

2012

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

***INQUIRY INTO APPROPRIATION BILL
2011-2012 (No. 2)***

TABLING STATEMENT

**Presented by:
Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer
May 2012**

Tabled 8.5.2012

TABLING STATEMENT

- Mr Speaker, I present the Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts – *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2011-2012 (No. 2)*.
- I thank the Committee, and its support staff, for its efforts and assessment of the *Appropriation Bill 2011-2012 (No. 2)*.
- The Government respects and values the crucial role played by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in scrutinising its proposed expenditure.
- The Government welcomes the Committee's four recommendations and agrees to all recommendations relating to the Ashley Drive Improvements Project, and supports the Committee's final recommendation for the ACT Legislative Assembly to pass the *Appropriation Bill 2011–2012 (No. 2)*.
- To conclude, the Report of the Standing Committee and its recommendations do not raise any serious issues that would prevent the passing of the *Appropriation Bill 2011-2012 (No. 2)*.
- On behalf of the Government, I express thanks to the Committee for its consideration of the Bill, and remind the Assembly of the important and essential investments being made through this second appropriation.
- Mr Speaker, I commend the Government Response to the Assembly.

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INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts presented its Report on the *Appropriation Bill 2011-2012 (No.2)* on Tuesday, 1 May 2012.

The Government thanks the Committee for its Report on the *Appropriation Bill 2011-2012 (No. 2)*. The Committee has provided a report with four recommendations, three of which relate to the upgarde of Ashley Drive in Tuggeranong.

In its response, the Government:

- agrees to the three recommendations relating to the Ashley Drive Improvements Project; and
- supports the Committee's fourth recommendation to pass the *Appropriation Bill 2011-2012 (No.2)*.

The Government welcomes the efforts of the Standing Committee in its assessment of the expenditure proposals contained in the second Appropriation Bill. The Government has provided a response to each of the recommendations of the Committee.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee recommends that before the ACT Government proceeds with the works identified under the Ashley Drive upgrade project it reconsider the sequencing of traffic streams in an attempt to minimise the number of traffic lights proposed to be installed at intersections.

Government Response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will, as part of progressing the further design of these works, review the need for the number of traffic lights identified in the initial feasibility study covering the upgrade of Ashley Drive.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee recommends that consistent with the recommendation of the GTA Consultants' report—Ashley Drive, Monash—Road Network Upgrade Feasibility Study—the ACT Government, as a matter of priority, undertake a further detailed traffic study 'to examine the traffic generating characteristics of Gowrie, Fadden and Macarthur, and assess route choice and alternative routes in the area'.

Government Response

Agreed.

In relation to the timing, the ACT Government will undertake a further detailed traffic study to examine the traffic generating characteristics of Gowrie, Fadden and Macarthur as part of developing the next stage of the Ashley Drive upgrade project.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explain to the ACT Legislative Assembly the compatibility of the proposed works to be encompassed under the Ashley Drive upgrade project with the goals of the ACT Sustainable Transport Plan.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Sustainable Transport Plan promotes efficient and safe travel across Canberra. The upgrade of Ashley Drive, as proposed, will provide more efficient and safer travel on Ashley Drive, an important arterial road, as well as improved access to the Erindale Group Centre. At the same time, opportunities will be provided for improved walking and cycling facilities as a part of the road infrastructure together with provision for priority to for public transport where required.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly pass Appropriation Bill 2011–12 (No. 2).

Government Response

Support.