



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA



Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

MS CODY: And so what does light rail stages three and four look like, has that been a—is that a decided route, is there consultation happening, what is the—

Mr Steel: Yes, good question. So you might remember with stage 2 from the city to Woden that there was some co-feasibility study work that had—that was undertaken several years ago on that route, looking at a range of different things around the route. Environmental issues, some of the costs—early costs and implementation issues with the extension. A range of things around land use with the future corridor for light rail stage 2.

And some consultation was actually done on stage 2 as well, that point around preferences with regard to stops and the like. And then out of that, the route was developed. There were several different options for the route, it was developed, and further consultation was done on that—on those different route options through the parliamentary triangle in particular.

So we are looking at what we can do to, I guess, kick off the pre-feasibility work for stages three and four to Belconnen from the city, and the, sort of, east-west corridor for light rail. And then also through to Tuggeranong, future extension from Woden to Tuggeranong as well.

So we will be looking at all of those same issues that we looked at for stage 2 with the pre-feasibility work for those as well. And I will provide—hand over to Ben McHugh to provide some further detail about what exactly we are looking at.

Mr McHugh: Yes—

THE CHAIR: So actually, before we do that, could I just go back to Ms McHugh's answer that it is net zero. Would this be something that would normally be just considered as agency funded and that would have a zero against it because there is no extra appropriation. I am just interested in the, sort of, accounting type treatment that there is in this line item. And how was stage—the stage 2—planning dealt with in accounting terms?

Mr McHugh: The question around stage 2, I will have to take on notice as I was not in the role at that point in time.

THE CHAIR: Okay, thanks, thanks Mr McHugh.

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

Funding for "Light Rail Stage 2 – City to Woden early planning" (\$12.5 million) was provided in the 2018-19 Budget (2018-19 Budget Paper 3, page 133). This funding was accounted for as Controlled Recurrent Payments (Revenue) with a corresponding expense.

There was no additional funding provided for the "Planning for future light rail routes" initiative (2019-20 Budget review, page 67). This initiative is being funded through existing revenue and expense budget allocations. There are no accounting related budget adjustments associated with this initiative.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date:

16/3/20

By the Minister for Transport, Mr Chris Steel MLA