

ESTIMATES 2008-2009

Question on Notice

Chief Minister

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Depreciation funding of capital works projects

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Depreciation Funding of Capital Works Projects in the Chief Minister's Department (pages 46-48, BP5)**

1. Why is depreciation funding on all capital projects in the Chief Minister's portfolio five times as generous as the two per cent depreciation on School construction projects and more than twice as generous as depreciation on most health infrastructure investments in the 2008 budget?
2. Which department initially proposed the rates of depreciation funding applicable to proposals arising in the Chief Minister's Department's capital works budget for 2008-09?
3. Which of the capital works projects in the Chief Minister's department portfolio will need to be rebuilt ten years after construction?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Each Department sets its depreciation rates in relation to the nature of its assets and the assessment of the useful life of the asset. The rate of ten percent used by CMD is relevant for the assets being purchased with the 2008-09 capital works funding. In particular, much of the capital works funding in CMD funds the purchase or upgrade of equipment, and as such, a ten percent depreciation rate is considered appropriate. The useful life of these assets is considered to be 10 years, and it is reasonable to expect that they will need further upgrade funding or replacement after this time.
2. CMD sets the rates of depreciation, based on an assessment of the useful life of the asset.
3. Most of the projects funded in the 2008-09 capital works program relate to plant and equipment and so the relevant issue is replacement rather than construction or rebuilding.

The one construction project funded in 2008-09 is the Glassworks Café which includes an assessment of the whole-of-life costing. It also recognises it is important that the public realm interface of this facility holds its own with other developments in the precinct to ensure that the Glassworks provides an attractive and competitive visitor experience. In this context, the assessment included the possibility that the fitout and appearance of this area may need further upgrade after a period of 10 years. Depreciation in relation to this project was therefore based on an assessment of the totality of the project and is not based on an assumption of reconstruction of the asset in 10 years time.

Zed Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Million Trees Initiative – Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens**
(page 46, BP5)

1. Why is the pricing in the fourth year to fund ten forests the same as it is in the first year of the budget measure? Will planting activity be slightly less in the outyears, or are there mechanisms in place to freeze the price of input costs over the four year period?
2. How many trees will be planted in each of 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
3. How will each of the “forests” be differentiated from each other by type of trees, number of trees and other characteristics?
4. What will be the average size of each forest, by area or by boundary lengths?
5. Will there be any physical firebreak or other buffer zone between each forest, how wide will the buffer be and what are the other characteristics of proposed buffers?
6. How many of the trees will be grown in existing nurseries and greenhouses, and how much new nursery and greenhouses capacity will be required to handle the additional throughput?
7. What volume of throughput will be displaced in existing nurseries and greenhouses to make room for propagation of the additional plants required under this budget measure?
8. What is the current land area set aside for current and future arboretum use, what percentage of this arboretum land area is currently planted and what percentage of the arboretum land area will become covered between 2008 to 2012 by the new forests funded under this measure?
9. How long do the seedlings take to be developed by ACT government employees to a point of maturity where they can be planted in the arboretum and when will or when did ACT government employees commence the development of plants for the 2008-09 planting period?
10. When will or when did the ACT government enter into a contract for the initial purchase of trees, who are the suppliers, what is the size of the order, what is the delivery date and how long after delivery will most of the trees be ready to plant in the ground at the arboretum site?
11. What proportion of water in the expanded arboretum will be derived from piped water, what proportion from rain run-off and what proportion from other sources?
12. What proportion of water in the existing arboretum is derived from piped water, what proportion from rain run-off and what proportion from other sources?
13. What is the nature of the irrigation head-works and why do these works occur subsequent to the first two years of planting?
14. What is the base level of annual funding for the arboretum in 2007-08, excluding any draw-forward of funding for this budget measure?
15. Under the “Million Trees Initiative”, in what year will the millionth tree be planted?
16. What is the year-by-year schedule of plantings in order to achieve 1 million trees?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. A figure of \$2.5 million has been provided to plant, on average, 10 new forests per year from 2008-09 to 2011-12. The cost of forests will vary significantly as they differ in size from 0.5 hectares to 3.0 hectares and the costs of trees will vary markedly depending on the size of the trees at the time of planting, as well as whether they are rare trees grown from seed or trees bought commercially from nurseries. The cost of planting per hectare could also vary significantly from lot to lot depending on amount of rock and other such factors. Accordingly, the cost per forest will vary markedly within and between years.
2. It is anticipated that approximately 10 forests will be planted per year and on average contain 1,000 trees per forest, resulting in about 10,000 trees per year, or 40,000 trees for the period 2008-09 to 2011-12.
3. The trees are selected by a group of tree experts and scientists, chaired by Professor Peter Kanowski of the Australian National University. Criteria include the focus of trees that are 'threatened' in the wild (eg endangered or vulnerable), are significant or iconic, have the potential to perform well on the Arboretum site, their water and other requirements, whether they are interesting and attractive to the public, and the relevant species must not be a declared pest plants. There are also broad forest protocols that cover design criteria, lot size, site preparation, irrigation, maintenance and so forth.
4. Tree lots (forests) are to be 140 metres wide when measured from allée to allée and from 0.5 hectares to 3.0 hectares.
5. The forests will be separated by allées that are 15 metres wide and run continuously through the Arboretum parallel to the Burley-Griffin 'water axis'. The allées are to be kept clear of trees and shrubs, maintain a cleared appearance and will be planted with mixed grasses. There will also be wider fire breaks at the appropriate boundaries of the Arboretum site.
6. Yarralumla Nursery is storing, growing and maintaining trees on behalf of the Arboretum, or purchasing plants from commercial nurseries. The extent to which commercial nurseries will be utilised will depend upon the forest species selected. The trees for the Arboretum will be handled within the existing Yarralumla Nursery depot facilities.
7. None that we are aware of.
8. The land area for the Arboretum is approximately 250 hectares. About 25 ha or 10 per cent of this is currently developed and about 45 ha (or 18 per cent) is expected to be developed by end-spring 2008. By the end of 2011-12 a total of 110 hectares or 44 per cent of the Arboretum is expected to be under forests (excluding any radiata pine forests).
9. Not all trees to be planted in the Arboretum will come from seedlings grown at the Yarralumla Nursery. Trees grown from seeds could take some years to grow to a point that they could be planted out. Few of the plantings in 2008-09 will be from current seedlings grown at the nursery.
10. Tree purchases have been progressively undertaken since 2006 as species are identified and chosen by the expert tree committee and endorsed by the Department and the Government. Orders are placed as required with Yarralumla Nursery who procures the trees from various sources, or undertakes to grow the trees from seeds. The 2008-09

Budget provided ongoing budget funding for forests and this now allows for a longer term tree procurement program that will provide for a rolling program to enable the ten forests to be planted each year.

11. Most of the trees being planted require relatively little water in their infancy and less watering after they are established, particularly as we have adopted best-practice planting techniques. Currently newly planted trees are watered from temporary tanks through an irrigation system using non-potable water. A dam is being developed to collect on-site water, and the Arboretum has a bore licence (though the bore is currently capped). It is the intention that only a minority of trees will require permanent irrigation. In the longer term, it may be possible to tap into a major recycled water pipe that ACTEW proposes to run past the Arboretum to meet the needs of the Molonglo Valley development. Alternatively, it may also be possible to extract water from a major sewerage trunk pipe that is within 400 metre of the Arboretum boundary.
12. See answer to question 11.
13. Funding has been allocated in the 2008-09 budget in year 3 to provide for upgraded irrigation works. This will allow time for a greater number of forests to be become established and for more forests to move off establishment and consolidation contracts. We will also have more information as to which species require permanent irrigation and how to best integrate the various forest lots.
14. In the period 2004-05 to 2007-08 the Government has allocated about \$7.451m in capital funding for the Arboretum. The amount allocated in the 2007-08 budget was \$2 million.
15. The millionth tree should be planted in 2015/16 financial year.
16. The year by year schedule of plantings to obtain 1 million trees is as follows:

a. 2007/08	277,500
b. 2008/09	259,250
c. 2009/10	152,250
d. 2010/11	52,250
e. 2011/12	52,250
f. 2012/13	52,250
g. 2013/14	52,250
h. 2014/15	52,250
i. 2015/16	52,250
j. 2016/17	<u>52,250</u>
Total	<u>1,054,750</u>

Watson Arts centre

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Watson Arts Centre – Five Studios Forward Design (page 46, BP5)**

1. Why is depreciation funding on investment in the design phase set at ten per cent per year?
2. What is the likelihood that the ACT Government will need to redesign or rebuild the ceramics studios ten years after construction?
3. What is the anticipated price range for construction of the five studios, exclusive of costs for the design phase funded under this budget measure?
4. What is the timeframe for construction of the studios and when will they commence operation as working studios?
5. Has the government given any undertaking to construct the studios by a particular date and if so, what are the details of the undertaking?
6. What private contributions have been pledged towards design and construction respectively?
7. What proportion of cost will the ACT Government carry for construction?
8. What is the total floor size in square metres for the five studios as specified in the design brief, or to be specified in the design brief?
9. What proportion of kiln and other plant costs are or will be specified in the design brief as part of the cost of construction?
10. What are the anticipated annual operating costs for the five studios?
11. What proportion of annual operating costs will the ACT Government carry?
12. Has the ACT Government entered into negotiations for a headlease or separate leases for the studios and what share of the cost of capital will be recovered under the leases and what share will be subsidised by the ACT Government?
13. How will artists apply to use the studio and how will they be chosen to use the studios?
14. Will the premises operate as retail galleries or operate as suppliers to a retail gallery and what are those arrangements?
15. What arrangements and policies does the ACT Government have to consider competitive neutrality with other artist studios and commercial galleries?
16. When will or have tenders for the forward design been advertised and when will the contract be let?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The inclusion of depreciation for this project is an error. Depreciation is not applied at design phase.
2. Extremely unlikely.
3. Final construction cost is yet to be determined. 2008-09 funding provides for scoping and forward design only.
4. It is anticipated that a bid for construction funding will be considered in the 2009-10 Budget process.
5. No such undertaking has been given.
6. No private contributions have been pledged toward this project.

7. 100%.
8. The design brief is under development and no total floor size has yet been specified.
9. This will be determined in the design phase which is yet to occur.
10. This will be determined in the design phase which is yet to occur.
11. The studios will be operated under a licence agreement with the ACT Potters Society, as is the rest of the facility. It is anticipated that the studios will be hired on a cost recovery basis for outgoings.
12. See answer to 11 above.
13. This will be managed by the organisation licenced to manage the studios according to their approved business goals.
14. See answer to 13 above.
15. These are artists studios for which there is an identified need in the ACT. There are no identified issues of competitive neutrality in this sphere.
16. Tenders will be let when the full scope is finalised in the 2008-09 financial year.

Kingston foreshore arts precinct – café

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Kingston Foreshore Arts Precinct – Café Enclosure (page 47, BP5)**

1. What is the total budget for construction, fitout and furnishing of the new café enclosure and what proportion of the project will be funded by this budget measure?
2. Does the café operate on a full cost-recovery basis, what is the policy for cost recovery by the café and does this policy extend to cost recovery of cost of capital?
3. Are there any contributions to the project budget from sources other than the Chief Minister's Department, including contributions from the private sector or from other government agencies and what are the amounts of those contributions by contributor?
4. Why has 10 per cent depreciation funding been chosen, between two to five times as generous as depreciation funding for capital works in other portfolios like health and education?
5. What will be the increase in floor space of the café as measured by square metres and what is the current (unextended) floorspace of the café?
6. What will be the increase in number of customers who can be seated in the café and what is the number of customers who can currently be seated in the (unextended) café?
7. What is the current annual amount of sales receipts in the café?
8. What is the anticipated increase in the amount of annual sales receipts in the extended café?
9. What is the value of the anticipated increase in profitability of the extended café?
10. How was the costing for this project determined and calculated, and what was the source of funds for that estimation work?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The total budget for this project is \$354,000. This is 100% funding for the project.
2. The café operator is a tenant of Canberra Glassworks Ltd who is responsible for setting licence fees.

The capital allocation will support the development of the facility for the Canberra community and no capital recovery is sought.

3. No.
4. It is important that the public realm interface of this facility holds its own with other developments in the precinct to ensure that the Glassworks provides an attractive and competitive visitor experience.
5. The precise increase in floor space will be determined during final design in early 2008-09. The existing (unextended floor space [not incorporating foyer areas]) provides seating for 14 patrons maximum.
6. The precise increase in floor space will be determined during final design in early 2008-09.

7. The café is yet to complete its first full financial year of operations.
8. This figure is yet to be determined, pending design development and sub-licence arrangements.
9. See above response.
10. Costing for this project was included as a part of an independent cost planner's report at the preliminary sketch plan stage of the Canberra Glassworks project. Costs have been escalated to 2008-09 levels.

Government office accommodation building project

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Government Office Accommodation Building Project (page 47, BP 5)**

1. Which departments and agencies have been considered as tenants in the new building?
2. Which departments and agencies have been assessed as not suitable for inclusion as tenants in the new building?
3. What grade of accommodation is proposed for the new building and how does this compare against the grades of buildings presently leased by agencies which would move into the new building?
4. What are the upper and lower bounds of the number of ACT Government staff positions that have been considered as suitable for accommodating within the new building? What does this range of numbers represent as a proportion of total ACT Government Staff positions?
5. What is the preferred location for the new ACT Government building?
6. How many other locations have been considered as position sites and what are the locations of the lead contenders?
7. What studies or stages of studies would be considered in each of 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 and what is the breakdown for each year of spending by study or stage of study?
8. Has the ACT Government undertaken a feasibility study or cost-benefit analysis of a consolidated ACT Government Building, how many staff were involved in the research, what was spent on the research, what external consultancies were engaged in the study and how much was spent broken down by internal and external research?
9. What is the cost-benefit ratio for the proposed building and which agency or consultancy devised this estimate of cost-benefit ratio?
10. What are the principal benefits of the proposed consolidated building?
11. What is the anticipated year for a break-even on investment costs of a consolidated building?
12. What is the anticipated year for savings to be obtained from a consolidated building as compared to accommodation delivered through leased buildings?
13. What are the anticipated risks of a consolidated building and why are these risks deemed not material or not so great as to obviate the benefits?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The Government has yet to make a final decision on this matter and it will be the subject of further detailed work. It will also depend on the final design and size of the new building(s) and the staging of any proposed moves. An initial study undertaken by Sanmor Consulting proposed that Chief Minister's Department, Treasury, ACTPLA and Tourism be accommodated in a new building in the first instance.
2. This will depend on the size and staging of the development of the new building and broader decisions taken in relation to the whole of government accommodation strategy. In any event, there will be a need to retain some functions and agencies in a range of locations, including the town centres.
3. It is intended that the new building would be A Grade accommodation with at a 5 Star Green Star rating or higher. Much of the Government's currently leased office space is B Grade or lower.

4. The new building(s) will accommodate around 3,000 ACT Government employees. This represents about 18% of the ACT's total public sector workforce (though this includes employees in schools, hospitals and other areas that would not be co-located in the new building), or about 67% of total administrative officers.
5. The preferred location is on Section 19 in Civic.
6. A number of sites in and around Civic were considered, though a number of these have since been sold or developed.
7. All of the proposed studies are expected to be undertaken in 2008-09 and are listed as follows:
 - examination of car parking issues, including public/private operations feasibility, estimation of car parking numbers;
 - preparation of traffic and transport plan which is most likely an update of previous studies;
 - investigation of security matters that would take into account the level of security requirement that is required for the building as a whole and for special departmental needs. The report would also address building access and security provisions for car parking;
 - a statement of User Requirements - preparation of detailed report that specifically identifies the user needs, from the perspective of the individual department or agency;
 - preparation of a detailed report in to whole of government user needs which could include such items as child care, staff amenities, conferencing facilities, food and beverage outlets and other retail opportunities. The report should also cover whole of government public services such as shopfronts;
 - development of Urban Planning Guidelines to be undertaken by the National Capital Authority (NCA) in conjunction with private architects;
 - preparation of Master Plan design for the Government Office Building for submission to the NCA for approval including preparation of options study;
 - preparation of Functional Design Brief for Base Building including confirming architectural, structural, civil, and services requirements;
 - preparation of Functional Design Brief for Fitout including liaising and consulting with Government departments, preparation of Room Data Sheets etc; and
 - advice relating to costing, maintenance, operations and evaluation of proposals.
8. A feasibility study has been undertaken. In 2007 CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) was commissioned to investigate future ACT Government accommodation options and test the feasibility of co-locating ACT Government office functions into a centralised office building and specifically into a purpose built government office building. The study analysed the financial costs of various options over a twenty year period. The cost of the CBRE study was approximately \$59,100. The work was co-ordinated by Strategic Priorities in Chief Minister's Department. All ACT government agencies have been consulted in the preparation and consideration of the CBRE study.
9. See answer to question 8. The CBRE analysis presents a substantial case for the development of a new government office building on financial grounds and shows that the development of a new building has the lowest cost for overall Government property and rent

at a Net Present Value (NPV) of -\$423.8m over 20 years compared with the business as usual case of -\$469.4m.

10. There are likely to be administrative efficiencies and productivity improvements from the co-location of ACT Government employees. Co-location would greatly reduce wasted travel time and would improve the potential for formal as well as incidental interagency communication. A new high quality building also presents the opportunity of promoting a family friendly work environment and of attracting and retaining quality staff. Major banks and other private sector organisations have reported significant benefits as a result of co-location of staff formerly in dispersed locations.

There is the opportunity for the Territory to demonstrate its commitment to meeting climate change, energy and water usage objectives, and achieve higher environmental benchmarks through the construction of a new 5 or 6 Green Star building. Another consideration is the ability of a high quality building to help attract and retain quality staff.

The development of a major land mark building(s) in Civic would also provide ongoing momentum to the ACT economy and to the revitalisation of the City Hill Precinct. It would implement major Commonwealth and Territory planning goals, develop business activity on the eastern side of Northbourne Avenue/City Hill (consistent with the renewed focus in City West), and further improve connectivity and vitality in Civic.

11. See answer to questions 8 and 9.
12. See answer to questions 8 and 9.
13. Generally there are significant net benefits from co-location into a single government office building. (see answer to question 10). However, there are some minor risks which can be managed. As the new office building will take up a large proportion of the ACT Government's office capacity it reduces the geographic spread of leased accommodation and concentrates the Government's lease exposure. However, this could be overcome through long term strategic property management, or indeed through ownership of the building itself (one of the options being considered). There could be an increased security risk from the co-location of ACT government functions and the loss of short term and possibly long term parking on sites currently used as car parks. These matters will be addressed in the context of the risk analysis and other detailed studies which are about to commence.

Kingston foreshore arts precinct – tower

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Kingston Foreshore Arts Precinct – Tower (page 47, BP5)**

1. What is the total budget for the glass artwork and what proportion of the project will be funded by this budget measure?
2. What amount of contribution will ACTEW make to the capital cost and what contribution will they make to the depreciation cost, and in what years will their contributions be paid, as split between capital and depreciation?
3. When was ACTEW asked to make a contribution and when did they respond with a decision on a contribution?
4. What other contributions to the project budget come from sources other than the Chief Minister’s Department, including contributions from the private sector or from other government agencies and in what year will those external contributions be made, as split between capital and depreciation?
5. Why has a 10 per cent rate of depreciation funding been chosen?
6. Noting the published view of the Victorian Treasury that under accrual output budgeting “Assets of enduring artistic, cultural and historical importance may be assumed to have infinite useful lives and therefore not be depreciated”², why does the budget funding assume a relatively short period of depreciation?
7. What heritage recognition and protection arrangements apply to the Kingston Powerhouse smokestack?
8. When was permission sought and when were approvals obtained from heritage authorities to approve the proposal to attach a glass artwork to the base of the smokestack? What were the conditions or arrangements for the approvals?
9. What is the anticipated split in cost between design, fabrication and installation?
10. When will design proposals be invited, when will submissions close and when will a contract with artists be entered into?
11. How many glass artists have been consulted during the course of development of this proposal?
12. Is the cost of the project strictly capped, and what are arrangements if the assessed cost for a preferred design exceeds the current total budget for the project?
13. What agency is administering the process for selecting a design and handling the project delivery? How much are these administrative costs? Are these costs for administration and oversight being absorbed from existing recurrent resources or is the cost deducted from the total budget funding provided for this project?
14. What will be the average annual expenditure on maintenance of the artwork over the next ten years?
15. In what year will maintenance work commence, what types of maintenance work will be undertaken in that year and what is the estimated cost for each of the maintenance activities?

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Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The total budget for the Glassworks Tower project is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$450,000 GST exclusive (\$495,000 GST inclusive). 33% of the project will be funded by this budget measure.
2. ACTEW will contribute \$150,000 GST exclusive to the project in the 2007-08 financial year.

They will not contribute to depreciation.
3. ACTEW were not asked to make a contribution to the project. ACTEW expressed interest in making a contribution to the Glassworks project in 2006 and pledged a contribution at that time.
4. The Land Development Agency has made a commitment to contributing to the project as a part of the commitment to incorporating public art in the Foreshore Development. A specific figure is yet to be agreed.
5. Depreciation relates to the engineered supporting elements and fixings of the fabricated art elements which are expected to require significant refurbishment or replacement after a ten-year period.
6. See above.
7. The Kingston Powerhouse Historic Precinct is listed on the ACT Heritage Register and is protected by the conservation requirements of the Heritage Act 2004. The base of the second chimney stack is listed as intrinsic to the heritage significance of the site.
8. During the design development of the Canberra Glassworks, discussions were held with ACT Heritage about the possibility of a glass tower being fixed to the chimney base and in principle support was provided. Further heritage advice will be sought as proposals emerge. The formal approval process will occur when the appointed artist has prepared final design drawings.
9. Anticipated split in cost between design, fabrication and installation will be approximately 30% design costs and 70% fabrication/installation. The split between fabrication and installation costs is dependent on the design selected.
10. A call for Expressions of Interest was advertised on Saturday 24 May 2008 to mark the first anniversary of the Canberra Glassworks. Tenders close on Tuesday 17 June 2008. The contract with an artist will be executed on completion of the tender process.
11. AusGlass ACT, the representative body for local glass artists has contributed to the development of the commission, including a submission and presentation by Klaus Moje to the ACT Public Art Panel. Local glass artists were also involved in the initial proposal for the project through the Glass Artists Reference Group that advised on the design of the Canberra Glassworks.
12. The budget is capped.
13. ACT Procurement Solutions (ACTPS) is managing the procurement process with the advice of the client, artsACT. ACTPS fees are a standard 4% and are being absorbed

from the total budget funding provided for this project.

14. This figure is dependant on the final design selected.

15. This is dependant on the final design selected.

Additional capital upgrades

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Additional Capital Upgrades (page 48, BP5)**

1. Is there a provision in this budget measure for electricity expenses associated with operation of the air conditioning unit(s)?
2. From what funds will the electricity costs of the air conditioning unit(s) be paid for?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. No.
2. Rental payments from tenants are collected by Gorman House Arts Centre Incorporated and are used to cover the Centre's utility costs including electricity.

Facilitating business investment

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Facilitating Business Investment (page 64, BP 3)**

1. What proportion of the marketing expenditure will be spent on media markets outside the ACT and what proportion will be spent in the local ACT media market for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. What amounts of private contributions have been pledged to date towards the annual investment facilitation event?
3. In what city will the annual investment facilitation event be held for each of the four forward years?
4. What venue has been selected for the 2008 investment facilitation event and on what dates will the event operate?
5. How much will be spent within the ACT media market promoting the 2008 investment facilitation event?
6. What is the breakdown by year for expenditure on separate items within this budget measure including on the annual investment facilitation event?
7. How many staff will be funded under this measure? What agency will the staff work from and what is the timeframe for recruitment of the staff?
8. What is involved in the funding commitment towards “investment information collateral”? What policy mechanisms are involved, what processes are involved and how will this initiative fit with other government activities?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. This level of detail is not known at this stage. Expenditure outside the ACT will be in the context of ACT Government trade missions and skilled and business migration expos. Expenditure in the ACT is likely to be in the context of events similar to the *Focus on Business* biennial investment attraction event, and the inaugural Major Projects Symposium which was run as a pilot in 2007.
2. Nil.
3. A primary event would be in Canberra. Events would also be scoped in the context of ACT Government led trade missions.
4. It is unlikely that an investment facilitation event will be conducted in the 2008 calendar year.
5. Nil.
6. Attraction Events - \$0.120m; Investment opportunities and collateral - \$0.076m; Trade Missions - \$0.050m.
7. No staff will be funded.
8. An annual renewal of the *Investing in Canberra – Australia's Capital* prospectus is the main commitment. Government procurement policies and guidelines will be followed in sourcing the production of this collateral.

Accountability in Govt

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Accountability in Government (page 64, BP3)**

1. What is the breakdown of funding under this budget measure by agency?
2. Where is government accountability and performance currently deficient?
3. How will the new model leverage greater accountability and performance from agencies?
4. How much of the \$250,000 will support work by staff in ACT Government agencies and what amount of the \$250,000 will be spent on external staff or consultants?
5. How much of this funding will go towards Information Technology?
6. When will or when has the tender been advertised and when will the contract for this work will be let?
7. Has the Government identified an existing model or existing software for the delivery of this budget measure, if so what are the details?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. All funding goes to CMD to support work across government.
2. Notwithstanding some changes in 2005-06, the output based model introduced in 1996 would benefit from a further update to take advantage of current and emerging best practice in Government performance and accountability frameworks across Australian jurisdictions and internationally. This will ensure the ACT continues to adapt and develop, as well as benefit from the work and experiences of other jurisdictions.
3. Through developing models and actions that support greater alignment of Government priorities and across government planning (as represented in documents such as The Canberra Plan and its constituent plans) with agency level planning and delivery, accountability, and reporting.
4. At this stage it is envisaged a small component of the funding will go to support an additional temporary part-year resource in CMD. Other staff related costs will be absorbed by CMD. A consultancy is currently in place to identify a proposed model. Once this is agreed by Government, further work will inform implementation, which is where the majority of funding will be directed. A further consultancy may be involved to work with CMD and across government. The aim is a strategic partnership that combines the benefits of external expertise with in-house knowledge but which also builds in-house capacity.
5. At this stage, it is not envisaged that any of this funding will go towards Information Technology.
6. A tender has been let for development of a best practice, fit for purpose model for the ACT. The successful company supporting this work was identified through a select panel following request for proposals from 7 providers. The contract was executed on 10 April 2008. Details are available on the Procurement Solutions website. The implementation of the model agreed by Government may involve a further request for tender later in 2008.
7. No. The current contract is to develop a fit for purpose model for the ACT drawing on current and emerging best practice in public sector accountability.

Responding to skills shortages

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Responding to Skills Shortages (page 65, BP 3)**

1. Why does the funding significantly reduce in 2010-11 and then reduce to zero in 2011-12?
2. What are the amounts of spending on new resourcing for settlement services for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. What are the amounts of spending on the pilot of the student intern program for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
4. What are the amounts of spending on other specific initiatives for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
5. How will the funding for settlement services be allocated, when will a tender commence and when will funding be allocated to relevant organisations?
6. How many interns will be assisted in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
7. How much support will be provided on average for each intern placement, as broken down by payments to employers, payments to interns, administrative support and other relevant categories of expenditure?
8. How many staff will be funded under this measure? What agency will the staff work in and what is the timeframe for recruitment of the staff?
9. What Commonwealth skills programs will the measure seek to facilitate greater access to?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The funding reduces in 2010-11 because one of the two components of the initiative – the International Student Internship Program - is being funded as a two year pilot. Overall funding reduces to zero in 2011-12 because it has been scoped as a three year program. The Government would anticipate a program review process towards the end of year two, with decisions made on future funding at that time.
2. \$157,000 for each of the three years.
3. \$180,000 for each of the two years.
4. Funding under the BP3 Expenditure Initiative “Responding to Skills Shortages” includes approximately \$100,000 each year as a partial contribution to Departmental staffing costs, promotion of the expansion of the Skilled Business Migration Program and the International Student Intern Program and implementation of the wider Skills Strategy.
5. The funding for settlement services include \$88,000 staffing costs and \$69,000 on settlement support initiatives. These will be managed in-house and not tendered to other organisations.
6. The target is for 15 interns in Year 1 and 30 in Year 2. These may be revised as the pilot proceeds.
7. It is not possible to provide this level of detail at this stage. However, there will be no payments to interns.
8. There is one staffing position for the settlement program. This position is within the Skilled and Business Migration Team within the Business and Industry Development

Branch of CMD. Timeframe is as soon as possible and the Government is aiming to have the position filled before the end of August 2008. The Internship Program will be outsourced in Year 1 so there will not be any government positions funded.

9. The Australian Government has an array of funded skills-related intervention programs across its service oriented portfolios, ranging from training support programs, business and industry development, indigenous development, science infrastructure funding, programs for research networks, family services and regional development. Under *ACT Skills Future* there will be ongoing work to ensure the ACT is effectively engaging with these programs.

Major projects and facilitation

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Major Projects and Facilitation Unit (page 65, BP 3)**

1. Excluding the new amounts contained in this budget measure, what is current base expenditure on the Major Projects and Facilitation Unit for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. How many new staff positions will be created in each of the four forward years and what is the timeframe for recruitment of the staff?
3. What are the “key private sector development initiatives” that will be facilitated through this expenditure?
4. How much of the funding is allocated to streamlining of project approval processes by year and by agency?
5. What are the processes that will be streamlined and what is the timeframe for reforming the current processes?
6. Once processes are streamlined, why does funding continue to increase each year?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Major Projects and Facilitation Unit is part of Strategic Priorities within the Business and Projects Division. Current base budget provides \$547,000. This area also supports related funded initiatives for Housing Affordability and the Arboretum.
2. Overall an estimated 13 new staff positions will be supported by this initiative. Some of these were funded through a Treasurer’s Advance in 2007-08 and are already in place.
3. In addition to the broad range of current and ongoing initiatives the new staff will take on various high priority projects and proposals in line with the Government’s continuing strategy to facilitate economic development within the ACT while ensuring high standards of planning and development are maintained. It is not possible to identify the new private sector initiatives at this stage.
4. As the full range of projects has not yet been identified, it is not possible to give a detailed breakdown of activities by project and agency at this stage.
5. See response to question 4.
6. Funding increases are due to indexation. The funding is for a range of functions and activities, not just streamlining approvals processes. These include undertaking major project development and implementation, identifying investment opportunities and gaps in ACT markets, identifying and engaging appropriate industry players to fill these opportunities, providing a ‘one-stop shop’ for businesses to obtain information about opportunities and approvals processes, facilitating the provision of land to support residential, commercial and industrial, project and business development, and providing appropriate facilitation services.

Confronting the demographic challenge

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Confronting the Demographic Challenge – Policy and Demographic Research (page 65, BP3)**

1. Why does the funding decrease in 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. What issues will the research investigate which are not currently analysed by other researchers?
3. What will be the public service level for the specialist demographer and in which department or agency will they be located?
4. How much support staffing in full time equivalent terms will the demographer have in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively?
5. Will the demographer have a budget allocation to commission new surveys or to purchase data from the ABS and what is the allocation for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. An allocation for data purchases, surveys, supporting research and model development will cease in 2010-11.
2. The demographer will provide ACT-specific population projections and analysis which are not currently publically available.

The ACT demographer will research a range of demographic issues, such as an ageing population and labour force trends, that, because of their broad importance, will be considered by other researchers. However, the ACT demographer will be able to produce research more specific to the ACT and the decisions being made by the ACT Government.

The demographer is also likely to produce demographic profiles of specific groups in the ACT, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and young people, that are less likely to be prepared by other researchers.

In general, having a dedicated ACT demographic model on hand will allow the demographer to examine issues facing the ACT and provide advice that is more specific, comprehensive and timely than that of other researchers.

3. The specialist demographer will be a Senior Officer Grade A, and will be located in the Chief Minister's Department.
4. The demographer will have no staff directly reporting to him/her, but will have access to the additional funding discussed in (5) below.
5. The demographic function will have an allocation for data purchases, surveys, supporting research and model development of \$158,000 in 2008-09 and \$154,000 in 2009-10. This funding ceases in 2010-11.

Strengthening the Community

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Strengthening the Community (page 65, BP3)**

1. Why is no funding provided after 2008-09?
2. Excluding the amounts contained in this budget measure, what is the budget for the Community Inclusion Board for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
3. How much of the \$450,000 in this budget measure will be spent on external consultancies?
4. How much of this \$450,000 will be spent on new or existing staff positions in the ACT Government and how many positions will be supported?
5. What is the subject matter proposed for the Community Inclusion Board's research program in 2008-09 and what is the budget for each of the proposed research projects?
6. How much was spent on the Community Inclusion Board's research program for each of the years from 2003 to 2008, as broken down by either calendar years or financial years?
7. How much was spent on each of the major research projects undertaken by the Community Inclusion Board between 2003 to 2008?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The funding for the Community Inclusion Board has been provided for one year to allow an assessment of the role of the Board in relation to the new Australian Social Inclusion Board.
2. The budget for 2008-09 is \$450,000, see above for response regarding out years.
3. \$120,000 has been allocated for external consultancies in 2008-09. Expenditure of these funds will depend on the type and scale of research required.
4. \$260,000 has been allocated for staffing. This will provide \$200,000 for two staff for 12 months. Additional staffing support will be provided by existing Policy Division staff. An estimated \$60,000 will be drawn from the Board budget in 2008-09 as a partial contribution to the costs of these existing staff.
5. The Community Inclusion Board will examine ways to address long-term unemployment, indigenous disadvantage and other social inclusion subjects as necessary. The budget for each of these projects will depend on final negotiation of terms of reference and arrangements with research partners.
6. Research and Projects spending per financial year from 2003 (inclusive of GST):

2007-08 - \$206,401 (including GST)

2006-07 - \$53,294

2005-06 - \$103,002

2004-05 - \$106,656

2003-04 - \$30,000

These figures include the costs of seminars that the Board has run, such as the seminar on Inclusive Practices within the Alexander Maconochie Centre. The Board has also contributed a small amount of funding to external research projects, such as the ACT Poverty Project conducted by NATSEM looking at the demographics of low income households in the ACT.

The amount spent in 2007-08 is higher than 2006-07 because funds from projects in train in 2006-07 were rolled over to 2007-08.

7. Cost of major research projects externally commissioned by the Board:

Project	Timing	Breakdown of project	Total cost
Poverty Proofing Trial	2005-2008	Report into poverty measurements and definition by the Centre for International Economics. Trial Poverty Impact Analysis completed by KPMG in their Review of the ACT Homelessness Strategy. Other background research work completed by CMD staff.	\$93,000
Household Debt pilot project	2005-2006	The project aimed to improve financial literacy, reduce debt levels and facilitate greater community inclusion amongst participants.	\$120,000
Neighbourhood and Belonging Report	2006-2007	Research on the experience of social inclusion and quality of living in Canberra's suburbs, inner city and town areas.	\$47,344
Long-term Unemployment	2007	A research report into the demographics of long-term unemployment was commissioned in 2007. The Board will be continuing this work in 2008 with a policy trial.	\$47,250 (research)
Social Impacts of Climate Change	2007-2008	This project was part of the Climate Change Strategy, but has been funded by the Board.	\$77,000
Meta-Analysis of Early intervention approaches in the ACT	2008	A structured review of existing research and evaluations of early intervention approaches used in the ACT.	\$58,389
Water and Energy Savings Trial (WEST project) second stage	2003	Project assisting low-income households to reduce energy consumption.	\$30,000

Centenary of Canberra

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Centenary of Canberra (pg 66, BP 3)**

1. How many staff will be funded under this measure and how do the staff numbers breakdown according to public service levels?
2. What agencies will the new staff work in and what is the timeframe for recruitment of the staff?
3. What is the breakdown of funding in this budget measure in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, as divided among: feasibility and scoping work; governance arrangements; development of policies; development of programs; and other initiatives?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Due to the developing nature of the centenary project it is estimated that in the next year 3-4 full time equivalent (FTE) staff will be required. Staff levels will range from administrative officer level to management level.
2. Chief Minister's Department, Centenary of Canberra team. Recruitment of staff will take place as required. Plans are in place to recruit an ASO 6 and a SOG C shortly.
3. Due to the developing nature of the centenary project and the scoping study in progress, specific detailed breakdowns, particularly in the out-years are not available at this time. In the 2008-2009 year the estimated breakdown in expenditure is in the order of 10% feasibility and scoping (majority of feasibility/scoping work funded from the 07-08 Second Appropriation in 08-09), 75% development of programs, policies and other initiatives, 15% governance arrangements. Flexibility is required to allow for the development of the project.

Building and Maintaining ACTPS Capacity

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Build and Maintain ACTPS Capacity (page 64, BP3)**

1. Excluding the amounts contained in this budget measure, what are the amounts of expenditure on other leadership and management programs and activities within the ACT Public Service for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. How many staff would benefit per year through this budget measure in each of the three targeted streams of: executives; up and coming leaders; and front line managers?
3. How much will be spent in this measure on promoting the ACTPS as an employer of choice for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
4. How much of the 2008-09 spend on promoting the ACTPS as an employer of choice will be acquitted before 19 October 2008?
5. How much will be spent in this measure trialling recruitment improvements for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
6. What are the recruitment improvements which will be trialled?
7. How many staff will be funded under this measure? What agency will the staff work from and what is the timeframe for recruitment of the staff?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Outside the Build and Maintain ACTPS Capacity budget initiatives individual agencies fund their own programs and activities. All Chief Executives are committed to strategies to enhance executive leadership development and managerial development at three key levels (executive, up and coming leaders, and front line managers). Best practice recruitment and retention evidence indicates that these strategies need to focus on two levels: whole of service requirements and agency specific requirements.

This initiative aims to expand learning and development opportunities available to key ACTPS staff and build upon other programs such as the leadership development program 'Take the Lead' which has been coordinated by CMD over a number of years and funded by agencies at a cost of approximately \$5000 per participant.

2. It is not possible to determine at this stage how many staff would benefit per year. Procurement activity will be coordinated by CMD to provide quality leadership development and managerial development programs. Individual agencies will determine how many staff access these programs.
3. At this stage \$50,000 is allocated to promoting the ACTPS as an employer of choice in 2008-09 through the 'Great careers come with the Territory' campaign. It is anticipated that additional funds will be allocated both in 2008-09 and beyond to promote the ACTPS and respond to the skills challenges facing the ACTPS.
4. See 3 above.
5. Further work will be undertaken between CMD and Shared Services and Management Council regarding measures to trial recruitment improvements and the associated costs. Some measures may be undertaken on a part or full cost recovery basis.
6. The initial activity planned to improve recruitment in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is whole of government bulk recruitment rounds to address specific skills shortages.
7. It is planned that two new policy officers will be funded by this initiative. The positions will be in CMD. The recruitment for these positions will commence shortly.

National autumn balloon spectacular – email

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister:

In relation to **the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular:**

1. An email, prepared in your Department on 26 October 2007, contained the following words in relation to the 2008 balloon event: “Can we talk or meet briefly early in the new weeks about this issue – best we speak than email on the subject matter”: why was it suggested that it would be better to speak rather than to email.
2. What was the intention of the meeting that was proposed in this email.
3. In a subsequent email, prepared in your Department on 29 October 2007, there were the following words: “Perhaps, in inviting them [‘the balloon people’: Canberra Balloon Fiesta Inc (CBF)] to meet, we could suggest we wanted to discuss a number of issues including their vision for a 100-balloon event for Canberra’s centenary...It may be enough of a distraction...whatdoyareckon?”: what was the reason for needing a distraction.
4. What was the objective of seeking a meeting with CBF.
5. Did this meeting take place.
6. What was the outcome from the meeting.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. It was considered a face to face meeting would be more appropriate.
2. The intention of the meeting was to seek clarification of CBF’s intentions regarding the 2008 event in the context of their funding application which was before the Festival Fund for consideration.
3. The proposed meeting was to be held at a time when the outcome of a funding application to the Festival Fund had not been finalised and with the organisation who would have expressed a great interest in knowing that outcome.
4. To seek clarification of CBF’s intentions regarding the 2008 event.
5. No. A conversation was held by telephone with the organisation.
6. CBF confirmed their assertions that a minimum \$250,000 would be required from the ACT Government to conduct the event.

National autumn balloon spectacular – sponsors

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister:

In relation to **the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular:**

7. (a) Who were the sponsors for the 2008 balloon event; (b) If the sponsors provided funds, how much did each sponsor provide; (c) If the sponsors provided goods and/or services, what was the nature of these goods and services.
8. Who provided the following officials for the balloon event: (a) launch masters; (b) refueling marshals; (c) any other balloon site officials; (d) who paid for the expenses of these officials; (e) were any expenses incurred by these officials paid for by each person.
9. In relation to the balloonists who flew balloons at the balloon event: (a) who paid for their expenses; (b) what expenses were paid for; (c) were any social events provided for balloonists; (d) who paid for these events.
10. What activities did members of the Lions Clubs undertake at the balloon event.
11. In relation to international balloonists: (a) what expenses were paid for these balloonists; (b) who paid for these expenses; (c) were any expenses paid for the crew members of international balloon; (d) if so, who paid for these expenses.
12. (a) What insurance or insurances were required for the balloon event; (b) who paid the premiums for these insurances for the event; (c) was there any sponsorship involved in providing any insurance cover for the event.
13. (a) Which company provided the propane for the balloon operators for the event; (b) which balloon operators were allowed to obtain propane from this source; (c) was any payment required for the propane that was obtained from this source; (d) was there any sponsorship involved in providing the propane.
14. (a) Who provided the two marquees that were available for the use of the two companies that were managing the balloon event; (b) who paid for the provision of these marquees.
15. (a) How many ACT Government staff were involved the running of the event; (b) from which departments and agencies were these staff drawn; (c) how many hours were these staff involved in this event; (d) what was the cost of these staff being involved in the balloon event.
16. (a) What expenses of an administrative or equivalent nature related to this event were paid for by the ACT Government; (b) how much was this cost; (c) if these costs were paid for by the ACT Government, why was this so.
17. Who provided the following components of the infrastructure necessary for the balloon event: (a) stages; (b) tables and chairs; (c) public address and sound systems; (d) cold rooms; (e) barbeques; (f) power generators; (g) site sheds; (h) toilets; (i) portable lighting; (j) emergency services road blocks and control measures; (k) any other items of infrastructure.
18. (a) Who provided the entertainment, including any bands and other acts or entertainers, each day; (b) who paid for this entertainment.
19. (a) Were any benefits provided to any commercial entities that were involved in the balloon event; (b) if so, what was the nature of these benefits; (c) who arranged for these benefits to be provided; (d) why were they provided; (e) what did they cost; (f) who paid for these benefits..

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. (a) and (b) Kaz Group - \$25,000 cash
ActewAGL - \$7,500 cash
Canberra CBD Limited \$7,500 cash
Hotel Heritage – in-kind accommodation
Southern Cross Ten – in-kind promotion
The Canberra Times – in-kind promotion
666 ABC Radio – in-kind promotion
2. (a), (b) and (c) Balloon Aloft.
(d) Balloon Aloft.
(e) No.
3. (a) and (b) Participating Australian pilots were offered a package of accommodation, breakfast and gas to attend the event. This was paid by CMD from the operating budget for the event.
(c) No.
(d) Not applicable.
4. The Lions Club provided cooked breakfasts that were made available for sale to the members of public attending the event.
5. (a) and (b) Participating international pilots were offered a package of airfares, accommodation, breakfast and gas to attend the event. This was paid by CMD from the operating budget for the event.
(c) No
(d) Not applicable.
6. (a) As an ACT Government owned event public liability insurance was covered by the Territory. Aviation liability was negotiated and purchased through ACT Insurance Authority for a cost of \$2,314.13.
(b) CMD.
(c) No.
7. (a) Elgas provided refuelling facilities for the event.
(b) All participating balloons received gas from this source. Commercial balloons were billed separately for their consumption.
(c) Yes.
(d) No.
8. (a) and (b) All marquees and on-site infrastructure for the event was provided by CMD and costs were recovered from the two commercial ballooning companies who had a presence on the site.
9. (a) Three CMD officers were involved in the planning and delivery the event.
(b) CMD and Tourism.
(c) It is estimated that the full-time equivalent of one CMD officer was involved in the planning and delivery of the event for the period between the end of February and April. Several tourism staff members contributed to aspects of the launch and promotion of the event.
(d) Approximately \$27,000.
10. (a) Staff.
(b) See Question 9(d).
(c) Staff time was required for project management of the event.
11. (a) Nova Multimedia.
(b) Patti's Hire.
(c) Patti's Hire.

- (d) Hire All.
- (e) Patti's Hire.
- (f) Genplus.
- (g) Canberra Hire.
- (h) Canberra Hire.
- (i) Genplus.
- (j) SES for staffing the road closures and Traffic Technologies for barricades.
- (k) as above.

12. (a) Local performers were sourced through local entertainment agency Peter Funnell Entertainment.

(b) CMD from the event operating budget.

13. (a) Yes.

(b) The benefits offered varied, but included signage and promotional opportunities, use of the corporate marquee and balloon flights.

(c) CMD arranged for these benefits in negotiation with each sponsor.

(d) Provision of benefits is a normal part of servicing a sponsorship.

(e) The total cost of benefits is valued at approximately \$10,000.

(f) All benefits were included in the value of the sponsorship.

National autumn balloon spectacular - sponsors - conflict of interest

Mr Smyth: To ask the Acting Chief Minister

In relation to : **the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular**

20. Was any notification of a conflict of interest advised by any officer of the ACT Government in relation to the arrangements for the 2008 balloon event.
21. If so: (a) how many notifications were made; (b) were these notifications of potential conflicts of interest or of actual conflicts of interest.
22. What was the nature of any notification that was made.
23. What action was taken following the notification of a conflict of interest.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Yes.
2. (a) One. (b) Potential.
3. Verbal.
4. The officer's duties involved delivering the event and at no time participated in decision making processes. As a low conflict risk, no further action was taken.

National autumn balloon spectacular - sponsors – operator

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister:

In relation to **the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular:**

1. Who made the decision to appoint the operator for the 2008 balloon event.
2. When was this decision made.
3. What documentation was available to the decision maker or decision makers on which to base this decision.
4. Why was concern expressed in an email, on 18 February 2008, that one Minister was “about to go out on a limb, with nothing in writing.” in relation to announcing the operator for the 2008 balloon event.
5. Why was such a critical decision being made without appropriate documentation.
6. How did this situation arise.
7. Why didn't the responsible Departments ensure that a proposal of some description was received from the entity that had been chosen to operate the 2008 balloon event.
8. What action did you take to ensure that you were satisfied that you could make informed decisions about the 2008 balloon event the day before you launched it.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Decisions were made jointly between the Chief Minister and the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation.
2. 19 February 2008.
3. Briefing material.
4. This refers to an email written by an officer of another Department.
5. There is appropriate documentation.
6. There is appropriate documentation.
7. There is appropriate documentation.
8. Minister for Tourism launched the event.

National autumn balloon spectacular - sponsors – budget

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister:

In relation to **the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular:**

24. What was the budget for the 2008 balloon event.
25. What was the total cost of the 2008 balloon event.
26. (a) What evaluation has been undertaken of the 2008 balloon event; (b) how was this evaluation made; (c) what did this evaluation cost.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

9. \$167,000. Total cost to ACT Government \$70,000.
10. \$167,000.
11. (a) Tourism organised and conducted a survey of individuals attending the event.
(b) The survey was conducted through face to face interviews.
(c) \$11,636,36 ex GST.

Hospitality in the CMD

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to **:Hospitality in the Chief Minister's Department**

1. What is the Chief Minister's Department spending on hospitality costs (including catering, venue hire, promotion and accommodation) in the 2007-08 year and what is the provision for expenditure in 2008-09?
2. How many such events were hosted by the Chief Minister's Department in the 2007-08 year to date involving hospitality expenditure of over \$500 (including catering, venue hire, promotion and accommodation)? When and where were each of those events held, how many people attended each event and what was the total expenditure for each event?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Departmental hospitality expenditure to 29 May 2008 was \$208,591 (GST incl). It is anticipated that expenditure in 2008-09 will be similar.
2. Twenty nine events were hosted involving hospitality expenditure of over \$500. Details for each event are attached.

Budget promotion

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Budget Promotion**

1. What was the total ACT Government spend promoting the 2007-08 ACT Budget on television, including production and broadcast costs?
2. What was the total ACT Government spend promoting the 2007-08 ACT Budget, including through all forms of media and including all production and distribution costs, as broken down by types of costs?
3. What are total ACT Government marketing costs for the 2007-08 year including through all forms of media and including all production and distribution costs, as broken down by types of costs?
4. What is the total ACT Government spend promoting the 2008-09 ACT Budget on television, including production and broadcast costs?
5. What is the total ACT Government spend promoting the 2008-09 ACT Budget, including through all forms of media and including all production and distribution costs, as broken down by types of costs?
6. What are total ACT Government marketing costs for the 2008-09 year including through all forms of media and including all production and distribution costs, as broken down by types of costs?
7. What proportion of the 2008-09 budget promotional spend will be committed to promotional activities and advertisements that occur before 19 October 2008?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The cost of television advertising was \$48,114.
2. The total cost of the campaign was \$117,164 (pre-GST). Breakdown of costs was as follows:
 - Concept (press ad design, radio and TV scripts) - \$2,000
 - Production (press ads, radio and TV commercials) - \$25,000
 - Media placement : press \$26,516, radio \$9,806, and TV \$48,114
 - Agency fee - \$5,728
3. The Chief Minister's Department does not centrally maintain the information requested. A whole of government response would require coordination across departments and significant use of resources.
4. Nil
5. The total cost of the 2008-09 Budget community information campaign is \$49,258 for production, packaging and distribution of a brochure informing residents of budget initiatives.
6. Refer response to Question 3.
7. The only budget promotional spend will be for the production, packaging and distribution of the brochure to be distributed in June 2008.

Marketing across Govt

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Marketing Across Government**

1. Is electronic media purchasing in the ACT Government managed on a centralised or decentralised basis and how do the purchasing and approval arrangements operate when an ACT Government department or agency undertakes a television or radio advertising campaign?
2. What is the role of the Chief Minister's Department in achieving value for money in purchasing of television and radio advertising time?
3. What is the role of the Chief Minister's Department in coordination of marketing messages from different ACT Government departments and agencies, to approve marketing messages and to ensure consistency of messages?
4. What is the role of the Chief Minister's Department in coordinating budget promotion through both paid advertising and unpaid media?
5. Has the Chief Minister's Department played any role in preparing, approving, planning or booking the taxpayer-funded education advertisements that appeared on Television boasting of \$350 million spending on education, what was the nature of its involvement?
6. When did the Chief Minister's Department become aware of the proposed ACT Government funded education advertisements that appeared on Television in the wake of the 2008-09 budget?
7. Has the Chief Minister's Department played any role in preparing, approving, planning or arranging distribution of the taxpayer-funded A3 brochure advertising the Forde housing development that was distributed after the ACT budget, and what was the nature of its involvement?
8. Has the Chief Minister's Department had any communication with the Land Development Agency or with other sponsors of the Forde brochure, regarding whole-of government messages contained in that brochure, including the claim that Forde addresses housing demand and that Forde contributes to infrastructure investment? What was the nature of those communications and when did discussions occur?
9. Has the Chief Minister's Department had any communication with ACT Government agencies and departments about the need for authorisations on electoral material ahead of the ACT election? What was the nature of those communications and when did discussions occur?
10. Has the Chief Minister's Department had any communication with ACT Government agencies and departments about recent changes to electoral authorisation laws passed in the Legislative Assembly in May? What was the nature of those communications and when did discussions occur?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Electronic media purchasing in the ACT Government is managed on a decentralised basis. Each Agency is responsible for purchasing and approval arrangements for their television and radio campaigns.
2. The Chief Minister's Department is often approached by Agencies for advice on issues related to television and radio advertising. It does not centrally co-ordinate whole-of-government advertising.

3. The Chief Minister's Department is frequently invited to provide feedback on proposed marketing campaigns. Approval for specific marketing messages rests with individual Agencies.
4. The Chief Minister's Department is responsible for the coordination of budget promotion in conjunction with ACT Treasury. The Chief Minister's Department also provides advice and assistance in relation to the preparation of budget media releases.
5. No
6. The Chief Minister's Department was advised of the education advertisements by the Department of Education and Training's Media and Communications Unit in early April 2008.
7. No
8. No
9. The Chief Minister's Department provided ACTPS Communications Managers, via email, with the advice received from the ACT Electoral Commission in relation to authorisations required on electoral material.
10. The Chief Minister's Department provided ACTPS Communications Managers, via email, with the advice received from the ACT Electoral Commission in relation to changes to electoral authorisation laws. This advice was also provided via an all staff email distributed by the ACT Electoral Commission.

Staff Number – CMD

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Staff Numbers in the Chief Minister’s Department (p30, BP4)**

1. What are the estimated numbers of casual and contractor staff in 2007-08 in full-time equivalent terms?
2. What amount is estimated to be spent in 2007-08 on contract staff?
3. What are the estimated numbers of casual and contractor staff for 2008-09 in full-time equivalent terms?
4. What amount is budgeted to be spent in 2008-09 on contract staff?
5. Why did staffing levels increase by 20 positions during 2007-08 over the level originally forecast in the 2007-08 budget? In what programs or units within the department are the additional staff working?
6. Why will staffing levels increase by a further 15 positions during 2008-09? In what programs or units within the department will the additional staff be working?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. 0.3 FTE casual and 12.3 FTE contract staff are estimated to have been employed under the Public Sector Management Act by the Department in 2007-08.
2. The estimated expenditure on salary and salary oncosts for contract staff in 2007-08 is \$900,000.
3. The estimated numbers of casual and contractor staff for 2008-09 is expected to be similar to the 2007-08 figure, but will depend on departmental priorities and short term resource requirements.
4. The estimated expenditure on casual and contractor staff for 2008-09 is expected to be similar to the 2007-08 figure.
5. The staffing outcome for 2007-08 reflects a mix of 2007-08 budget funded positions, recruitment and filling of vacancies, some of which were deferred in 2006-07, staff separations through the year due to resignations, retirements etc, as well as changes in business unit structure and roles.

Additional staff are in the following areas of the Department - Project and Business Division; Policy Division; Strategic Finance; Public Sector Management Group; and Communications and Special Events.

6. The 30 June 2009 estimate factors in staffing estimates for agreed 2008-09 Budget initiatives – Major Projects and Facilitation Unit; Responding to Skills Shortage; Policy and Demographic Research; Building and Maintaining ACTPS Capacity; New Worker Safety Legislation; the Live in Canberra Program; Centenary of Canberra; ACT Festival Fund; and ACT Arts Fund.

Use of the Shared Services Centre

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to: **Use of the Shared Services Centre**

1. Has the cost of your department in providing corporate services increased or decreased as a result of using the Shared Services Centre (SSC)?
2. Have there been any unexpected costs imposed on your department arising from the use of the SSC?
3. Have the turnaround times for the payment of invoices been better or worse through the SSC?
4. Has there been any change in the number of complaints from external organisations about slow paying of accounts?
5. Have there been any other issues in dealing with matters through the SSC in contrast to the way in which these were dealt with by the department?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Department has operated within the resources the Department has been allocated to deliver corporate services.

There have not been any unexpected costs imposed on the Department arising from the use of the SSC.

The Department is not aware of any material change in the turnaround time for invoice payments.

The Department is not aware of any material change in complaints from external organisations about slow payment of accounts.

The Department is not aware of any material issues relating to dealing with matters through the SSC in contrast to the way in which these were dealt with by the Department.

Pre-election preparation

Ms Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Pre-Election Preparation (page 37, BP4)**

6. What precisely will the Chief Minister's Department be doing by way of "Pre-Election Preparation"?
7. Which of the activities under this output sub-category are regarded as new activities, consistent with description of this output sub-category as a "new measure" (footnote 5 on page 37 of Budget Paper 4)?
8. Will the Chief Minister's Department play any coordinating role in relation to preparation of Incoming Government Briefs? What is the extent of that coordination role?
9. Has the Chief Minister's Department been given responsibility for coordinating or devising New Policy Proposals ahead of the election? What is the extent of that role?
10. How many staff will be involved in the "Pre-Election Preparation" activity?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1&3 Evidence was provided to the Committee on 26 May in relation to the refreshing of advice on the Caretaker Conventions. The Chief Minister's Department (CMD) will also coordinate preparation of incoming government briefs for a returned government, or a change of government.
- 2 The activities proposed are in accordance with long standing practice. They are footnoted as new in the 2008-09 Budget Papers as this sub-category was not included in the 2007-08 Budget Papers.
- 4 No
- 5 Policy Division in CMD will coordinate preparation of advice on the Caretaker Conventions and the incoming government briefs, drawing on other ACT Government Agencies as required. It is not possible to determine the number of officers likely to be involved in advance as this will depend, among other things, on the scope of policy commitments made by the Government and the Opposition during the election campaign.

Public Sector management

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Public Sector Management (page 33, BP4)**

10. Why has the budget for Public Sector Management declined by two million dollars between the 2007-08 estimated outcome and the 2008-09 budgeted outcome, representing a cut of a third in spending?
11. How many full-time equivalent staff positions will be lost as part of this funding cut?
12. What activities and processes have ceased or will cease in order to deliver this funding cut?
13. Is any of the foregone activity similar to activity under new measures in the 2008-09 budget, including under the measures titled: Accountability in Government (p64, BP3); Building and Maintaining ACTPS Capacity (p634, BP3); and Confronting the Demographic Challenge (p65, BP3)? Where are the areas of similarity?
14. How many demographers are involved in workforce planning as part of the Public Service Management output?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

10. The reduction in funding when comparing the 2007-08 estimated outcome and the 2008-09 budgeted outcome for Output Class 1.2 reflects the transfer of responsibilities for the human resource system (Chris21) and formal transfer of the asset to the Shared Services Centre.
11. There will be no loss in full-time equivalent positions within Public Sector Management.
12. No activities or processes will cease in Public Sector Management as a consequence of this transfer of responsibility, other than those associated with the functioning of the human resource system.
13. No.
14. There are no specialist demographers engaged within the Chief Minister's Department under Output Class, 1.2.

National autumn Balloon Spectacular

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister:

In relation to the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular:

27. What is the indicative budget that the ACT Government is proposing for the 2009 balloon event.
28. If the balloon event is intended to be an enhancement to ACT Tourism, why has the responsibility for the balloon event been assumed entirely by the Chief Minister's Department.
29. Why did the Chief Minister say [refer Hansard, 26 May 2008] that the previous organisers of the balloon event wanted \$250,000 to operate the event when the application from Canberra Balloon Fiesta Inc. requested \$103,000: \$83,000 from the Events Assistance Program and \$20,000 from the Festival Fund.
30. (a) What value for money did the 2008 balloon event provide for the ACT; (b) what factors were used in determining the value for money for this event; (c) how does the 2007 balloon event compare with the events held in 2005, 2006 and 2007.
31. In relation to the evaluation of the 2008 balloon event: (a) were any spectators involved in any survey; (b) if so, how many valid responses were received; (c) if no spectators were surveyed, why was this decision taken.
32. If the ACT Government had been concerned about there being only a four day balloon event in 2007, why did the Government not indicate that concern to the previous balloon event organisers.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. \$70,000 has been allocated, plus sponsorship funds.
2. To bring it under the Canberra Festival banner in the lead up to Centenary of Canberra Celebrations.
3. There is documentation to show that the previous organisers advised they would need \$250,000 to run a nine or ten day event.
4. (a) and (b) The previous organisers applied for \$250,000 for a nine or ten day event and \$70,000 for a four day event. The 2008 event was run over nine days for \$70,000; (c) The 2008 event represented greater value for money as it ran over nine days, attracted larger crowds, and utilised a local ballooning company.
5. (a) Market research was undertaken at the *2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular*, with results based on a random sample of face-to-face interviews with spectators; (b) and (c) 350 valid responses were received.
6. The Government did indicate concern to the previous balloon event organisers.

322 Chief Minister Foskey

Community consultation

326 Chief Minister Dunne

ANU co-operative investment in climate change adaptation centre

Constitutional Avenue

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to: **Constitution Avenue**

3. What are the section and block numbers and the respective land area for each block of land proposed to be transferred from ACT Government control to Commonwealth Government responsibility, as part of arrangements for the proposed duplication of Constitution Avenue by the Commonwealth?
4. Who are the lessees or tenants on each block of land proposed to be transferred from ACT Government control to Commonwealth Government responsibility, as part of arrangements for the proposed duplication of Constitution Avenue by the Commonwealth?
5. When and under what instruments was agreement confirmed on blocks of land to be transferred from ACT Government control to Commonwealth Government responsibility, as part of arrangements for the proposed duplication of Constitution Avenue by the Commonwealth?
6. What are the section and block numbers and the respective land area for each block of land that actually has been transferred from ACT Government control to Commonwealth Government responsibility as part of arrangements for the proposed duplication of Constitution Avenue by the Commonwealth, and when did that transfer of responsibility occur?
7. What is the status of negotiations on, and forward plans for the progress of agreements on the transfer of land from ACT Government control to Commonwealth Government responsibility, as part of arrangements for the proposed duplication of Constitution Avenue by the Commonwealth?
8. What is the estimated outcome for 2007-08 and the estimated cost for 2008-09 for the maintenance of the total areas of land proposed to be transferred from ACT Government control to Commonwealth Government responsibility, as part of arrangements for the proposed duplication of Constitution Avenue by the Commonwealth?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. It is not proposed to transfer any further land to the Commonwealth Government in relation to duplication of Commonwealth Avenue. Following agreement by the ACT, the Commonwealth Minister of State for Local Government, Territories and Roads, the Hon Jim Lloyd MP, issued special Commonwealth Gazette No. S153 on 20 August 2007 which declared a number of roads, including part of Constitution Avenue, and associated road reserves to be National Land and thereafter to be managed by the National Capital Authority on behalf of the Commonwealth. A copy of the relevant special gazette No. S153 is attached outlining the roads gazetted by the Commonwealth.
2. As these were roads and reserves under the control of the Territory, there were no lessees or tenants involved.
3. On Monday 20 August 2007 the Minister of State declared the roads and reserves to be National Land pursuant to subsection 27(1) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (C'wlth)*.
4. The section and block numbers are identified on the attached copy of the gazette notice, and the declaration by the Commonwealth took place on Monday 20 August 2007.
5. The Chief Minister has written to the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus MP, expressing concern at the Commonwealth decision to reduce funding for the works which

had been proposed to be undertaken and the reduction in funding of the National Capital Authority for depreciation and maintenance of road assets. The Territory will determine its position once a response is received from Minister Debus.

6. The land has been transferred to the Commonwealth which is now responsible for the maintenance of the roads and reserves. As the land has been transferred, there is now no cost to the Territory for these activities. We have no advice from the Commonwealth on what maintenance funds it has committed.

(Details of attachment, please contact Committee Office)

QTON – Govt ads pre-election

Mr Mulcahy: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Whole of Government advertising pre-election

So what is the total value that Mr Seselja's asked about for all these programs, marketing programs?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Three Whole of Government campaigns have been proposed, and one Whole of Government advertising campaign is currently being delivered. The campaigns proposed include:–

- *Ready for the Future*, detailing locality specific budget issues, delivered directly to households, to cost \$49, 258.02;
- *Taking it Step by Step*, a two week campaign detailing progress with the Affordable Housing Action Plan, to cost an estimated \$20,000; and
- *Medicare Change of Address*, a repeat of the 2007 campaign that encourages residents to change their Medicare address to the ACT. \$120,000 has been allocated to run an extensive media campaign from 4 August to 29 August. In 2007 this program generated \$1.58 million for the ACT.

Currently one Whole of Government advertising campaign is being delivered, *Great Careers Come with the Territory*. This campaign, to be delivered from 12 May until 9 June, is estimated to have a total cost of \$100,000.

The total estimated cost for the delivery of these Whole of Government advertising campaigns, is \$289,258.02.

QTON - No of contractors

Mr Seselja: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Numbers of contractors

If they are not included then in that whole of government staffing, the full-time employees or full-time equivalent, is there somewhere where we can get a gauge of how many of these type of contractors there are and how many full-time equivalent positions there are for contractors in the public service?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Departments engage external labour and organisations to undertake a range of services dependant on the need for specialist skills, the lack of suitable in-house resources, and the need for independent reviews or facilitation. Reporting entities are required to report on procurement and contracting activities including compliance with the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and *Government Procurement Regulation 2007*. Under the *Act* a notifiable contracts register must be maintained by a Chief Executive that states the parties to the contract rather than the number of employees. The provision of information on the number of external sources of labour and services is also an annual reporting requirement of reporting entities under the Annual Report Directions (a notifiable instrument).

366 Chief Minister Smyth

QTON - Balloon spectacular - refilled gas

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Balloon Spectacular

All balloons were refilled with gas - were commercial operators making a profit out of the day, were they charged for the gas provided?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- Elgas supplied gas provided refuelling arrangements for the event.
- A separate refuelling arrangement for both commercial operators, Balloon Aloft and Dawn Drifters, was facilitated by Elgas directly who billed each operator for their consumption.

QTON - Funding support University of Canberra

Mrs Dunne: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Funding to support the University of Canberra in developing four initiatives

If you could perhaps give us a breakdown of the budget in the out years for each of those projects, that would be helpful.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

This initiative provides funding of \$2.075m over four years for four discrete projects as follows:

- A UC Chair for the Australia New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG)
\$0.200 million per year for 2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-11; 2011-12;
- Establishment of a cultural heritage management course
\$0.275 million in 2008-09;
- Improvement in water use and management
\$0.100 million in 2008-09; and 2009-10; and
- Establishment of an Urban Planning Course
\$0.200 million per year for 2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-11; 2011-12.

368 Chief Minister Smyth

QTON - Balloon spectacular - list of sponsors

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Balloon Spectacular

Could we have a list of all the sponsors then as well?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- Kaz Group
- Hotel Heritage
- ActewAGL
- Canberra CBD Limited
- Southern Cross Ten
- 666 ABC
- The Canberra Times

369 Chief Minister Dunne

QTON - Canberra Technology City development - Environment Protection agency

Mrs Dunne: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Canberra Technology City Development

When did the Environment Protection Agency become involved, in your sort of facilitating process, or you are not sure that they have ever been involved?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Land Development Agency was in contact with Environment Protection, within Environment and Recreation, once the proponents had identified the subject block as their preferred site in August 2007.

There was no need for facilitation for this issue by the Project Facilitation unit as the relevant parties were already in contact.

370 Chief Minister Dunne

QTON - Canberra Technology City development – communication

Mrs Dunne: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Canberra Technology City Development

Has there been any facilitation of communication between the proponents and the Environment Protection Authority?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Land Development Agency was in contact with Environment Protection, within Environment and Recreation, once the proponents had identified the subject block as their preferred site in August 2007.

There was no need for facilitation for this issue by the Project Facilitation unit as the relevant parties were already in contact.

QTON - Balloon spectacular - change of provider

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Balloon Spectacular

I would like Mr Lasek to detail the events that led to the change of provider, from October last year?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

<i>3 September 2007</i>	Paul Gibbs wrote to Minister Barr in response to the offer of multi-year funding under the EAP and states “it needs to be noted that the EAP offer leaves a shortfall of \$200,000 per annum from what will see the event’s continuation in 2008 and its necessary success in preparation for Canberra’s Centenary”.
<i>31 October 2007</i>	CMD spoke with Paul Gibbs regarding Festival Fund application who confirmed Canberra Balloon Fiesta’s (CBF) assertion that \$250k would be required from ACT Government to conduct the event.
<i>8 November 2007</i>	CBF post on website stating CBF “currently in negotiation with ACT Government regarding funding of event”.
<i>15 November 2007</i>	Minister Barr wrote to Paul Gibbs and advised that additional funding requests through Australian Capital Tourism has been unsuccessful and asks Paul Gibbs to consider re-applying in the 2008/09 funding round.
<i>21 November 2007</i>	Balloon Aloft contacts CMD regarding concerns about the possibility of the Canberra Balloon Fiesta not proceeding and an indicated of interest in staging alternate event.
<i>12 December 2007</i>	Tourism wrote to Paul Gibbs seeking confirmation of dates for the 2008 Balloon Fiesta by 21 December
<i>10 January 2008</i>	Canberra Times contacts Australian Capital Tourism in respect to comments made by Paul Gibbs indicating that there is a possibility the event won’t happen this year. Tourism contacts Damian Crock seeking urgent advice on 2008 event dates (for marketing purposes) and the alteration of text on the Balloon Fiesta website which cast doubt over the running of the event
<i>18 January 2008</i>	Australian Capital Tourism again contacted Paul Gibbs seeking written confirmation on the conduct of the event.
<i>20 January 2008</i>	CBF website posting stating” As at 20 January 2008 the organisers are unable to confirm that the event is to proceed. Final decision will be made by mid February.”
<i>22 January 2008</i>	Tourism contacted Paul Gibbs at 23:10 pm on mobile seeking confirmation in respect of email of the 18 th January. Paul Gibbs advised he was working on a response and would send the following day Australian Capital Tourism received a letter from Paul Gibbs stating that the CBF is “unable to confirm the event under the current funding arrangements at this date”. The letter also states that CBF is currently seeking other corporate sponsors to assist with funding for the Fiesta, and will be able to make an announcement only by mid-February.

<i>23 January 2008</i>	Paul Gibbs contacted Tourism stating “ as the situation is buoyant we request that you wait to hear from us”
<i>31 January 2008</i>	Email from CMD confirming that CBF have failed to respond to offer of funding from the Festival Fund in the required timeframe.
<i>1 February 2008</i>	Damian Crock contacts Tourism and advises that confirmation on the 2008 event will not be forthcoming until Paul Gibbs’ return from overseas in mid February.
<i>4 February 2008</i>	Brief to the Minister “Balloon Fiesta Update”
<i>11 February 2008</i>	Paul Gibbs contacted CMD asking for an extension to respond to the offer for funding from the Festival Fund.
<i>13 February 2008</i>	<p>Paul Gibbs writes to CMD and Tourism proposing 4-5 day event.</p> <p>Paul Gibbs and Damian Crock contacted Tourism by phone to discuss the future of the Balloon Fiesta. During the conversation, Paul Gibbs expressly rejected the Territory’s 3-year offer from the EAP, stating that it was insufficient funding to conduct a safe and responsible event.</p> <p>In addition Paul Gibbs also proposed that a shorter event be conducted for the 2008 event. The event would be held over 4 to 5 days rather than the initial 9 to 10 days outlined in the CBF’s original submission to the EAP, the rationale being that the funding offered by the Territory was less than the requested amount.</p>
<i>15 February 2008</i>	Brief provided to Minister Barr updating on CBF situation.
<i>18 February 2008</i>	CMD advised CBF that the request for an extension to the Festival Fund expiry date had been declined.
<i>19 February 2008</i>	<p>Tourism writes to Paul Gibbs advising that counter proposal to conduct 4 to 5 day event is not acceptable.</p> <p>Mr Wallington and Mr Roberts who had been in regular discussion with CMD about plans to incorporate a large ballooning event as part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay were approached to assist with the delivery of an autumn ballooning event, would the CBF decide not to run the 2008 event.</p> <p>To ensure that a balloon event was delivered for the community in 2008, Balloon Aloft agreed to deliver the balloon component of the event with assistance from CMD’s Special Events Unit and Australian Capital Tourism.</p> <p>This arrangement was made through a single select process, approved on the basis of the tight timeframe involved, the limited local suppliers and the relatively small cost.</p> <p>Minister Barr announces that Balloon Aloft will conduct a nine day event beginning on the 19th of April.</p>

410 Chief Minister Smyth

QTON - Balloon spectacular

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to: Balloon Spectacular

Chief Minister, can you table for the community the budget, the final budget, for the Balloon spectacular that occurred last month?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- Attached is the final budget for the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular.

Balloons and Entertainment

**9 Day Events
Operating Budget**

Balloons		
Accommodation	\$27,000	in kind
Gas	\$8,000	
Crew Catering	\$3,500	
Weather Services	\$0	
Flight Direction Services - Balloon Aloft	\$10,000	
Insurance	\$3,000	
Site Costs		
Event Manager - Out There Productions	\$10,000	
Sound and Lighting	\$6,400	
Marquees, Chairs and Tables	\$18,000	
Toilets	\$4,000	
Plumbing and Electrical	\$1,100	
Waste Management	\$3,000	
Security	\$3,000	
		\$45,500
Marketing and Promotion		
Advertising and Collateral	\$40,000	in kind in kind in kind
Southern Cross Ten	\$10,000	
The Canberra Times	\$10,000	
ABC Radio		
Entertainment	\$10,000	
		\$70,000
	Total	\$167,000

Revenue		
ACT Government - TAMS	\$50,000	
ACT Government - CMD	\$20,000	
Sponsorship - Cash and In-Kind	\$87,000	Including: Kaz Group, Hotel Heritage, Southern Cross Ten, The Canberra Times, ABC Radio, ActewAGL, Canberra CBD Ltd. Balloon Aloft and Kaz Group
Recovery of Infrastructure costs including chairs, tables and marquees	\$10,000	
	Total	\$167,000

TOTAL COST TO THE ACT GOVT	\$70,000.00
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Note: Budget is GST exclusive.

Mrs Dunne: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Payment of back pay to staff of the Executive following lodgement of the 2007-10 LAMS Collective Agreement

Could you explain why it took so long to pay the back pay to ministerial staff?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The LAMS 2007-10 Collective Agreement was lodged on 09 October 2007. Staff of the Executive received their back pay on 01 November 2007. The back pay consisted of four per cent increase for all classifications, back dated to 05 April 2007 and seven per cent LAMS Allowance backdated to 01 July 2007. Although the Executive and non Executive Corporate areas endeavoured to synchronise payment of back pay to all LAMS, I understand staff of the non Executive received their back pay a fortnight earlier on 18 October 2007. This was because of two different payroll systems and cut off periods.

QTON – Parking in City West and the ANU Exchange

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : **Parking in City West and the ANU Exchange**

As a consequence of all the blocks that have been sold to the ANU, can you also inform the committee of how many car parks have been lost and how many have been replaced.

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

To date, the ANU has purchased three blocks of land in the City West Precinct: Block 4 Section 30, Block 5 Section 21, and Block 8 Section 68.

There were approximately 160 parking spaces on Block 4 Section 30 City, which were replaced with 184 temporary pay parking spaces on Block 4 Section 21 City until the second Unilodge building's construction commenced.

There were previously about 250 spaces on Block 5 Section 21 City. With reformatting, the ANU has increased the surfaced carpark to a pay parking area with about 350 multi-stay spaces.

Student accommodation on Block 4 Section 21 has provided 100 temporary spaces and work is being undertaken on Section 21 north to increase parking capacity.

Site sheds from Block 5 Section 30 have been removed, releasing another 26 spaces on this site for public parking.

There were 217 spaces on Block 8 Section 68 City (formerly Block 2 Section 68 City). These have not been replaced during the construction period, but the new development will incorporate 614 spaces which includes the code requirement for 284 spaces and an additional 330 spaces for people driving to Civic.

There is currently a temporary reduction of about 100 spaces on the ANU sites which have been made up by the provision of temporary parking elsewhere in Civic.

An extra 80 spaces could be made available on the busway site (where BH construction site sheds are currently located) on Section 21 after completion of the student accommodation expected to be in December 2008.

The attached maps show the overall parking strategy for the ANU exchange. A plan of the parking provision in the new building on Section 68 is also provided.

(Details of the attachment, please contact Committee Office)

QTON – Balloon spectacular

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to : Balloon Spectacular

Well, anything in regard to the event. I put in FOI of which Mr Barr's ministerial briefs were released to me and the FOI to your office. Those briefs were not released, so I am not aware what decisions you made or what decisions you did not make. What was your part in the process to shift providers?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- The Chief Minister was made aware of these arrangements through briefings.

Mrs Dunne: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to: Government Advertising

Why is the advertising that is currently on the television, the advertising that is currently proposed to go into letterboxes, the advertising on housing affordability and the advertising of the Canberra plan, which has been as dead as a dodo for two years, suddenly coming to light? It seems to some members here that the proximity to the election is the fundamental driver for that. How can you justify that to the taxpayers?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The fundamental purpose of the advertising campaigns referred to in the question taken on notice is to provide the ACT community with practical, informative and up-to-date information on government initiatives, programs and services. The objectives of the campaigns specifically referred to in the question are as follows:

1. The advertising referred to as "currently on television" was the Department of Education and Training's promotion of Public Education Week. The ACT Government strongly supports public education, and in Public Education Week it is common for governments to promote the benefits of public education. The advertising highlights the achievements and advantages of the ACT public education system.
2. The advertising referred to as "proposed to go into letterboxes" relates to a brochure to be delivered to Canberra households that summarises 2008/09 ACT Budget initiatives. The brochure has been developed to provide the whole Canberra community with an easy-to-understand summary of the budget initiatives.

It should be noted that the cost of last year's budget advertising campaign was \$117,164. Expenditure for this year's campaign is substantially less, with \$49,258 being spent on production and distribution of the brochure.

3. "Advertising of the Canberra Plan" - The Canberra Plan was released in 2004 and has served to guide policy direction for the ACT Government since its release. The Plan is currently being updated to incorporate developments since that time, including further demographic, climate and social change; major new strategies such as the affordable housing action plan; achievements to date on the Plan and other related strategies; and future directions. The release strategy for the updated Canberra Plan has not been finalised, but may include the development of material to ensure public awareness of the Plan and the distribution of the Plan to key outlets where it can be accessed by the public.

4. The objective of the housing affordability campaign is to outline progress with the Affordable Housing Action Plan and to provide the community, particularly renters, low income earners and first home buyers, with up-to-date and accessible information on housing affordability initiatives in place or proposed.

5. Other whole-of-government campaigns underway or planned for the remainder of 2008 are:

- *Great Careers Come with the Territory* - currently underway - designed to attract skilled workers to the ACT Public Service, particularly those who may have been affected by recent Australian Public Service budget cuts; and
- the *Medicare Change of Address campaign* - scheduled for August 2008 - a repeat of the 2007 campaign that will encourage residents to change their Medicare address to the ACT. In 2007 this program generated \$1.58 million in additional revenue for the ACT.

QTON – Proposal to build a power station and data centre

Mr Smyth: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to: **Proposal to build a power station and data centre**

When did your unit (ie Mr Dawes) first become aware of the proposal to build a power station and data centre?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Mr David Dawes (Deputy Chief Executive, Business and Projects) first became aware of the proposal to build a power station and data centre in May 2007 following receipt by me of two letters (dated 9 May and 22 May 2007) from Mr John Mackay (Chief Executive Officer of ActewAGL) about his organisation's proposal for a gas-fired power station and data centre.