



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA

Reference: Minister for Transport – Transport Canberra and City Services

Hearing: 19 February 2025

In relation to: Better buses to support the new network

Question received: 21 February 2025

Answer Due: 28 February 2025

1. What is the 'better buses to support the new network' project?
2. The original practical completion date was July 2023, but the revised date is December 2026. What is the reason for this change?
3. The cost has also gone from \$8.606m to \$37.51m. How is this large decrease explained?

### **Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:**

1. The 'better buses to support the new bus network' project has allowed the ACT Government to purchase modern and fuel-efficient buses that allowed for improved accessibility and passenger comfort, increase reliability and lower maintenance costs on the new public transport network. The new buses are being added to the fleet on a rolling basis so that the ACT retains the flexibility to transition to emerging types of low emissions vehicles if these become a viable option in the future.
2. The change to the practical completion date of this project was amended to align with extended manufacturing timeframes that had occurred within the bus industry. One of the suppliers sub-contractors entered voluntary administration part way through delivery, which has delayed the timeframes of their bus deliveries.
3. The first two supply contracts were for leased vehicles, not purchased vehicles. Appropriation was required to be transferred from capital appropriation to operational funding to allow the lease payments to be made over the five-year term of the lease.

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

Signature: 

Date: 28/2/25

By the Minister for Transport, Mr Chris Steel MLA