confidentiality, the Government has made decisions to release business cases with significant social and economic impact on the Territory, including those associated with Light Rail.

- **What is the government's policy for a fair distribution of publicly supported facilities and activity in the town centres across Canberra?**

The Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development has outlined several key commitments to the distribution of community facilities in his 2024 Statement of Planning Priorities.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature: 

Date: **3.3.25**

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA