



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

**Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 (No 2) and
Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024 (No 2)
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA:

Ref: Budget Review 2023-24, Page 105

In relation to: Accounting treatment of Light Rail Stage 2A

1. Can the Treasurer confirm whether additional Light Rail Vehicles or expenses will be required for Stage 2A
 - a) If so, what are these additional expenses and are they included in the “capital” section on page 106 of the budget review?
2. What is the current estimate of the total cost of raising London circuit?
3. Are there any other expenses associated with 2A that are not listed in the capital section? If so, what are these and can you provide a detailed description?
4. The Act Government agreed to recommendation 3 in the ACT Auditor-General’s Report No.8 of 2021 – Canberra Light Rail Stage 2A: Economic Analysis, dated December 2021. Which was that The Chief Minister, Treasurer and Economic Development Directorate (ACT Treasury), in cooperation with Major Projects Canberra and the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, should develop a Benefits Realisation Plan for Light Rail Stage 2A.
 - a) Has this benefits realisation plan for light rail stage 2A been complete?
 - b) If not, when will this be complete?
 - c) If it has been complete? is it publicly available?
 - i. If not, why?

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

1. The initiatives *Better transport infrastructure – New light rail vehicles and depot expansion* and *Better transport infrastructure - Supporting Light Rail Stage 2A delivery* support the delivery of Light Rail Stage 2A.
 - a) The initiative *Better transport infrastructure – New light rail vehicles and depot expansion* (see page 172 of the 2023-24 Supplementary Budget Papers) relates to the acquisition of additional Light Rail Vehicles, the retrofit of the existing fleet to enable wire-free operations and the expansion of the depot. The capital value of this initiative is \$149.684 million.

- b) The budget initiative *Better transport infrastructure - Supporting Light Rail Stage 2A delivery* (see pages 172 and 202 of the 2023-24 Supplementary Budget Papers) relates to the delivery phase costs for Stage 2A. The capital value of this initiative is \$265.385 million. These figures are separate to the capital amounts on page 106 of the 2023-24 Budget Review.
2. The total project value of the *Raising London Circuit and associated works initiative*, including the design and delivery of the early utility works and the main works contracts, is \$129.783 million (see page 173 of the 2023-24 Supplementary Budget Papers).
3. A further \$52.189 million was spent in 2019-20 and 2020-21 on early planning and design for Light Rail Stage 2, prior to the separation of the alignment into Stage 2A and 2B. As the spend was appropriated on the basis of undertaking planning and design relating to Stage 2 as a whole, it is not possible to disaggregate this spend by the individual stages.
- 4.
- a) The Benefits Realisation Plan has not yet been completed.
- b) Following government entering into the main works contract with Canberra Metro in December 2023, Major Projects Canberra, in consultation with ACT Treasury, has commenced work on developing a Benefits Realisation Plan for Light Rail Stage 2A. It is expected the plan will be completed before the commencement of main works construction activities for Light Rail Stage 2A in late 2024.
- c) N/a on the basis of the responses provided to a) and b).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 15.3.24

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA