



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: City and Government Services – City and Environment Directorate

Hearing: 22 July 2026

In relation to: Southern Memorial Park

Question received: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

- (1) How much has the ACT Government spent to date on planning for the Southern Memorial Park?
- (2) When will the development of the Southern Memorial Park be funded?
- (3) Is any consideration being given to expanding Woden cemetery into Eddison Park?

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

1. The ACT Government has committed approximately \$3.298 million to planning, investigation and design activities for the Southern Memorial Park (SMP) since 2011/12. This includes:

\$727,000 in 2011-12 to progress a masterplan to support the progression of a new southern cemetery and crematorium at the Mugga Lane site. The masterplan was supported by extensive community consultation and environmental and heritage studies.

\$921,000 in 2018-19 to refresh the masterplan, update environmental and heritage investigations, undertake feasibility assessments, and develop a staged approach for the future development of the site.

\$1.65 million in 2021-22 to progress Stage 1 of the Southern Memorial Park to prepare detailed design, refine project scope, costs and delivery requirements including seeking Development Application approval for the first stage of development.

2. The allocation of construction funding is subject to ACT Government budget processes.
3. Planning over the last two decades has focused on developing SMP at Mugga Lane as the ACT's long-term solution for burial and cremation services in South Canberra. The SMP has been identified as the future cemetery for Southern Canberra and is expected to provide cemetery and crematorium capacity for approximately 100 years.

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Stage 1 of SMP is planned to deliver approximately 2,500 burial plots, together with supporting infrastructure and facilities. The development is intended to address the forecast exhaustion of available burial allotments at Woden Cemetery and ensure the ongoing provision of burial and memorialisation services for Canberra's growing population.

In accordance with the Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority 2026-27 Statement of Intent the Authority will continue to investigate all options for the ongoing provision of interment options in Southern Canberra.

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

Signature: 

Date: 12/8/26

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