

2023

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS - REPORT 13 -
INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2021-22**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Presented by
Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
June 2023**

Introduction

On 11 February 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed an amendment to the 2 December 2020 Resolution of Establishment (clause 3) referring the Annual and Financial Reports to the relevant Standing Committee for inquiry and to report by 9 April of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

The 2021-22 Annual and Financial Reports were reviewed by the relevant Standing Committees, and each Committee held hearings and reported separately.

The below Government Response addresses the recommendations which relate to the 2021-22 Annual and Financial Reports.

The following Annual and Financial Reports or sections of annual reports, were referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (the Committee):

- ACT Audit Office;
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate;
- Icon Water;
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission;
- Major Projects Canberra; and
- Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Office of the Legislative Assembly continue to implement the Laing Review

Not for ACT Government

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Office of the Legislative Assembly upgrade end of trip facilities in the Assembly.

Not for ACT Government

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a plan and timeline for the remainder of the tax reform program to 2032.

Government Response – Existing Government Policy

The settings for tax reform are reviewed and published in five-year stages prior to each stage commencing. The settings for each individual stage take into account the progress and impacts of tax reform to date, the contemporary outlook for the ACT economy, and the Government's policy objectives underlying each stage. The current stage of tax reform (stage three) commenced in 2021-22, with the plan for this stage published in the August 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update. Stage four is due to commence in 2026-27 and likewise will be published prior to its commencement. The Government will continue to plan the settings for tax reform in stages, with the details of each stage to be published prior to commencement, for the remainder of the program.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on interstate movement of businesses between Canberra and the wider region.

Government Response – Not Agreed

In practice there is no existing data available to accurately report on interstate movements of businesses. It would require further investigation to identify viable sources of data, with the possibility that none is available.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends the ACT Government routinely make their submission to Standard & Poor's credit rating assessment available to the general public.

Government Response – Noted

The Government's engagement and consultation with S&P draws entirely on published material already available to the general public in the Budget and related papers.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends Major Projects Canberra expand on its 'projects pipeline' webpage, by publishing an up-to-date status dashboard of all projects underway.

Government Response – Existing Government policy

The purpose of the Projects Pipeline page on the MPC website is to provide information to industry on upcoming procurement and tender activities.

The existing ACT Government Built for CBR website (<https://www.builtforcbr.act.gov.au>), managed by CMTEDD, provides information on the Territory's capital works program in one, easily accessible location. It provides accountability and transparency of infrastructure spending and benefits realisation for the public and community across all Directorates and Ministerial Infrastructure Portfolio's. Built for CBR includes key statistics including funding, timeframes for completion, current status and progress updates.

A link to the Built for CBR page will be added to the MPC website.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more detailed information on infrastructure under- and over-spend in its reporting on the Capital Works Program each quarter.

Government Response – Not Agreed

The current Capital Works Reporting includes comprehensive information on capital works expenditure. This includes information on the percentage year to date expenditure of each agency, comparisons to previous year expenditure, pre-construction milestone performance information, commentary on project delivery and year to date expenditure information for all projects greater than \$10 million in value.