



# Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Mountain bike track

Hearing: 12 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 59-60

Transcript provided: 21 November 2025

Answer Due: 28 November 2025

**MS CARRICK:** Okay. All right. Well, we will wait for the two weeks' time then. So my other question then, given that was my nice quick one, is about the—is it yours, about the track that would go from Stromlo to—the mountain biking track from Stromlo to the river, to the Cotter?

**THE CHAIR:** Yes, yes.

**MS CARRICK:** So are there opportunities—I have a constituent that is very keen to do more tracks around the rivers and more—you know, rebuilding the Cotter Pub, like, tourism around that river area. Is there any consideration in government to use that area for more tourism? You know, you have got the Scouts out there and they have got a lot of activities that could be built upon. They have got accommodation. Is there any—

**Ms Watts:** Do you have a conflict of interest here? No?

**Mr Pepper:** I do not think so.

**Ms Watts:** You know, about the pub at Stromlo?

**Mr Pepper:** No.

**MS CARRICK:** It is just basically about development of that area and to, you know, attract tourism.

**Ms Cheyne:** Right. Sorry about that.

**MS CARRICK:** You were in the Scouts?

**Mr Pepper:** No, no. I had a business interest some years ago.

**Ms Cheyne:** Yes. No, I thought Mr Pepper might still have a business interest out at Stromlo.

So what I would say is I think we really do recognise that mountain biking, in particular, is— the recreational tourism opportunities around it are considerable. And the focus is on delivering that commitment. And you may be aware, I think there was some questions in the last question time about effectively the contract where the provider has gone into administration has largely been completed, which is good.

Overall about the opportunities there, I think any investment that we do, we need to make sure we are really deliberate. Across the ACT, we have assets everywhere I suppose that are aging. And we have also got a whole lot of very well-meaning people, with great ideas, but who also may not have the skills or the opportunity or the funding to maintain something that they build, whether it is like a road pump track or something else.

And so when these assets become within the ACT government's responsibility, then there is a life cycle asset cost to it. And that is not always super well accounted for. And so that is a long way of saying, always open to ideas, but in terms of what or what we authorise, especially if it is going to require a drawdown on our existing maintenance budget, we really need to think it through carefully before agreeing.

**MS CARRICK:** Okay. So that is like a constituent or a developer-led proposal to the government for something. Is the government interested in planning recreational tourism as a revenue source in that area?

**Ms Cheyne:** Beyond what we have currently committed, I do not believe so. But I will take it on notice if I am wrong.

**MS CARRICK:** Okay. Thank you.

**Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

As part of the Stromlo to Cotter trail project, the Parks and Conservation Service is exploring opportunities to improve recreation access to the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. This includes improving recreational trail access between Casuarina Sands and the Cotter Campground.

The Cotter Campground is charged on a fee for service basis. The Cotter Campground caters for a wide range of camping styles from swags to camper-trailers and large vans. The campground is wheelchair accessible, electric and gas barbecues, fireplaces, shelters and picnic tables are provided. Hot showers, potable water, flushing toilets and dishwashing facilities are also provided.

Additional recreational opportunities, particularly mountain biking, will enhance the visitor experience offering (relevant across all our parks/reserves). This has the potential to contribute to the broader ACT visitor economy, with more recreational opportunities to increase length of stay and visitor spend.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature 

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA

Date: 24/11/25