



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

15 November 2018

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

Ref: TCCS Annual Report, TCCS Portfolio, output class 2.1 – Roads and Infrastructure

In relation to: Umbagong stepping stones, Latham in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

1. Are there any plans for the ACT Government to construct a bridge near the Umbagong stepping stones as a safer crossing alternative for children and elderly, people with disabilities, cyclists, as well as people with wheelchairs/prams? If so, what is the current status of the plans; if not, why not?
2. Will the ACT Government consider constructing such a bridge in the 2019-20 budget? If not, why not?
3. What measures will the ACT Government undertake to ensure that the community have safe and convenient access to crossing the creek?

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

1. There are no immediate plans to construct a bridge near the stepping stones. The stepping stones have been in place for more than 30 years and were likely installed as a recreational means of crossing the creek and directly interacting with the creek. A crossing point, consisting of a footbridge with enclosed hand rails, is located 650 metres north of the stepping stones. The stepping stones do not directly lead to or from any park amenities such as public toilets, barbeques or picnic tables.

Signage has been provided in the area advising that the stepping stones may not provide safe access for all users and that a safe and convenient alternative bridge crossing is located nearby.

2. In 2013 a letter drop and online survey was conducted on park usage, which found that the majority of survey responders were regular users of the crossing with 25% using the crossing daily; 22% using it more than once a week; 20% using it weekly; 23% using it monthly; and 9% never using it.

Approximately 80% of respondents preferred no change and to retain the stepping stones, 15% preferred constructing a bridge, and 5% preferred a low level crossing. As a result, replacement of the stepping stones is not being considered.

3. The community have safe access across the creek via a bridge which is located 650 metres north of the stepping stones with signage at the stepping stones directing the community to the existing bridge crossing.

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

Signature:



Date:

4/12/18

By the Minister for Roads, Mr Chris Steel MLA