



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: ACT Auditor-General

In relation to: ACT Audit Office – cost of delivering infrastructure projects

Hearing: 21 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 11-12

Transcript provided: 22 July 2026

Answer Due: 29 July 2026

Mr Ajay Sharma took on notice the following question:

MR COCKS: Thank you. Auditor-General, I am interested, can you tell me, have you or the Audit Office ever looked into the cost of delivering infrastructure projects compared with the cost of building things in the private sector, for example, and whether spending on infrastructure is efficient compared with the private sector or more expensive in the ACT?

Mr Sharma: To the best of my knowledge, I do not think we have done an audit like that. It might have been covered as part of a particular audit, but not on the infrastructure projects itself.

MR COCKS: Okay. Maybe could you, on notice, come back and let us know if that question has been covered by other audits?

Mr Sharma: I can certainly do that.

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Audit Office has not undertaken a performance audit specifically examining whether the cost of delivering ACT Government infrastructure projects compared to infrastructure projects delivered by the private sector. The Audit Office has also not conducted a cross-sector comparative assessment of the efficiency of infrastructure expenditure.

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Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', written over a light grey background.

Date: 29 July 2026

By the ACT Audit Office, Ms Caroline Smith, Acting Auditor-General