



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

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: City Services – City and Environment Directorate

Hearing: 22 July 2026

In relation to: Molonglo Parkway Connector - Basis for the project

Question received: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

With regards to the Molonglo Parkway Drive Connector project:

- 1) What is the basis for needing an additional road project crossing this ecologically-sensitive river corridor?
- 2) Is the project expected or projected to have any impact on traffic congestion at the Glenloch Interchange and Cotter Road / Tuggeranong Parkway interchange?
- 3) To what extent would the construction of light rail to the Molonglo Valley reduce the need for this project?

**Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:**

- 1) The Molonglo Parkway Drive Connector, previously known as the East-West Arterial Road, has been identified as a key component of the Molonglo Valley transport network since the early planning stages for the district. The road is intended to provide an essential arterial connection between the Molonglo Town Centre and the Tuggeranong Parkway, while also improving access to the new town centre for residents travelling from suburbs located to the north and east of the town centre and on the other side of the Molonglo River.

The additional river crossing is required to support the long-term growth of the Molonglo Valley and the future Molonglo Town Centre, which is planned to serve a district population of around 75,000 people. Existing road connections alone are insufficient to provide the network capacity, resilience and accessibility needed for this level of growth. The project would provide a third arterial connection into the district, reducing reliance on existing routes, improving access to jobs, services and public transport, and includes walking and cycling connections. It also

improves network resilience by providing an alternative route during incidents, emergencies or major congestion events.

The project has been identified in the ACT's strategic transport and land use planning as a key piece of infrastructure required to support the development of the Molonglo Town Centre and the broader Molonglo valley. The project is also identified in the Molonglo National Environmental Significance (NES) Plan (September 2011), which sets out both the environmental protection requirements and the strategic infrastructure necessary to support the development of the district. The project is currently in the early stages of design development, with investigations underway to ensure environmental, transport and community considerations are appropriately assessed as planning progresses.

Future development of the Molonglo Parkway Drive Connector will be subject to detailed environmental studies and statutory approval processes to identify, avoid, minimise and manage impacts on the Molonglo River corridor. The project will be required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and ACT environmental requirements, with mitigation measures incorporated into its planning, design and delivery.

- 2) As the Molonglo Parkway Drive Connector is currently in early design development, updated traffic and transport modelling is being undertaken to better understand future network performance and travel demand. The modelling, being carried out by consultants in consultation the City and Environment Directorate, will help assess the project's impacts, including potential effects on traffic volumes and congestion at the Glenloch Interchange and the Tuggeranong Parkway/Cotter Road interchange. The project has been included in previous high-level transport modelling studies.
- 3) The potential for future public transport investment, including light rail, does not diminish the need to assess the role of the Molonglo Parkway Drive Connector within the broader transport network. While high-capacity public transport will continue to play an important role in supporting future growth, the Molonglo Parkway Drive Connector is intended to serve a broader network function, accommodating vehicle, service, emergency and freight movements while improving connectivity across the district.

The project has been identified as a key component of the planned transport network for Molonglo Valley, which is expected to ultimately accommodate a population of approximately 75,000 people. Even if light rail were delivered in the future, an arterial road connection would still be required to support the range of transport needs that cannot be met solely through public transport.

Given the project's early stage of development, updated traffic modelling currently being undertaken will provide further insights into the interaction between future public transport investments and the role of the proposed road connection. Those findings will help inform future design and decision-making as the project progresses.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature: 

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

Date: 12/8/26

