

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

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Open Access Q2 2020 Schedule

This document contains the Ministerial Briefs over five years old identified for release under the Open Access Information Scheme (OAIS)

Section Ref No	Pages	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral	Open Access release status
1.	1	Release Schedule	10/12/2025	-	NA	Yes
2.	2	Decision Letter	10/12/2025	-	NA	Yes
3.	3- 41	Attachment A- Question Time Briefs Q4 2020	Q4- 2020	Full release	NA	Yes



ACT
Government

Infrastructure Canberra

Outcome Decision: Full Disclosure.

Document Category: Question Time Briefs

Title of Document: Open Access Release – Quarter 4 2020

Description of Information: The information contained in this release pack includes briefing documentation during Quarter 1 2020 under the following attachments:

- Attachment A- Question Time Briefs

On balance, I consider that the release of the Ministerial briefs may be expected to help inform ongoing discussions and debate on matters of continued public importance. The disclosure of this information also helps to promote government accountability and transparency.

Review: If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the ACT Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman Attention:

ACT Strategy and FOI Section

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Or via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Further Assistance: If you have any queries regarding this Open Access release, please contact iCBR.FOI@act.gov.au.

Authorised By:

Brooke Grey

Information Officer

Infrastructure Canberra

10 December 2025

Portfolio/s: Special Minister of State
Families and Community Services

Community Facilities (ACT Property Group Vacancies and Peppercorn Rents)

Talking Points:

- The current vacancy rate within the ACT Property Group (ACTPG) community facilities property portfolio is 2.05% as at 17 November 2020.
- There are currently 236 properties tenanted to community groups.
- 92 peppercorn leases and tenancy arrangements are currently in place with community groups across the ACTPG portfolio.

Key Information

- There are currently 45 organisations on the property applications register seeking government facilities space.
- Current vacancies total 2,377 square metres.
- ACTPG regularly assesses vacant properties/spaces against the waiting list and organisations requirements. ACTPG also undertakes an annual review with the applicant.

Background Information

- The applicable rental policy for community groups is the *Community and Other Tenancies, Application and Allocation Policy 2007* (Revised 2008). The ACTPG community facilities vacancy rate is a subset of the Budget Output 9.1(a) Accountability Indicator, Occupancy rate for properties designated for use by non-government tenants (KPI is 96.5%). In June 2020, the indicator was 97.21%.
- This accountability indicator measures the occupancy rate for properties designated for use by non-government tenants (community groups and commercial organisations) by calculating the percentage of occupied space against the total of available non-government space.
- Most tenants on peppercorn arrangements occupy community accommodation based on historic arrangements from other agencies. Any new community tenants are charged rent in accordance with the ACTPG rent model as detailed above.
- Tenants on peppercorn arrangements are responsible for paying their own outgoings such as gas, electricity and water, and are invoiced for the first \$500 (Excl. GST) towards each item of repair and/or maintenance expenses.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/11/2020
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 75618
Contact Officer name: Liz Clarke Ext: 52250
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

TRIM Ref:

Portfolio/s: Special Minister of State

Rent Relief

Talking points:

- As part of the Economic Stimulus Package response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Government has provided rent relief to 229 of its tenants through a COVID-19 Rent Relief Program.
- Assistance under this program has been provided to:
 - 186 community tenants
 - 42 commercial tenants
 - 1 residential tenant
- Commercial and residential tenants were able to access the program through an application process which required supporting evidence of the impact of COVID-19 on their operations.

Key Information

- The program covers the 9 months from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020.
- As of 6 November \$7,371,243 in rent waivers has been provided to tenants of ACT Government.
- Community tenants received the rent waivers automatically.

Background Information

- The National Cabinet mandated a Code of Conduct for Commercial Leases. In concert with implementing the code of conduct the ACT Government included a program of rent relief, for its tenants to be an exemplar of the model landlord in these uncertain times.
- A Cross-Government working group was formed to implement the rent relief program. The waivers reported here were made under Covid-19 Rent Relief Program and waived under the *Financial Management Act 1996*.
- The Education Directorate and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate organising related licence adjustments/hire fee reductions in addition to the waivers included under the Rent Relief Program.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/11/2020
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 75618
Contact Officer name: Liz Clarke Ext: 52250
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

TRIM Ref:

Portfolio/s: Special Minister of State

YMCA Chifley Health and Wellness Centre

Talking points:

- YMCA Canberra rents the Chifley Health and Wellness Centre from the Territory under a licence managed through the ACT Property Group.
- The YMCA has received rent relief from the Territory arising from COVID -19 since 1 April 2020 (which ends on 31 December 2020).
- YMCA Canberra advised the ACT Property Group that they have informed their staff and members that for financial reasons, it has decided to close the Health and Wellness Centre on 31 December 2020.
- ACT Property Group are in discussions with the YMCA Canberra on their situation and plans for the gym facility at the centre, including the timeframe for any decision to vacate the property.

Key Information

- ACT Property Group and YMCA Canberra are meeting on 2 December 2020 to talk about the Tenancy.

Background Information

- The Chifley Health and Wellness Centre is 487.50 square metres and the current rent is \$62,351.25 per year.

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Economic Development

TRIM Ref:

Portfolio/s: Sport and Recreation

Aquatics

Talking points:

- With the continued easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the ACT Government's aquatics facilities started to re-open from 15 June 2020.
- ACT Government took the closure as an opportunity to undertake maintenance and upgrades works totaling above \$1,300,000.
- Canberra Olympic Pool reopened on 15 June 2020. Lakeside Leisure Centre reopened on 29 August 2020 and the Gungahlin Leisure Centre program pool reopened to the public on 3 August 2020.

Key Information

- On 13 November 2020, the Territory's Chief Health Officer signed a new Public Health Direction which further eased public health restrictions with effect from 9am on 13 November.
- Swimming Pools can now operate with a maximum of 500 people at any one time if the following can be met:
 - 1 person per 2 square metres per **usable outdoor space** up to 500 people
 - 1 person per 4 square metres per **usable indoor space** up to 500 people
 - Swimming pools must also have a COVID Safety Plan in place.

Background Information

Lakeside Leisure Centre

- Required maintenance and upgrade stimulus works at the facility were brought forward whilst the facility was closed due to the pandemic. During the course of this, additional works were required causing the project to be delayed. Unforeseen delays. Works included upgrade of the entry foyer; renewal of expansion joints and replacement of tiles in the pools; changing hot water units to more energy efficient electric options; upgrade of the plant room electrical switchboard; and a new Building Management System.
- Works were completed in late-August with the pool facilities reopening on 29 August 2020.

Gungahlin Leisure Centre

- Remediation works on the program pool commenced whilst the facility was closed at the height of the COVID pandemic restrictions. The program pool reopened to the public on 3 August 2020.

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TRIM Ref:

- Whilst the facility was closed due to the COVID pandemic significant tiling failures were identified in the 50m pool. Assessment for the works is currently being undertaken.

Dickson Pool and Manuka Pool

- The Dickson Pool and Manuka Pool do not operate during the Winter period. During this period stimulus works to improve energy efficiency were undertaken. Works included upgrades to hot water units in the male and female changerooms more energy efficient electric options. The pools opened for the summer season on 30 October 2020.

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Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

TRIM Ref:

Portfolio/s: Sport and Recreation

Gungahlin Leisure Centre – Tiling Failure

Talking points:

- Gungahlin Leisure Centre was closed during the COVID-19 pandemic and ACT Government took the opportunity to undertake maintenance works. This work found some tiles had come loose from the walls and floor of the 50-metre pool.
- Due to the complexity of the works, the 50-metre pool will be closed until further notice.
- These works will be essential to future proof the facility to prevent similar closures in the future.

Key Information

- The ACT Government is working on this matter as a priority and will provide an update to the Gungahlin community and pool users as soon as possible

Background Information

- The program pool and gymnasium are available to use at Gungahlin Leisure Centre.
- Alternative aquatic facilities are available for patrons to utilise in place of the 50 metre pool, such as the new Stromlo leisure centre and Civic Olympic Pool.

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TRIM Ref:

Portfolio/s: Sport and Recreation**Viability of ACT Government Aquatic and Leisure Facilities****Talking points:**

- ACT Government Aquatic and Leisure Facilities were closed to public on 23 March 2020 under a Public Health Direction.
- During this period the pools needed to remain operational to maintain the condition of the equipment.
- The closure of pools and restriction in patronage numbers put pressure on the financial viability of some of the pool operators.
- The easing of pandemic restrictions to 500 people (or one person per four square metres for indoor facilities and 1 person per two square metres for outdoor facilities) in a pool facility will provide some relief for the pool operators.

Key Information

- Whilst the year-round leisure facilities (Canberra Olympic Pool, Gungahlin Leisure Centre and Lakeside Leisure Centre) remained closed to the public during the height of pandemic, they were still required to remain operational to a minimum standard to maintain the condition of the plant and equipment.
- Pandemic restrictions have impacted on the viability of each of the pool facilities, as they have been required to remain fully operational whilst having restricted patronage numbers.
- The ACT Government has been in regular contact with the pool operators to provide support during these challenging times.

Background Information

- ACTPG aquatic and leisure centres closed on 23 March 2020 under a Public Health Direction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the easing of restrictions, ACTPG pools started reopening from 15 June 2020.
- Whilst all ACT Government aquatic and leisure centres are now open, they have been required to operate under pandemic restrictions, which were at one stage limited to 50 people per enclosed area (and one person per lane in a swimming pool).

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TRIM Ref:

- Investigative works for the relocation of in-ground utilities along Hospital Road are continuing. All hospital staff, patients and visitors continue to be kept informed on the timing of these works and I thank the public for their patience as we complete these critical services works.

Program of Delivery

- The delivery of this state of the art emergency, surgical and critical care building remains on track for 2024.
- Key milestones for the project include:
 - Commencement of a six-week Pre-Development Application consultation period for the Main Works Development Application in December 2020 and January 2021, focussing on the detailed designs for the Critical Services Building and associated public realm. Submission of the Main Works Development Application will then follow in March 2021, including the 20 day statutory notification period.
 - Multiplex is forecast to lodge a Development Application for the design and construction of a Prototype Shed in December 2020.
 - The purpose of the Prototype Shed is to provide scale mock-ups of core spaces and repeatable rooms (e.g. same design and layout used multiple times in the Critical Service Building such as surgical theatres) to enable users and stakeholders to visualise, test and familiarise themselves with spaces.
 - The uniformity of design and construction of various rooms is vital to the ability to consistently achieve the consistent delivery of key clinical services across the Critical Services Building in a safe and timely manner.
 - In partnership with the ACT Government, Multiplex is preparing to open its "Connectivity Centre" in Phillip Canberra, which will act as a shopfront for the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project and a place for upskilling the local workforce to work on the Project.
 - Multiplex successfully utilised a Connectivity Centre for its delivery of the comparable, and recently constructed, Westmead Hospital in Western Sydney.
 - The Connectivity Centre is a key element of Multiplex's plans to achieve the ambitious social procurement targets that include 10% of the value of sub-contracted works from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander accredited bodies and 30% of its onsite tradespersons from traineeships, apprenticeships and similar programs. This includes apprentices who have been unable to complete their previous apprenticeship from displacement as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Portfolio/s: Tertiary Education

ISSUE: CIT Campus - Woden – Progress Update

Talking points:

- On 28 November 2019, the ACT Government announced that a new CIT campus will be built in the Woden Town Centre. This new, modern CIT campus will be a dedicated teaching and learning campus and complement a new passenger-friendly public transport interchange to be situated on Callam Street.
- On 24 August 2020, I announced that the ACT Government had formally approved the CIT Campus – Woden Business Case, which marks a significant milestone and major step-forward for the project.
- CIT Woden Campus will be a VET technology and service skills learning precinct, delivering courses to prepare students for roles in industries such as business, cyber security, IT, creative industries, hospitality and tourism.
- 6500 students will attend the CIT Woden Campus each year, which will benefit local business and industry whilst providing students with a contemporary and dynamic educational environment.
- With an investment of between \$250m and \$300m, this project will play an important role in supporting the Territory's economic recovery from the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
- More than 520 jobs are expected to be created during construction alone, in addition to the teaching and learning jobs that will be offered once the facility is operational.
- A CIT presence at the Woden Town Centre and an ongoing presence in the CBD will strengthen CIT's existing training network in Fyshwick, Bruce, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong.

Community Consultation

- The project has now commenced Pre-Development Application public consultation for the new Woden public transport interchange and associated works, which will provide the community and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to have their say.
- This public consultation period will support the Development Applications for the new public transport interchange, bus layovers and associated works, which will be submitted in the coming months.
- The formal pre-Development Application consultation period will run for four weeks, closing Friday 18 December 2020.

- This consultation includes a dedicated online Virtual Engagement Room, as well as in-person public pop-up information sessions across Canberra and targeted briefing sessions with key industry and community stakeholders. Further information about this consultation period and the schedule of pop-up consultation events can be found on Yoursay.
- Briefing sessions have already been held with key stakeholders including bus drivers at Transport Canberra's Bus Depots in Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Woden.

Previous Consultation

- Earlier this year the project launched the *CIT Woden Campus: Design and Values Survey* which included topics such as building heights and layout, green space ratios, connectivity to local facilities, public transport integration and sustainable design features.
- More than 400 community members responded to the survey, with findings highlighting a preference for well-integrated buildings of up to 12 storeys, featuring activated common areas and green spaces.
- Of those surveyed, more than 85 per cent of responders were supportive of the CIT Campus - Woden Project.
- The results of the Design and Values survey were released on 29 July and can be viewed online at yoursay.act.gov.au.
- In addition to ongoing stakeholder feedback, trends in the qualitative and quantitative data assists planners, engineers and designers to prioritise various aspects of the project, helping shape future concept designs for the new campus.
- As part of the next design development stage, interest was sought from architecture and engineering firms through an open tender process to work closely with and provide advice to the ACT Government.
- Over 15 submissions were received from consortia of architectural and engineering firms, with the tender being awarded to the Arup/Hayball consortia on 12 November 2020.

ISSUE: Light Rail City to Woden – Progress Update**Talking points:**Light Rail 2A

- Approval for the light rail stage 2A business case was announced in September 2019 and is the first step in continuing the city light rail line to Woden.
- The extension includes a 1.7km wireless track from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park along London Circuit and Commonwealth Avenue.
- Project costs will not be released at this stage. This is common practice and will assist the ACT Government to achieve the best outcome possible in any potential commercial negotiations.
- The process to seek Commonwealth environmental approvals via the EPBC Act pathway are underway, which is a major step forward in the project's delivery.
 - The preliminary documentation considers the socio-economic impacts and benefits of the project, along with areas of Commonwealth environmental significance. The preliminary documentation was available for public consultation between 14 August and 14 September 2020.
 - All comments received through this consultation period were managed by Major Projects Canberra and a response 'Submissions Report' was lodged with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, along with the preliminary documentation, to make a final determination on the project. The Submissions Report is scheduled to be placed on public exhibition for information shortly.

Light Rail 2B:

- Extending the current Gungahlin to City route to Commonwealth Park demonstrates the ACT Government's commitment to delivering light rail in the City to Woden corridor.
- The ACT Government will continue to work on a business case for 2B while progressing the Commonwealth planning process.
 - The route to Woden is complex and is going to take some time to get through Commonwealth planning processes. Rather than simply wait, we're getting on with delivering what we can immediately.
 - Getting on with the project allows us to maintain momentum, resources and expertise from the successful delivery of Stage 1.
- The ACT Government will continue to progress the Commonwealth approvals process for the remainder of the corridor in parallel.

- The ACT Government is undertaking work to obtain the ACT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirements. The first draft of the application for the ACT EIS Scoping document is well underway.
- We continue to work with the National Capital Authority on its proposal to explore the future of the Commonwealth Avenue bridge. At present the ACT Government is assuming a new light rail bridge will be built between the existing structures. However, as the National Capital Authority has received funding to assess works required to the existing bridges, and as light rail to Woden will need to cross the lake, it makes sense to work collaboratively to ensure the best outcome for all parties is achieved.

ISSUE: Light Rail City to Woden – Progress Update**Talking points:**Light Rail 2A

- Approval for the light rail stage 2A business case was announced in September 2019 and is the first step in continuing the city light rail line to Woden.
- The ACT Government is committed to delivering light rail to Woden. The return of the government provides us with an opportunity to ensure we're progressing the entire project as efficiently and speedily as we can.
- The Commonwealth approval processes for both segments of the route to Woden are progressing, with EPBC approval processes underway.
- Stage 2A is being assessed by the Commonwealth through a Preliminary Documentation Referral Pathway under the EPBC Act and is currently in the final stages of determination with the submissions report lodged and a decision expected early next year. Planning approvals, including a Territory Development Approval and National Capital Authority Works Approval, will be undertaken as we progress Stage 2A.
- Design and procurement planning activities are continuing, with focus being given to some of the more complex areas of the alignment such as the light rail transitions to and from State Circle.
- Under the Parliamentary Agreement, commitments were given to exploring the feasibility of peak express services and extension of the system to Mawson. Officials are now considering the most appropriate approach to addressing those commitments.
- The first major physical works to be undertaken will be the raising of London Circuit. The ACT Government is working towards construction contracts being signed for these works later in 2021, though this is dependent upon Commonwealth planning approval processes and procurement processes.
- We need to get this project right. We've seen what's happened in other jurisdictions where contracts have been rushed for major projects without all necessary due diligence having been completed. We don't want to find ourselves in the same position.
- Light Rail Stage 2 will be the most complex infrastructure project undertaken in the ACT. Before contracts are entered into we need to ensure approvals are in place, technical challenges have been resolved, contract terms are appropriate and stakeholders have been fully consulted.
- Project costs will not be released at this stage. This is common practice and will assist the ACT Government to achieve the best outcome possible in any potential commercial negotiations.

Light Rail 2B:

- Extending the current Gungahlin to City route to Commonwealth Park demonstrates the ACT Government's commitment to delivering light rail in the City to Woden corridor.
- The ACT Government will continue to work on a business case for 2B while progressing the Commonwealth planning process.
 - The route to Woden is complex and is going to take some time to get through Commonwealth planning processes. Rather than simply wait, we're getting on with delivering what we can immediately.
 - Getting on with the project allows us to maintain momentum, resources and expertise from the successful delivery of Stage 1.
- The ACT Government will continue to progress the Commonwealth approvals process for the remainder of the corridor in parallel.
- The ACT Government is undertaking work to obtain the ACT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirements. The first draft of the application for the ACT EIS Scoping document is well underway.
- Planning processes for Stage 2B are also ongoing. The project will continue to undertake detailed investigations along the corridor including assessment of infrastructure in the vicinity of Commonwealth Bridge and Lake Burley Griffin.
- We continue to work with the National Capital Authority on its proposal to explore the future of the Commonwealth Avenue bridge. At present the ACT Government is assuming a new light rail bridge will be built between the existing structures. However, as the National Capital Authority has received funding to assess works required to the existing bridges, and as light rail to Woden will need to cross the lake, it makes sense to work collaboratively to ensure the best outcome for all parties is achieved.

ISSUE: Light Rail City to Woden – Facts & Figures**Talking points:**Light Rail 2A

- Approval for the light rail stage 2A business case was announced in September 2019 and is the first step in continuing the city light rail line to Woden.
- The extension includes a 1.7km wireless track from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park along London Circuit and Commonwealth Avenue.
- The extension proposes to add three new stops at Edinburgh Avenue, City South and Commonwealth Park and will utilise a new gateway to the city via a level intersection between Commonwealth Avenue and a raised London Circuit.
- The Edinburgh Avenue stop is expected to immediately be one of the most popular stops on the system.
- Early estimations suggest that daily patronage of Stage 2A would be an additional 2,500-3,000 passengers per day within the first operating year.
- The estimated journey time from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park, as noted in the redacted business case, is approximately 6 minutes.
- The estimated journey time for the full route from the City to Woden is approximately 25-30 minutes.
- A combined Gungahlin to Commonwealth Park service will have the same hours of operation and frequency as the existing City to Gungahlin service.

Power systems

- LRVs will be fitted with an on-board energy storage system to power them through the wire-free section of the network.
- This technology enables the system to store green energy from the renewably powered grid and regenerative braking from the LRVs, using this to manage energy consumption more efficiently.
- Wireless infrastructure and grassed tracks on the Stage 2A alignment allows us to maintain our beautiful and distinctive city centre views without visual clutter, while also offering an attractive commute option.
- assess works required to the existing bridges, and as light rail to Woden will need to cross the lake, it makes sense to work collaboratively to ensure the best outcome for all parties is achieved.

Portfolio/s: Transport

ISSUE: LIGHT RAIL – SANDFORD STREET STOP

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is progressing plans to bring the benefits of light rail to Mitchell, with funding now secured for the construction of a new light rail stop to better service the area's growing business district.
- Last financial year the ACT Government committed \$150,000 to design a light rail stop for Mitchell. Further to the funding already earmarked by the ACT Government for this project, additional stimulus funding announced by the Australian Government will allow us to progress from design to construction.
- Confirmation of Commonwealth funding has enabled the Territory to finalise project arrangements, including final costs. Commonwealth funding will represent approximately half of the cost to deliver the stop. The Territory has committed to match the Commonwealth funding to deliver the project.
- The light rail stop in Mitchell will be built immediately south of the Sandford Street intersection with Flemington Road, and will be similar in design to other island stops along the light rail alignment.
- The ACT Government is in the process of contract negotiations, it is intended that the construction contract will be finalised in the coming months.
- The Territory has submitted the Development Application documentation and is working closely to facilitate the commencement of Construction.
- We appreciate that the businesses in Mitchell and the Mitchell Traders Association are keen to see this project delivered as soon as possible, and we are working towards the new stop becoming operational in 2021, with further project detail to be confirmed as the planning, approvals and contract negotiations are progressed.
- Engagement will commence early with the local traders in Mitchell to support them during the project's construction phase, using lessons learnt during Stage 1 and local knowledge to enhance communications strategies and advise construction schedules and plans.

Background:

- Light Rail Stage 1 has 13 stops from Gungahlin to City, including two stops in the Mitchell area on Flemington Road, being:
 - 'Well Station Drive'; and
 - 'EPIC and Racecourse'.
- In planning for locations of light rail stops for Stage 1, the Government conducted analysis that included current and projected demand along the route, together with a technical assessment focused on defining stop locations. Criteria such as access to stops and connectivity with the local population were taken into account as part of this process.
- The Government recognises that Mitchell is a growing area and will be positively impacted by the growth of Gungahlin as a whole. As a result, the Project Agreement for Light Rail Stage 1 required Canberra Metro to design and construct light rail with a provision for an additional stop immediately south of the Sandford Street-Morriset Road intersection, with Flemington Road to be constructed in the future.
- Given the strong patronage on the light rail system and responding to community feedback, the Government has committed to deliver the Mitchell stop as early as possible across the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years.
- In the 2019-20 Budget the Government provided funding to deliver a light rail stop at Mitchell. Capital funding was provided across the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years. This followed funding in the 2018-19 Budget to support contract review and detailed design of the stop at Mitchell.
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate are separately delivering a shared path along Flemington Road, providing better and safer access between Franklin and Mitchell, particularly to and from the Mitchell commercial precinct and the light rail stops.

Portfolio: Transport**ISSUE: Light Rail City to Woden – EPBC Referral****Talking points:**

- Major Projects Canberra submitted referrals for the project under the Commonwealth’s *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) – City to Commonwealth Park (2A) and Commonwealth Park to Woden (2B).
- The EPBC Act is administered by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Prior to 1 February 2020, administration of the EPBC Act was by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE).
- On 13 January 2020, the ACT Government received notice from DoEE that Stage 2A was a controlled action with the process to be assessed on preliminary documentation.
- On 16 January 2020, the ACT Government received a notice from DoEE that Stage 2B was a controlled action with the process to be assessed by environmental impact statement.
- EPBC Preliminary documentation was lodged with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 6 May 2020. MPC received a response from the Department and lodged a response on 27 July 2020 to address the comments provided.
- The preliminary documentation considers the socio-economic impacts and benefits of the project, along with areas of Commonwealth environmental significance. The preliminary documentation was available for public consultation for an extended 20 business days between 14 August and 14 September 2020.
- All comments received were managed by Major Projects Canberra and a response was lodged with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, along with the preliminary documentation, to make a final determination on the project. The Submissions Report will also be placed on public exhibition for information.
- We will continue consultation with all stakeholders as the project develops, ensuring that we provide the best outcomes for our community now and well into the future.

Background InformationStage 2A Referral Decision

- Major Projects Canberra received notice of a referral decision from DoEE that confirms:
 - The Stage 2A project is a ‘controlled action’;
 - The project will require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed; and
 - The assessment will be assessed by “Preliminary Documentation”.
- This is the expected outcome.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/11/2020
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 55466
Contact Officer name: Ashley Cahif Ext: 51212
Lead Directorate: Major Projects Canberra

- The Preliminary Documentation must provide further information on the potential impacts on the Golden Sun Moth and information on social and economic impacts from the project. Major Projects Canberra will prepare the relevant information for submission to the DAWE.

Stage 2B Referral Decision

- Major Projects Canberra received notice of a referral decision from DoEE that confirms:
 - The Stage 2B project is a ‘controlled action’;
 - The project will require assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed; and
 - The assessment will be assessed by “Environmental Impact Statement” (EIS).
- This is the expected outcome. The assessment process for Stage 2B is more extensive than Stage 2A, reflecting the complexity of issues to be considered.
- On 11 March 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment issued *Guidelines for the Content of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project*. This document sets out the required information and format for a Draft EIS.
- Major Projects Canberra will further develop project design and prepare the Draft EIS for submission to the department and public exhibition.
- The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is liaising with the ACT Government’s Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the National Capital Authority to coordinate assessment processes as much as is practical.

Public Notification

- DoEE opened the referrals for Stage 2A and Stage 2B for public comment in July 2019, for the statutory period of ten business days.
- The referral for Stage 2A was revised and resubmitted by Major Projects Canberra to reflect a wire-free power system and the concurrent project for raising London Circuit. DoEE opened the revised referral for public comment which closed on 20 December 2019.

Portfolio/s: Transport

ISSUE: Light Rail Stage 2 Delays

Talking points:

- COVID-19 has created uncertainty in the infrastructure sector internationally.
- As a Public-Private Partnership (PPP), with a consortium that includes international partners and supply chains, understanding and managing the risk associated with this global uncertainty is essential to ensuring Canberrans get value for money in the contract.
- Due to the global uncertainty, the Territory would be required to accept any cost or delay risk associated with any impact on the delivery of the Project as a result of COVID-19. There are several key elements of the Project that are high risk to be impacted by COVID-19 based on the current environment and have the potential to be exacerbated if the global COVID-19 situation worsens.
- A PPP arrangement has many benefits, but may not be optimal in a situation where there are many project uncertainties. As a PPP involves private finance, there would be additional financial risks should COVID-19 cause unexpected delays.
- As examples of significant COVID-19 risks to Project:
 - COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the global credit markets resulting in:
 - A noticeable decrease in participation of banks and the value of funding that they would commit to;
 - A significant increase in pricing from pre COVID levels; and
 - A significant reduction in commitment periods that financiers will hold pricing levels, this has resulted in increased costs and decreased certainty compared to pre COVID-19 circumstances, along with a significant risk that any worsening of the COVID-19 environment would result in further costs.
 - The Light Rail Vehicles used for Stage 1 are manufactured by CAF, a Spanish based manufacturer. During the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spain, the CAF factory was temporarily shut down. As Light Rail Vehicles are “long lead” items and are on the Project’s “critical path”, any delay in manufacture or delivery would result in delays to the completion of the Project potentially exposing the Territory to delay costs.
 - Key supplies from international suppliers, for example rail from Austria, will be required to ship their product to Australia. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on shipping and air freight capacity and delays, which are generally not covered by insurance policies. Any delay risks impacting the delivery of the Project and increasing the costs to the Territory.

- The supply chain for each of the thousands of products and materials that are incorporated within the Light Rail system is at risk of material disruption potentially exposing the Territory to delay costs.
- The ACT Government is being transparent with the community that there have been delays in procuring the project in the way we originally envisaged.
- The ACT Government is actively working through alternative procurement approaches.
- The ACT Government is carefully considering how to proceed with construction so as to ensure a steady pipeline of work in this current climate.

Key Information

- The Government has released the redacted business case for LRS2A and provided indicative cost guidance for Stage 2.
- Investment in Light Rail is a long-term investment. It is about planning for the future of our city. The first stage contract is a 20 year partnership. The project should be considered in this context. The project will still deliver its expected benefits as well as aid in our economic recovery from the pandemic.
- The ACT Government continues to progress work to deliver Light Rail to Woden however final control over approval timeframes lies with the Commonwealth.

Portfolio/s: Transport

ISSUE: Light Rail Stage 2 – Slovenian Club

Talking points:

- The Slovenian Club is located at 19 Irving St, Phillip, adjacent to the proposed Light Rail Stage 2B corridor, and the Inter Town Public Transport Route.
- The Church of Pentecost Australia building, also located on the site, is hard against the boundary adjacent to the proposed Stage 2B rail corridor. It is a constrained area with respect to drainage, utilities and potential future pedestrian/active travel conflicts.
- Around May 2018, the light rail team, then part of Transport Canberra, became aware that an application had been made to renew the lease of the site.
- Given the potential conflicts with the rail corridor and potential need for a construction compound in the area, in July 2018 the light rail team had recommended that the lease not be renewed.
- Since this time, there has been further consideration of this matter, noting that design of the light rail system at this location is at a very early stage. Although the site is constrained, Major Projects Canberra have determined that it may be possible to construct the light rail system without encroaching upon the site.
- This matter will not be able to be determined with certainty until further technical investigations are undertaken as part of more detailed design for Light Rail Stage 2B.
- Major Projects Canberra have contacted the Slovenian Club to arrange a stakeholder meeting on this matter and are currently awaiting a response.
- EPSDD stated in a letter to the Slovenian Club in a letter dated 22 July 2020:

As a result of these comments, in deciding your application it may be relevant to consider the inclusion of a 12 month withdrawal clause in any subsequent lease.

However, before I decide your application, I would like to give you an opportunity to provide any information or comments about the information set out above and the application of section 254.

Please provide any information or comments that you would like me to consider in making my decision in relation to your application by 6 August 2020.

- The Slovenian Club has requested further time to respond to the letter from EPSDD.

Portfolio/s: Transport

ISSUE: WODEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE – Progress Update

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is investing in our public transport network and working with Canberrans to make practical improvements to the public transport services they rely on every day.
- As part of this commitment, the ACT Government allocated \$3.5 million for the design of a new, passenger friendly, Woden Interchange. This will prepare the Woden Interchange for its transformation into an integrated transport hub for both light rail Stage 2 and the bus network.
- The new transport interchange will feature more comfortable shelters, modern passenger information displays and ticketing machines, accessible footpaths and cycle facilities, security systems and safer transiting between the future light rail Terminus and the rapid and local bus network.
- The new transport interchange will also complement the new CIT Campus being developed in the Woden Town Centre.
- On 24 August the Chief Minister and I announced that the ACT Government has formally approved the CIT Campus – Woden Business Case, which includes the new public transport interchange, marking a significant milestone and major step-forward for the project.
- Replacing the existing ageing bus interchange site with a modern, new facility will also help revitalise the eastern side of Woden Town Centre without contributing to urban sprawl, supporting Woden in becoming a great place to live, work and study.
- Major Projects Canberra is working closely with TCCS and CIT to progress the next design development activities for the public transport interchange, integrated into a broader new Woden CIT Campus.
- MPC will be seeking interest from architecture and engineering firms through an open tender process to work with the ACT Government in the ongoing development and refinement of the transport interchange design, incorporating feedback gathered during the public consultation in the next stage of the design process.

Community Consultation – Bus Interchange and CIT Woden

- The project has now commenced Pre-Development Application public consultation for the new Woden public transport interchange and associated works, which will provide the community and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to have their say.
- This public consultation period will support the Development Applications for the new public transport interchange, bus layovers and associated works, which will be submitted in the coming months.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/11/2020
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 55466
Contact Officer name: Wayne Ford Ext: 52048
Lead Directorate: Major Projects Canberra

Portfolio/s: Tertiary Education

ISSUE: CIT Campus - Woden – Progress Update

Talking points:

- On 28 November 2019, the ACT Government announced that a new CIT campus will be built in the Woden Town Centre. This new, modern CIT campus will be a dedicated teaching and learning campus and complement a new passenger-friendly public transport interchange to be situated on Callam Street.
- On 24 August 2020, the Chief Minister and I announced that the ACT Government had formally approved the CIT Campus – Woden Business Case, which marks a significant milestone and major step-forward for the project.
- CIT Woden Campus will be a VET technology and service skills learning precinct, delivering courses to prepare students for roles in industries such as business, cyber security, IT, creative industries, hospitality and tourism.
- 6500 students will attend the CIT Woden Campus each year, which will benefit local business and industry whilst providing students with a contemporary and dynamic educational environment.
- With an investment of between \$250m and \$300m, this project will play an important role in supporting the Territory's economic recovery from the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
- More than 520 jobs are expected to be created during construction alone, in addition to the teaching and learning jobs that will be offered once the facility is operational.
- A CIT presence at the Woden Town Centre and an ongoing presence in the CBD will strengthen CIT's existing training network in Fyshwick, Bruce, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong.

Community Consultation

- The project has now commenced Pre-Development Application public consultation for the new Woden public transport interchange and associated works, which will provide the community and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to have their say.
- This public consultation period will support the Development Applications for the new public transport interchange, bus layovers and associated works, which will be submitted in the coming months.
- The formal pre-Development Application consultation period will run for four weeks, closing Friday 18 December 2020.

- This consultation includes a dedicated online Virtual Engagement Room, as well as in-person public pop-up information sessions across Canberra and targeted briefing sessions with key industry and community stakeholders. Further information about this consultation period and the schedule of pop-up consultation events can be found on Yoursay.
- Briefing sessions have already been held with key stakeholders including bus drivers at Transport Canberra's Bus Depots in Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Woden.

Previous Consultation

- Earlier this year the project launched the *CIT Woden Campus: Design and Values Survey* which included topics such as building heights and layout, green space ratios, connectivity to local facilities, public transport integration and sustainable design features.
- More than 400 community members responded to the survey, with findings highlighting a preference for well-integrated buildings of up to 12 storeys, featuring activated common areas and green spaces.
- Of those surveyed, more than 85 per cent of responders were supportive of the CIT Campus - Woden Project.
- The results of the Design and Values survey were released on 29 July and can be viewed online at yoursay.act.gov.au.
- In addition to ongoing stakeholder feedback, trends in the qualitative and quantitative data assists planners, engineers and designers to prioritise various aspects of the project, helping shape future concept designs for the new campus.
- As part of the next design development stage, interest was sought from architecture and engineering firms through an open tender process to work closely with and provide advice to the ACT Government.
- Over 15 submissions were received from consortia of architectural and engineering firms, with the tender being awarded to the Arup/Hayball consortia on 12 November 2020.

Portfolio/s: Tertiary Education

ISSUE: CIT Campus - Woden – Site Selection including Lovett Tower and Borrowdale House

Talking points:

Site Location

- The preferred location for the new state-of-the art CIT Campus is the site of the existing Woden Bus Interchange and the former Woden Police Station at Callam Street.
- An assessment of ten possible sites was undertaken and the current site was chosen for its ability to deliver an activated urban renewal precinct, proximity to the new transport interchange, the opportunity to improve existing pedestrian links from Callam Street to the Woden Town Centre and the proximity to local businesses and community facilities.
- Replacing the existing ageing bus interchange site with a modern, new facility will also help revitalise the eastern side of Woden Town Centre without contributing to urban sprawl, supporting Woden in becoming a great place to live, work and study.
- The former CIT Woden Campus and associated buildings on Ainsworth Street and Hindmarsh Drive have passed their useful life and no longer meet the needs of a contemporary VET institution. This site has been designated as a future University site to be occupied by UNSW.
- Major Projects Canberra is working with CIT, TCCS and EPSDD to progress the next design development activities for the new CIT Campus and public transport interchange.
- This cross-Government approach will work to deliver the new campus and integrated public transport interchange to ensure they meet the needs of our growing community, now and into the future.

Lovett Tower and Borrowdale House

- Lovett Tower and Borrowdale House were not considered to be suitable locations for the new CIT facility as adaptive re-use of ageing office infrastructure does not provide the same opportunity to deliver a customised smart-learning environment which supports world-leading educational outcomes.
- Major constraints for the adaptive re-use of these facilities include small floor plates, low ceiling to floor heights, limited connectivity between floors beyond lifts, and a small land area limiting the opportunity to produce a campus feel. The combined site area of Lovett Tower and Borrowdale House is only 3,200m², compared to over 11,000m² for the preferred site option.

- These facilities also have insufficient parking available which would result in further parking pressures in the Woden Town Centre.
- Re-purposing facilities from office to educational infrastructure would still require significant investment, and may be costly, whilst still not providing a fit for purpose facility. Major refurbishment in adaptive re-use facilities can be substantially more expensive than building new.
- Due to the age of these buildings, it is also likely that there may potentially be hazardous materials present.
- Lovett Tower and Borrowdale House are not owned by ACT Government and would require considerable investment to purchase if the owners were willing to sell. It is estimated that purchasing these buildings could be in the order of over \$50 million, even before any upgrade works commence.
- Borrowdale House and Lovett Tower owner Cromwell Property Group recently sold both buildings.
- The new owners of Borrowdale House, Canberra based developer Keggins, announced to the market on 14 November 2020 that it has plans for a \$75 million 24-storey, 222 apartments in a commercial and residential building on the 2229 square metre site.

- The package of works currently for public comment are:
 - a new public transport interchange on Callam Street;
 - a new bus layover on Launceston Street;
 - a new bus layover on Easty Street; and
 - upgrades and improvements to local roads and intersections.
- The formal pre-Development Application consultation period will run for four weeks, closing Friday 18 December 2020.
 - This consultation includes a dedicated online Virtual Engagement Room, as well as in-person public pop-up information sessions across Canberra and targeted briefing sessions with key industry and community stakeholders. Further information about this consultation period and the schedule of pop-up consultation events can be found on Yoursay.
- Briefing sessions have already been held with key stakeholders including bus drivers at Transport Canberra's Bus Depots in Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Woden.
- Earlier this year the project launched the Design and Values Survey which included topics such as public transport integration, building heights and layout, green space ratios, connectivity to local facilities and sustainable design features.
- The results of the Design and Values Survey were released on 29 July and can be viewed online at yoursay.act.gov.au.
- Ongoing stakeholder feedback, trends in the qualitative and quantitative data assists planners, engineers and designers to prioritise various aspects of the project, helping shape future concept designs for the new campus.

Portfolio: Health**ISSUE: Canberra Hospital Expansion Project Update****Talking points:****Main Works Update**

- On 11 August the Chief Minister and I announced that Multiplex was selected as the successful Early Contractor Involvement (or ECI) phase partner for the new emergency, surgical and critical healthcare building, or the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project. Multiplex is a global construction company which has delivered some of Australia's largest and most complex health infrastructure projects.
- Since commencing the ECI phase, Multiplex have completed initial design discussions with consumers, local residents and have just begun consultation with more than 120 clinicians across the Hospital.
- Multiplex and their design team have also completed two presentations to the National Capital Design Review Panel. Under the supervision of the ACT Government Architect and the National Capital Authority's Chief Planner, the National Capital Design Review Panel was formed to provide design advice to decision makers, developers and their design teams.

Enabling Works Update

- We have continued to make excellent progress in the series of works required to enable the demolition of Buildings 5 and 24. Demolition of these buildings is required to facilitate the construction of the new Critical Services Building.
- So far, we have delivered a new Building 28 that will support the hospital's key administrative functions.
- The Territory has also awarded the contract for the detailed design and construction for both the refurbishment and upgrade of Building 9 as well as for the new Building 8 to SHAPE Australia. The new Building 8 will provide upgraded facilities for the Canberra Sexual Health Centre and other key tertiary teaching and training facilities on the campus
- The refurbishment of Building 4 is nearing completion, with the Territory partnering with Projex to deliver the relocated ANU Medical School and University of Canberra clinical training facilities and to modify the CHS Library footprint due for completion before Christmas this year.
- The Design and Construction Contract for the Children At Risk Health Unit (or CARHU) has been awarded to SHAPE Australia, with works for this important community health service expected to be completed by the end of February 2021.
- The contract for the design and construction of the temporary carpark on the former Woden CIT site has been awarded to Dale & Hitchcock. Earthworks are underway on site, although the recent spate of wet weather is not assisting progress, with the temporary carpark scheduled for completion in August 2021.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/11/2020
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 55466
Contact Officer name: Martin Little Ext: 79322
Lead Directorate: Major Projects Canberra

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: Canberra Hospital Expansion Project Update

Talking points:

Main Works Update

- On 11 August the Chief Minister and I announced that Multiplex was selected as the successful Early Contractor Involvement (or ECI) phase partner for the new emergency, surgical and critical healthcare building, or the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project. Multiplex is a global construction company which has delivered some of Australia's largest and most complex health infrastructure projects.
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- Investigative works for the relocation of in-ground utilities along Hospital Road are continuing. All hospital staff, patients and visitors continue to be kept informed on the timing of these works and I thank the public for their patience as we complete these critical services works.

Program of Delivery

- The delivery of this state of the art emergency, surgical and critical care building remains on track for 2024.
- Key milestones for the project include:
 - Commencement of a six-week Pre-Development Application consultation period for the Main Works Development Application in December 2020 and January 2021, focussing on the detailed designs for the Critical Services Building and associated public realm. Submission of the Main Works Development Application will then follow in March 2021, including the 20 day statutory notification period.
 - Multiplex is forecast to lodge a Development Application for the design and construction of a Prototype Shed in December 2020.
 - The purpose of the Prototype Shed is to provide scale mock-ups of core spaces and repeatable rooms (e.g. same design and layout used multiple times in the Critical Service Building such as surgical theatres) to enable users and stakeholders to visualise, test and familiarise themselves with spaces.
 - The uniformity of design and construction of various rooms is vital to the ability to consistently achieve the consistent delivery of key clinical services across the Critical Services Building in a safe and timely manner.
 - In partnership with the ACT Government, Multiplex is preparing to open its "Connectivity Centre" in Phillip Canberra, which will act as a shopfront for the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project and a place for upskilling the local workforce to work on the Project.
 - Multiplex successfully utilised a Connectivity Centre for its delivery of the comparable, and recently constructed, Westmead Hospital in Western Sydney.
 - The Connectivity Centre is a key element of Multiplex's plans to achieve the ambitious social procurement targets that include 10% of the value of sub-contracted works from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander accredited bodies and 30% of its onsite tradespersons from traineeships, apprenticeships and similar programs. This includes apprentices who have been unable to complete their previous apprenticeship from displacement as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Portfolio/s: Health**ISSUE: Canberra Hospital Expansion (CHE) Project - Stakeholder
Engagement Activities****Talking points:****Stakeholder Engagement**

- In 2019, the project established 10 specialised user groups to inform the early planning and design for the new facility. The user groups consist of approximately 120 clinicians, support staff, and consumer representatives that provide advice and input into the key aspects of the project's planning.
- Over 200 separate user group workshops with clinicians have already been completed since Major Projects Canberra took carriage for the delivery of the Project in July 2019.
- A review of the Models of Care and functional briefs was completed in July 2020. These updated functional briefs are now informing the design development of the Canberra Hospital Expansion.
- 'Repeatable room' user group consultation has commenced. This includes reviewing and critiquing test-fits of the proposed functional areas for the new Critical Services Building, as part of optimising the design for functionality and service delivery.
- Preparations are well advanced for the commencement of the clinical user groups later this month.
- The Project has also established several consultative groups that meet on a regular basis to provide feedback that inform the Project's design process.

Consumer Reference Group

- The Consumer Reference Group (CRG) is Chaired by a representative of the Health Care Consumers Association and also includes representatives from the following organisations:
 - Canberra Health Services' Patient Experience Team Senior Manager
 - Consumer, Carer and Community representatives
 - People with Disabilities ACT Inc
 - COTA ACT (Council on the Ageing)
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
 - Multicultural Advisory Council ACT
 - Mental Health Consumers' Network
 - Carers ACT
 - Council of the Ageing
 - Health Care Consumers Association
 - ACT Disability Reference Group
 - CHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group

- The CRG's key role in the design development process acknowledges that a fundamental component of patient centred care is recognising and understanding the consumer perspective of the health service. Targeted design focus workshops have been completed with the CRG and their members in November 2020.

Local Community Reference Group

- Established in early 2020, the Local Community Reference Group's (LCRG) primary focus is to ensure the local community has their voice heard throughout the planning and development of the project. The LCRG meets monthly.
- Recent topics have included:
 - A briefing on the early analysis and preferred location of the helicopter landing sites and supporting flight paths; and
 - An examination of the external spaces and main entry points of the building. This included the proposed separation of ambulance and service vehicle access points from Gilmore Crescent and Palmer Street as part of the design development to optimise vehicular access points (a key risk mitigation measure for enhanced amenity and safety).
- Key themes to be explored further by the group include urban design, parking and local traffic, school access, pedestrian connections through the Canberra Hospital campus to surrounding neighbourhoods, and delivery arrangements around the project site.
- As the project's design progresses over the next year the project will also be holding other public consultation events in addition to regular meetings, so the wider Canberra community can also be part of the planning and development of the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project.
- Community feedback has been valuable in helping identify issues and solutions, such as design changes to Hospital Road to better connect hospital services, improve the urban realm on the Hospital campus and reduce traffic on local roads.

Recent Engagement Activities/Events

- As COVID-19 restrictions ease, the Territory will recommence various direct engagements with the local community, including a series of pop-up public consultation sessions over the coming months. The LCRG and CRG will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
- The project team will continue to maintain project messaging via the project website available at www.act.gov.au/canberrahospitalexpansion

Portfolio/s: Health

ISSUE: Canberra Hospital Expansion (CHE) Project – Traffic Modelling

Talking points:

- Following consultations with the local residents, the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project Team made positive changes to address potential traffic concerns relating to the Project.
- As part of the early planning and design phase of the Project, Major Projects Canberra commissioned an additional traffic survey to augment the work done during the development of the Project's Business Case (then named SPIRE Project) and then again during the concept design phase.
- Traffic survey data was collected of roads within and around the hospital campus. This included Yamba Drive, Gilmore Crescent, Hospital Road, and Palmer Street and a number of local intersections. Various survey methods were performed, including automatic tube counters at intersections, and drop off surveys with the use of video cameras.
- These surveys occurred during school term and data was collected all day across the 7-day period.
- Analysis of the data established the traffic activity and the capacity of the existing road networks and this was modelled against a number of design scenarios for the Project to predict the likely effect on the surrounding road networks.
- As a result Major Projects Canberra released a revised layout for Hospital Road on 11 March 2020, that will reduce hospital-related traffic near Garran Primary School, along Kitchener Street and Gilmore Crescent.
- Building 2, accessed off Yamba Drive, will continue to be the focus for patient arrivals for the Canberra Hospital even after the completion of the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project.
- On 11 August the Territory announced Multiplex as the successful delivery partner to take this preliminary design forward. Traffic flows continue to be modelled as the design progresses.
- There will be continued opportunities for local residents and the Garran Primary School, in addition to the broader Woden Community, to have their say as the design progresses.
- The strong progression of planning for the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project is a result of our ongoing engagement with the community. Through community interest groups, information forums, and online at YourSay there are ongoing opportunities for further community input.

Traffic Study Data

- Canberra Hospital currently is responsible for nearly 25% of the traffic on Gilmore Crescent.
- Following the completion of the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project, traffic on Gilmore Crescent will reduce due to the removal of the north-eastern on-grade carparks (behind the National Capital Hospital and Building 24).
- Palmer Street traffic will not be significantly changed, with the only impact being ambulance movements which is a small factor in the overall traffic volume on Palmer Street.
- In November Multiplex's traffic advisor completed an additional traffic study around Hospital Road, Gilmore Crescent and the Garran Primary School entrance with the results presented to the Garran Primary P&C and the Local Community Reference Group last week.
- As part of analysing the external spaces and main entry points of the building, a proposal to separate the ambulance and services vehicle access points from Gilmore Crescent and Palmer Street is underway. These dedicated additional entry points for ambulance, logistics, staff and visitor traffic are a key risk mitigation measure, providing enhanced amenity and safety for all users.

Portfolio/s: Sustainable Building and Construction

Cladding Rectification

Talking points:

- The safety of our community is of the utmost importance and has guided our approach to the handling of potentially combustible cladding on buildings in Canberra.
- In 2017, the Government formed the inter-agency Building Cladding Review Group to determine whether combustible materials had been used in Territory buildings in a way that poses a risk to building occupants.
- In December 2019, a Cladding Audit Response Team was established to progress the important work in addressing issues identified with ACT Government buildings through further detailed assessments and identification of remediation options. The Response Team also undertook a desktop analysis of certain privately owned buildings.
- The government assessed the Cladding Audit Response Team's recommendations and approved the rectification of cladding across ACT Government sites.
- The Cladding Rectification Scheme consists of two elements:
 - an ACT Government Program to rectify combustible cladding on ACT Government owned facilities; and
 - a Private Sector Program to support the rectification of combustible cladding on certain private sector buildings.

ACT Government Program

- A review of ACT Government owned buildings has been completed, and the sites of potential risks have been identified. This has involved a multi-stage process that identified, reviewed and assessed all buildings with potentially combustible cladding.
- The audit identified 23 sites requiring cladding rectification works.
- Of these, 21 sites are being progressed through Major Projects Canberra, with two sites within the Education portfolio being progressed directly by the Education Directorate.
- Based on preliminary cost estimates, \$19 million of funding was provisioned for the rectification works.
- If required, the remediation options may range from full replacement of all cladding to removal of certain elements of cladding to achieve a low risk ranking. The recommended level of remediation varies by building and cladding elements based on risk assessment criteria.
- It is important to note that fire safety measures have been applied as part of managing cladding that remains on Government buildings, either on an ongoing basis or as an interim measure until the cladding is replaced.

- The engineering consulting firm GHD has been engaged to develop designs and more accurate cost estimates for the 21 ACT Government sites. As part of this investigations phase, site inspections commenced in October and will continue through November and December 2020 as required. These investigations will finalise the design of the rectification necessary for each site.
- The design process will continue through 2020 and into the beginning of 2021, with rectifications works planned to commence in mid-2021. Some works may commence earlier as part of a pilot scheme.

Private Sector Program

- The ACT Government is creating a program to support the replacement of combustible cladding across eligible private sector buildings.
- This will involve a two-phase voluntary scheme to support the testing, assessment and potential rectification of cladding in private buildings which meet certain criteria.
- The scheme is proposed to involve a concessional loan arrangement and is designed to encourage and assist in the replacement of higher-risk potentially combustible cladding on private buildings where their multi-owner nature may otherwise present a practical impediment to the replacement of such cladding.
- The scheme will be implemented in two phases:
 - Phase 1: A 'testing and assessment' phase,
 - Phase 2: A 'cladding rectification phase.'
- A project team within Major Projects Canberra is being established to progress development of the eligibility criteria and administrative processes, which will be finalised over the coming months. Further information on the scheme will be available in the first half of 2021.
- ACT Government assistance is focused on the market segment most in need of practical assistance; multi-owner residential developments, rather than single-owner buildings already better placed to assess and rectify potentially combustible cladding.
- Engagement with industry associations/representatives is planned to enable industry input to the development of the scheme.

Portfolio/s: Arts**Canberra Theatre Redevelopment Project****Talking points:**

- The Government has committed to continuing the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment project in the Parliamentary Agreement for this term of Government.
- The ACT Infrastructure Plan released by the ACT Government in October 2019 also identifies the Canberra Theatre Redevelopment as a government priority.
- The current Canberra Theatre was built in 1965, meaning it predates the Sydney Opera House. Designed for a city of 88,000 people, it has a current seating capacity of approximately 1,200.
- Because of the era in which it was built, the theatre lacks the space, facilities and equipment to accommodate the requirements of modern touring shows.
- Canberra's population today makes our city an attractive market for touring shows and artists. However, the capacity and technical constraints of the Canberra Theatre means some larger touring shows bypass the ACT.
- The ACT Government has commenced design and scoping for a new theatre centre that has the seating capacity and facilities to support large scale national and international concerts, musicals, theatre and dance.
- The new facility is intended to see the existing theatre repurposed with a flexible flat floor and a new theatre to accommodate approximately 2,000 people, while retaining The Playhouse Theatre which was built in 1998. The new facility will also include additional, and more flexible, spaces for live music, experimental and local performances.
- The new theatre centre will be delivered as part of the City Renewal Authority's broader plan for an Arts and Cultural Precinct.
- The precinct will link together the Canberra Museum and Gallery, the Legislative Assembly building and Civic Square with hotel, retail and commercial facilities. The precinct will become a renewed hub for Canberra's artistic and cultural life, while providing a new attraction for visitors to Canberra.
- The Civic Square Precinct including the Canberra Theatre Centre was heritage listed on 22 September 2020. Detail design of the facility will support the heritage values of the precinct. Procurement planning is underway to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Civic Square Precinct, including the exterior of the Canberra Theatre Centre.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/11/2020
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 55466
Contact Officer name: Sophie Gray Ext: 0401 674 387
Lead Directorate: Major Projects Canberra
TRIM Ref:

Key Information

- The Canberra Theatre site comprises Blocks 18, 20 and 23 Section 19 City. All are identified as Designated Areas and fall under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Authority (NCA) and require Works Approval for redevelopment.
- On 24 October 2019, the Canberra Theatre Centre Redevelopment was announced as a designated project, determining that the project will be delivered by Major Projects Canberra subject to business case approval.
- Under the August 2020 Supply Bill, \$400,000 ex GST is allocated to progress planning for the project.
- A cross agency steering committee oversees the redevelopment project with representatives from the Canberra Theatre Centre, Cultural Facilities Corporation, artsACT, the City Renewal Authority, Treasury and Major Projects Canberra.