



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

In relation to: CMTEDD and Capital Hill Project Update

Hearing: 27 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 94

Transcript provided: 31 July 2026

Answer Due: 7 August 2026

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: took on notice the following question(s):

MS CASTLEY: Thank you. I would like to talk about the City Hill project. Is this the right forum?

Mr Barr: The City Hill?

MS CASTLEY: The City Hill, yes. What is happening out there.

Mr Barr: Yes, I mean CRA have got the lead but yes, you certainly can ask, yes.

MS CASTLEY: Just wondering where the project is at. Is there money in this budget? Are we looking at how long we have been talking about it and how many reviews we have had?

Mr Barr: Yes, okay. So there is a City Hill Reference Group, and I have seen in social media they have had a number of engagements. We had a series of earlier community engagement processes essentially looking for ideas and how people would see the space being utilised. There is not a works budget yet but there is a design and development allocation within the City Renewal Authority. Let me take on notice. I can get quite a comprehensive piece of information. I think the CRA are also appearing so they can definitely—I will let them know of the interest and we can provide further information.

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The environment surrounding City Hill Park is changing significantly, with substantial growth in city centre residential development, worker accommodation and employment opportunities occurring around the park. As more people live, work and visit the city, the role of City Hill is becoming increasingly important to support recreation, community connection and wellbeing.

In 2024 the City Renewal Authority (City Renewal) coordinated a City Hill Ideas Exhibition. The objective of the Exhibition was to gather ideas, understand community sentiment, identify desired outcomes, test support for change and inform future planning and procurement activities. The Exhibition had more than 600 survey submissions and 69 community design proposals. It established strong community interest in improved access, safety, shade, native plantings, cultural expression, amenities and places to relax and connect with nature.

The 2025-26 ACT budget committed funding for City Renewal to deliver the City Hill park concept masterplan over the next 18 months.

The current funded stage of work will deliver a concept masterplan and associated technical work. Future stages will progress detailed design, cost planning, site investigations, delivery staging and ultimately construction activities. All future stages are subject to further funding approvals.

In February 2025, City Renewal commenced the City Hill park concept master planning process.

A team of design and technical consultants, including an urban design and landscape architecture lead, First Nations, transport planning and heritage consultants has been engaged. A People's Panel of up to 30 Canberra community members has also been established to shape the concept masterplan. The panel are working with the consultant team to ensure the concept masterplan sets a community led vision, with principles and design objectives that meet community aspirations for City Hill park, before broader public consultation.

Recent engagement activity has involved:

- Ngunnawal engagement
- facilitated panel workshops
- shared vision workshop
- site visits
- subject matter expert presentations
- key stakeholder consultation; and
- specialist technical investigations.

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

Signature: 

Date: 7.8.26

By the Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA