



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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

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

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA:

Ref: Page 104 in the Budget Review 2023-24

In relation to: Infrastructure Program

In page 104 in the Budget Review 2023-24, for the following projects listed as “Major Projects Canberra”, “work in progress”, “Construction”. Specifically the “Arts and culture – Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment”, “Better community infrastructure – Building light rail to Woden”, “Better transport infrastructure - Delivering Light Rail Stage 2A”.

1. Can the Chief Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the money allocated for these projects,
 - a. how much has been spent and what has this funding been spent on?
 - b. How much is yet to be spent and what it is going to be spent on?
 - c. Whether any contracts have been signed for the delivery of these projects?
2. Page 128 mentions that “budget estimates contain a number of central provision estimates in relation to the acquisitions and transition (of Calvary hospital). Can you explain in detail (i) how much has been allocated in these provisions and (ii) a breakdown of provisions are for the” transition” and “acquisition” respectively?
3. Could the Chief Minister also provide a detailed breakdown of the total amount spent so far on
 - a. Light Rail Stage 2A
 - b. Light Rail Stage 2B
 - c. Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment
4. For all projects outlined in the latest ACT Infrastructure plan can the Chief Minister provide a detailed explanation for each project on
 - a. How much has been spent so far on business cases for each project?
 - b. When the business cases for these projects will be completed?
 - c. When the Chief Minister plans to bring the business cases to the Commonwealth Government for 50/50 funding?

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

1.

a. The expenditure as at 31 December 2023 is as follows:

- i. *Arts and culture – Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment*: \$14.320 million. Funding to date has been spent on the following:
 - i. Design and technical development
 - ii. Preparation of the Construction Business Case
 - iii. Preparation for planning approvals, and
 - iv. Community engagement.
- ii. *Better transport infrastructure - Delivering Light Rail Stage 2A (including New Light Rail Vehicles and Depot Expansion)*: \$170.677 million. Funding to date has been spent on achieving the following key milestones:
 - i. Design development in support of Commonwealth and Territory approvals, along with supporting consultation and related procurement activities.
 - ii. Obtaining all relevant Commonwealth and Territory approvals for Light Rail Stage 2A and the depot expansion, including environmental, planning and development approvals.
 - iii. Procurement planning and procurement phase activities resulting in the Territory entering into contract for:
 1. Light Rail Vehicle Procurement and Depot Expansion
 2. Light Rail Stage 2A Main Works
 - iv. Management of the delivery of the Depot expansion, LRV retrofit program and LRV fleet expansion.
 - v. Payments to date associated with the contract for the delivery of new light rail vehicles, retrofit of the existing fleet and expansion of the depot.

Additional information on the scope of the projects and progress to date is available in previous budget papers, quarterly capital works reports (provided to members of the Legislative Assembly and published on the Treasury publications website) and on www.builtforcbr.act.gov.au.

b. The remaining total project value as at 31 December 2023 was as follows:

- i. *Arts and culture – Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment*: \$14.127 million.
 - i. This expenditure relates to costs associated with delivery of the contracts for the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment for:
 1. Continuation of design and technical development
 2. Preparation for planning approvals
 3. Planning for the construction contractor procurement
 4. Community engagement.
- ii. *Better transport infrastructure - Delivering Light Rail Stage 2A (including New Light Rail Vehicles and Depot Expansion)*: \$244.392 million.
 - i. This expenditure relates to costs associated with delivery of the contracts with Canberra Metro for:
 1. the design, construction, financing, operations and maintenance of Light Rail Stage 2A, and
 2. finalise the delivery of the new light rail vehicles, retrofit of the existing LRV fleet and expansion of the depot.
 - ii. This is separate to the capital amounts on page 106 in the Budget Review 2023-24 Supplementary Papers.

Additional information on the scope of the projects is available in previous budget papers, quarterly capital works reports (provided to members of the Legislative

Assembly and published on the Treasury publications website) and on [Home - Built for CBR \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.treasury.gov.au).

- c. Contracts entered into for the delivery of the relevant initiatives noted above include:
 - i. *Arts and Culture - Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment:*
 - i. Design and technical advisory services
 - ii. *Better transport infrastructure - Delivering Light Rail Stage 2A (including New Light Rail Vehicles and Depot Expansion):*
 - i. New Light Rail Vehicles and Depot Expansion
 - ii. Light Rail Stage 2A Main Works

All contracts are published on the contracts register at <https://www.procurement.act.gov.au/registers/contracts-register>.

- 2. This information is commercially sensitive as negotiations with Calvary Health Care are ongoing and is not for public disclosure.
- 3. \$52.189 million was spent in 2019-20 and 2020-21 on early planning and design for Light Rail Stage 2, prior to the separation of the alignment into Stage 2A and 2B. As the spend was appropriated on the basis of undertaking planning and design relating to Stage 2 as a whole, it is not possible to disaggregate this spend by the individual stages.
 - a. For the period 1 June 2021 – 31 December 2023, expenditure on Light Rail Stage 2A (including New Light Rail Vehicles and Depot Expansion) was \$170.677 million.
 - b. For the period 1 June 2023 – 31 December 2023, expenditure on Light Rail Stage 2B was \$8.735 million.
 - c. *Arts and culture – Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment:* Expenditure from 1 July 2018 up to 30 June 2022 was \$4.399 million for preliminary options development and concept design, as well as site due diligence. From August 2022 until 31 December 2023, expenditure on the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment project was \$14.320 million. A breakdown of this is provided at 1a.
- 4. The ACT Infrastructure Plan (Plan) provides information on the estimated total cost, status of, and indicative timeframes for each project. For projects already in the planning or delivery phase, information on allocated funding is included in the commentary in the Plan and in the 2023-24 Budget Review Infrastructure Investment Program database (available at <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2023-24/budget-2023-24/infrastructure-investment-program>). For other projects, the timing of business case development and/or submission to the Commonwealth Government is subject to future ERC and Cabinet consideration.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: **15.3.24**

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA