



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: City Services

Hearing: 22 July 2026

In relation to: Woden Library – Access Canberra Relocation Consultation

Question received: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 06 August 2026

Questions about consultation

- (1) What conversations did the government have with the owners of the Cosmopolitan building to determine if they could lower the rent to provide a better financial outcome for the ACT Government
- (2) If there were conversations, what reduction in rent did they offer?
- (3) Will the government have to extend the lease at the Cosmopolitan building so there is time to refurb the library?
- (4) Why didn't the government consult with the Woden/Weston Creek community prior to making the decision to relocate Access Canberra into the Library.
- (5) How does the lack of consultation this align with the principles of good consultation in the Planning Act 2023?

Thank you

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

- (1) The lease at 21 Bowes Street Phillip expires on 30 January 2027. The lease included two five-year option extension terms with an annual rent escalation. Any discussions with the landlord are considered commercial in confidence.
- (2) Please refer to Answer 1.

- (3) No, noting the Government will ensure there is minimal impact to the Service Centre. Several options are being considered, including the potential short-term extension of the existing lease at 21 Bowes Street Philip.
- (4) Consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Working Group Report into Libraries ACT and the ACTPS 25 Report, the relocation of the Access Canberra Shopfront Service Centre to Woden Library is intended to co-locate key shopfront services. The delivery of Access Canberra Services will remain within the Woden/Weston Creek community, consistent with Government Policy. Consultation on the design of co-located services for Access Canberra and Woden Library will be undertaken as part of the design of the refurbishment of the Woden Library.
- (5) As part of project delivery, consultation on design and particularly accessibility considerations will be undertaken. *The Planning Act 2023* is not relevant to this consultation as a Development Application is not required due to the internal nature of the works required.

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

Signature:

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

Date:

7/8/26