

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – FEBRUARY 2024

Light Rail Stage 2

- Were you surprised by the cost of Stage 2A? \$577 million seems like a lot for 1.7km of light rail.
- Did you raise any concerns with the ACT Government about the single select procurement process used to agree on this cost?

The procurement process and cost of the Light Rail system is a matter for the ACT Government.

- Are you confident passengers will be riding the Stage 2A line by January 2028?

The procurement process and cost of the Light Rail system is a matter for the ACT Government.

- Did you see the business case for Stage 2A?

The procurement process and cost of the Light Rail system is a matter for the ACT Government.

- Have you seen the business case for Stage 2B?

The procurement process and cost of the Light Rail system is a matter for the ACT Government.

- Has the ACT Government told you when a detailed proposal with costings for Stage 2B will be completed?

The procurement process and cost of the Light Rail system is a matter for the ACT Government.

- When do you estimate the Stage 2B works will be completed? Late 2030s?

Timing of the construction of Light Rail Stage 2B is a matter for the ACT Government.

Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal

- Do you have similar upgrades planned for the Kings Avenue Bridge? Does it need upgrading in the same way?

The NCA will commission a detailed analysis in the 2024-25 financial year to determine the need for strengthening and widening of Kings Avenue Bridge.

- What's the likely timeline on completing the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge upgrades? And what's your estimate of when similar Kings Avenue Bridge upgrades would be completed?

The Commonwealth Avenue Bridge project is currently at Tender. Subject to the outcome of the Tender process it is expected to be completed during the 2025-26 financial year.

The timing and scale of any works to Kings Avenue Bridge will be dependent on the study to be taken next financial year.

Ngurra Cultural Precinct

- Given the delays we've seen already, what's your best estimate of the likely final cost of the Ngurra Cultural Precinct? How much have projected costs increased?
- Why has there been such a lengthy delay in progressing this project?
- When do you think the works will be completed?
- What happened to the design that was expected to be selected from the Architectural Design Competition of the Ngurra Cultural Precinct in 2022? Has that design now been finalised?

Questions related to the Ngurra Cultural Precinct should be directed to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and/or the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Proposed floating sauna on Lake Burley Griffin

- I know a lot of Canberrans – or at least some of us – are excited by the idea of floating saunas on the Lake and coupling that with cold plunging into the water for contrast therapy. What work are you doing on water quality in the lake? And what has been the nature of your engagement with the ACT Government on this?

On 8 September 2023 the NCA issued a request for proposal (RFP) via Austender for a commercial floating sauna on Lake Burley Griffin. The tender process is in progress.

Prior to issuing the RFP, the NCA discussed potential sites with the ACT Government.

- Has the ACT Government committed to replacing the concrete stormwater drains with more wetlands to ensure cleaner water makes its way into the lake?

This question is best directed to the ACT Government.

Commonwealth Park Upgrades & Stage 88

- I understand you've done some exciting design work on upgrading Stage 88 into something more like the Sidney Myer music bowl. What scale of major acts and festivals will the Stage 88 upgrades help make possible?

The NCA has undertaken consultation with industry regarding the infrastructure needed to attract touring artists to Canberra. Design work to date provides for an appropriately sized weather protected performance area, easy service access and infrastructure necessary to support concessions and amenities for patrons.

- Should the Stage 88 upgrades be funded through the National Capital Investment Framework?

Funding sources for the proposal have not been explored at this time.

- What conversations have you had with the ACT Government about starting construction on a new pool in Commonwealth Park, commencing the Stage 88 upgrades and funding for both projects?

The scheme has been developed in close consultation with ACT Government officials. It provides opportunities for permanent beds for Floriade and area for a new swimming pool should the ACT Government proceed with this project.

City to Lake

- Is the NCA supportive of the ACT Government's full City to Lake proposal from 2013-2015?
- Is the NCA in favour of tunnelling Parkes Way from Edinburgh Avenue to Anzac Parade – or even all the way up to Kings Avenue bridge – to better connect the city to the lake?
- Could the city to lake project be funded through the new National Capital Investment Framework?
- Has the NCA been asked for its view on how the National Capital Investment Framework can be used to best deliver transformative projects that set our capital up for the future?
- What's been your level of engagement with the ACT Government around the National Capital Investment Framework?

The NCA supports greater connection between the City and the Lake, and is aware of the work undertaken previously by the ACT Government.

Questions regarding the National Capital Investment Framework should be directed to the Department of Finance.

New Stadium/Multiuse Arena

- Does a stadium in the city accord with the Griffins' original plan for Canberra?
- Would the NCA support a Civic Stadium or multiuse arena for hosting major sport and music events?
- Does the NCA support building a national multiuse arena on the Civic Pool site and moving the pool to Commonwealth Park?
- In the NCA's views, does building a new stadium in Bruce add to the value of the national capital? And does it speak to the Griffin Legacy or does it detract from the Griffins' vision for Canberra?
- Does the NCA have any role in managing the AIS site? If so, do you have a view on how that land could be best used in the interests of the national capital?

The site of stadium in Canberra is a matter for the ACT Government.

National Capital Authority

February 2024