



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mark Parton MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 31 October 2022, Annual Report of Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

In relation to: Light Rail stage 2A – Federal Payment.

On Friday 28th October 2022, regarding the provision of the Federal Government's \$85.9m payment for Light Rail Stage 2A, Federal Government Officials advised a Senate Estimates hearings that the Federal Government's payment schedule will be as per the table below.

Federal Government Payment Schedule of \$85.9m to ACT Government

FY	\$m
2024-2025	15
2025-2026	15
2026-2027	30
2027-2028	12
2028-2029	8
2029-2030	5.9

Source: Senate Estimates 28 Oct 2022

(1) Was the ACT Government (Ministers and or officials) aware (verbally or written) of the above payment schedule prior to 28th October 2022?

(2) Did the ACT Government (Ministers and or Officials) receive the annual payment schedule (as above), in written form prior to 28th October 2022? In what written form did the ACT Government receive the schedule and when?

(3) Did the federal Government write to the ACT Government (official to official or Minister to Minister or both) and provide a payment schedule? If so, what payment schedule that was written in letters, who signed the letter and on what date? Was a reply letter written, from whom and on what date?

(4) Why has the payment of the \$85.9m been designed to be paid more than four years after completion of the project (completion Jan 2026 and payment in Jun 2030)?

(5) What infrastructure works will the \$85.9m be paying for- please provide detail of the works?

(6) How much is stage 2A estimated to cost in total and why is it not in the annual report?

(7) Did the ACT Government share with the federal government an estimate of how much Stage 2A would cost and what was that estimate?

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

(1) No. The ACT Government (Ministers and or officials) were not aware (verbally or written) of the above payment schedule prior to 28th October 2022.

(2) I refer to the response for Question 1.

(3) Please find attached the letter from The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government outlining the Federal Government's \$85.9 million funding commitment towards the ACT Government's Light Rail Project.

The letter refers to the draft National Partnership Agreement (NPA), the NPA has not been finalised and therefore I am unable to provide at this time.

(4) This is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

(5) The Federal funding of \$85.9 million is in addition to the previous Federal funding commitment of \$132.5 million, and relates to the whole of Light Rail Stage 2A.

(6) Stage 2A is in its procurement phase. To protect the ACT Government's negotiating position, we will not publish estimated costs for the project at this stage.

(7) Estimates have been provided. As stated above, the ACT Government will not publish estimated costs for the project at this stage.

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

Signature:



Date:

18/11/22

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA