



QUESTION TIME
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

Edited proof transcript

Wednesday, 25 March 2026

This is an **EDITED PROOF TRANSCRIPT** of question time proceedings that is subject to further checking. Members' suggested corrections for the official *Weekly Hansard* should be lodged with the Hansard office as soon as possible.

Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Ministerial arrangements	1
Questions without notice:	
Cost of living—public transport fares	1
Fuel security	2
Teachers—enterprise bargaining.....	3
Teachers—enterprise bargaining.....	4
Planning—Hume Circle precinct	6
Playgrounds and play spaces—Watson	7
Planning—Arscott House site	8
Community legal organisations—funding	9
Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—Neonatal Intensive Care Unit— funding	10
Planning—City Hill park	11
Stromlo Forest Park—Tracks and Trails Masterplan.....	12
Foundational Supports and Thriving Kids	12
ACT courts—case management system.....	13
Motor vehicles—numberplate duplication.....	14
Housing—affordability	14
City services—e-bikes and e-scooters.....	15
COTA ACT—UpstAgeing Canberra	16

Ministerial arrangements

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Trade) (2.00): Minister Cheyne will be absent from question time again today. As I understand was foreshadowed, ministers who will take questions are the same as yesterday. Just to recap: Minister Steel, will take questions in City and Government Services; Minister Paterson in Attorney-General and Human Rights; and Mr Pettersson in Night-time Economy.

Questions without notice

Cost of living—public transport fares

MR PARTON: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, yesterday your government refused to support a straightforward cost-of-living measure to help Canberrans facing rising fuel costs by temporarily lowering bus fares to 50c. Why does your government not accept that higher fuel prices are already hurting household budgets?

MR BARR: Certainly higher fuel prices are hurting household budgets. This is a matter that is impacting across the nation. There is coordinated action at all levels of government to see that fuel supplies get through to areas where they are most needed, and there will continue to be a focus on that. We will continue to look at the range of options that are available to us in coordination with other levels of government and, indeed, other state and territory governments. That was what yesterday's motion suggested, and that is what we supported.

MR PARTON: Chief Minister, why are Canberra families being told to wait for the budget, when the pressure on household budgets is happening right now?

MR BARR: There are a range of actions that are being taken ahead of both the commonwealth and territory budgets. There is a very strong desire for action to be coordinated across different jurisdictions, and we will certainly be working closely with both New South Wales and the commonwealth, who will be our principal partners in relation to fuel security, fuel distribution and cost-of-living measures.

MRS MORRIS: Chief Minister, what practical help will your government deliver today for Canberra families already doing it tough by paying more at the bowser?

MR BARR: Obviously, I cannot announce government policy in question time, but we are particularly focused on working with New South Wales on fuel supply—

Mr Cocks: On a point of order: Mrs Morris did not ask for the Chief Minister to announce government policy but, rather, what actions are being taken today.

MR SPEAKER: She asked, "What will you do today?"—I think that was the specific language—rather than, "What are you doing?" "What will you do" suggests a call on the government to announce policy. He has mentioned that. He has not refused to answer the question. He is providing more information, but it is reasonable that he does not provide policy. He is explaining—I hope—what actions the government is taking. So we will find out, Mr Cocks.

MR BARR: I did not have many seconds to provide further information. But, yes, we will be coordinating with the commonwealth in relation to fuel supply and New South Wales in relation to fuel distribution. These are important things. As members are aware, the price of fuel will be the intersection of supply and demand. If we can get supply up and reduce demand, the price will fall—and that is the government's objective.

Fuel security

MR PARTON: My question is to the energy minister. Minister, exactly how many petrol stations across the ACT have run out of fuel, either completely or for a particular fuel type?

MS ORR: As I have said many times previously, this is a consistently evolving situation. The most recent information I have to hand is that over the previous 24 hours there were a total of four service stations that had reported an outage. Three, I believe I may have referenced yesterday, but they were three from yesterday—those three have been restocked. There is an additional one that was out of diesel as of 11.30 am this morning. What I would add to this is, while we are seeing shortages, as I mentioned in yesterday's debate, these are not necessarily ongoing shortages, they are being resolved as supplies arrive in Canberra. Again, I would stress, a bit like a broken record, but I that if everyone can continue to keep their regular fuel buying habits that will actually take away a lot of the demand pressures we are seeing and hopefully resolve some of the issues we are seeing with those temporary outages.

MR PARTON: Minister, when were you first told ACT service stations were running dry, and what action have you taken with your federal and New South Wales counterparts to ensure that the diesel is still flowing here?

MS ORR: So again, we continue to work with our colleagues federally and across the states and territories for a coordinated response, and we also continue to work with industry, individual petrol stations, but also fuel suppliers, and work through how best to get supply. As one example, in answer to Mr Parton's question, the federal government has been working quite diligently on shoring up supply to Australia, and where the federal minister has seen some cancellations, they have actually worked to find supplies from other areas so that that supply continues to Australia. We will continue to support the federal government and our colleagues within that.

Within the ACT, we have a Rapid Response Fuel Taskforce set up within the City and Environment Directorate who are taking a focus on working with our petrol stations here in the ACT, feeding into the various mechanisms between jurisdictions and also to the Fuel Supply Taskforce that the commonwealth government has stood up, to make sure we are working in that coordinated fashion. The team that we have here in the territory will be liaising with petrol stations as to supply, but they will also be looking at fair trading concerns and using that information to inform further responses.

I think, if I remember correctly, the beginning of the question was going to what are we doing to make sure there is supply to the ACT. Again I would note the pressures that are on the system at the moment are from demand, from people looking to change their

behaviours given the reporting and the circumstances that we are seeing globally. In order to shore up supply, the best thing we can do, again as the broken record is maintain our regular fuel purchasing positions. Again, we will see shortages. This is not the first time we have seen shortages. Petrol stations across Canberra will at times see fuel—*(Time expired.)*

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Point of order, Mr Cocks?

MR COCKS: No, a supplementary. I do not know why you would think otherwise, Mr Speaker!

Minister, since the fuel crisis was first conceded to by your federal colleagues, how many fuel stations have had to hang out “Sorry, out of fuel” signs on bowsers in the ACT?

MS ORR: Mr Speaker, I do not agree with the phrasing of this question. Again, picking up where my last answer went to, we will see shortages occur across petrol stations, irrespective of whether we are in the situation that we are currently in. We may see more of it under the current circumstances, but this idea that shortages will only ever happen because of the circumstances we now find ourselves in is a little bit disingenuous. So again, where we have seen shortages in the ACT, these have been responded to and reconciled, usually within hours. It has been a case that supplies are coming in, but because we have seen those demand pressures there, and those additional demand pressures there, the supply and the demand have not quite met up. So the timing can still be worked on. That is not the same as we have ongoing shortages within the ACT and we have no way of getting fuel to them. That is simply not the case.

Teachers—enterprise bargaining

MS LEE: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, I refer to the Australian Education Union’s media release where they say they are preparing to take industrial action in term 2, following their lack of confidence in your directorate’s handling of the enterprise bargaining process. The claims made by the AEU include adequate staffing, proper training, support for inclusive education, and planning for a sustainable workforce. Minister, do you support these basic, fundamental claims?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Lee for the question. Of course, I am supportive of the work that the education union does in supporting its members in our public-school education system and making sure that they have all of the tools and systems in place so that they can give our children the best possible start in life.

There will be a range of claims that I would agree with in principle but, of course, a lot of claims that are made by unions in their negotiations with government come with a price tag and so all of those need to be considered. The AEU understands that as well.

Yesterday I spoke about the contact that my office has had with the education union over the last week or so, particularly talking in detail about some of the issues that they have raised, and reassuring them that the education directorate and my office and the government take these negotiations seriously, that the issues that the AEU has raised are taken seriously, and that we do want to continue our negotiations with them in good

faith.

MS LEE: Minister, how can you not even say that you are willing to support those fundamental claims? And why has it taken such an extraordinarily long time for your directorate to respond?

MS BERRY: I do not think Ms Lee heard my answer—

Ms Lee: Yes, I did. You just said you support the Education Directorate's work with them.

MS BERRY: I do support the AEU's claims for their members, which is what I did say in my first answer; however, they do need to be negotiated because they come with a price tag, and we cannot just automatically say yes to everything without understanding it through the budget process. The AEU understands that.

Their members are frustrated about the length of time. I am empathetic about that frustration. I understand that, and I have sought to reassure the education union that I am taking it seriously. And we will continue our negotiations with them, going forward, in good faith. That is what I have done over the last however-long I have been education minister, and what I intend to do now and into the future.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, do you retain confidence in your directorate's handling of the negotiations, or lack thereof, with the AEU?

MS BERRY: I am confident that the Education Directorate will be able to continue negotiations in good faith. I understand and, as I said, I am empathetic that the education union is frustrated with the length of time that has taken. I think the directorate understands that as well, and we have both committed to continue our negotiations in good faith with the education union.

Teachers—enterprise bargaining

MS LEE: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, in question time yesterday, you said that your directorate had been negotiating with the AEU in good faith. However, the AEU has said, and I quote directly:

We lodged our logs of claims in July 2025. For more than seven months, the Education Directorate failed to respond substantively; we had to seek Ministerial intervention just to receive any reply at all ...

Minister, is it acceptable for them to be waiting more than seven months and having to get your office to intervene directly just to get a reply in "good faith"?

MS BERRY: Well, clearly there has been some kind of breakdown between the Education Union and the directorate. I understand the frustration that the Education Union are experiencing right now. I have acknowledged that publicly. My office has been speaking with the Education Union, and I know that the director-general has met with the Education Union today about a range of issues, including bargaining, and we are keen to get that back on track and restore the relationship to a more positive one and

have a good outcome for Education Union members and all staff that work in our public school system.

MS LEE: Minister, how did your government allow such a breakdown in communication and in the relationship with the ACT's teaching workforce? And why should Canberra's teachers trust anything you say about valuing them when this is the way that they are treated?

MS BERRY: These are enterprise bargaining negotiation processes, and from time to time unions will take opportunities, which is within their right to do, to agitate and organise their members to get the best possible deal that they can from their employer, in this case the government.

They have expressed some frustration with that process. I have acknowledged that frustration. I am keen to get that negotiation back on track, and I know that the Education Directorate is too. We have expressed that that to the Education Union over the last week and as recently as today, I understand, in the conversations that the director-general has had with the Education Union representative.

MR CAIN: Minister, what assurances can you give Canberran families that this debacle, which could result in the AEU taking industrial action, is not a result of the mismanagement of the education budget?

MS BERRY: Well, you know, I do not agree—

Mr Cain: So what do we know?

MS BERRY: I do not agree with the premise of the question that Mister Cain has asked.

Mr Cain: There's no premise; what assurances can you give?

Ms Stephen-Smith: A point of order, Mr Speaker. Mr Cain has asked his question. He cannot keep asking further questions while the minister is seeking to answer his original question.

Mr Cain interjecting—

MR SPEAKER: Mr Cain, you have asked your question; maybe just sit there and listen for a response, otherwise I will have to take further action.

MS BERRY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I said, I do not agree with the premise. The Education Directorate is working in good faith with the Education Union. It is a bargaining process. There will be moments when either the employer or the union will disagree in that process, and there will be a requirement for the Education Union to represent their members. That is their job. I would be, as I said yesterday, the last person to interfere in that process. I understand that they need to do that. I am keen to get the relationship back on track and for those bargaining processes to be seen by both parties as serious negotiations that are attempting to make sure that the ACT remains one of the best public education systems in the country.

I would like it very much if the Education Union did not take industrial action. But that is absolutely within their prerogative, and that is something that unions will do as a matter of course and I support that action. In fact, ABC journalists are taking industrial action today, and I support that industrial action as well and would not want to interfere with that. My hope is that will not happen, but I understand it might be the case that the Education Union decides to do that.

Planning—Hume Circle precinct

MR RATTENBURY: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development. Minister, in a Suburban Land Agency attachment to the ACT government's submission to the National Capital Authority on draft amendment 102 for the Hume Circle precinct, the SLA comments that:

The logic behind the Building height framework does not appear to be based on best practice urban design principles.

They go on to say:

Such an approach favours the Jega Consortia rather than an approach which more equitably distributes higher buildings across Hume Circle and broader East Lake.

Minister, do the SLA comments reflect the position of the government?

MR STEEL: Yes, they do. I refer to the government's submission from the Territory Planning Authority, which also notes that the building height and density proposed in DA102 are substantially higher than was considered in the East Lake place plan.

MR RATTENBURY: Minister, given your stated position, why did the SLA continue to propose 12- to 15-storey buildings in their submission, including on section 84, which already has missing middle style housing?

MR STEEL: I refer the member to the Territory Planning Authority's submission, which talks about the place plan anticipating variable heights in the Mildura Street precinct, noting that the place plan did not fully cover the area that has been considered by the National Capital Authority in DA102, which generally had heights of five to six storeys on Hume Circle, increasing to around eight storeys towards the railway precinct. The government has noted in the submission that this would lead to a yield of roughly 5,500 dwellings and a population of approximately 12,000. This proposal that has been brought forward by a proponent, the Jega consortium, would lead to a very high number of residents in the area, and that may have an impact on infrastructure. In terms of the actual specific detail, I would refer Mr Rattenbury to the Territory Planning Authority's submission. That is also publicly available and on view on the NCA's website.

MS CLAY: Minister, why didn't the ACT government ask for section 84 to be excluded from the plan, given that it already had medium density missing middle housing?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I again refer her to the Territory Planning Authority's submission, which has raised the issues. I also note again to the Assembly that what has been put forward in this DA102 is a relatively high-level plan.

There will be a further round of consultation on more detailed design conditions associated with any further proposal once it has been considered by the NCA. The ACT government is involved with the NCA in providing feedback in relation to this proposal. I am sure that the NCA will be taking into account the views of the territory as they consider this matter.

Mr Rattenbury: A point of order under standing order 118AA. Ms Clay specifically asked the minister why the government did not put a certain position. He has referred her to the submission, but the submission does not address the question, which is why she has asked the question.

MR SPEAKER: I will allow the minister time to continue. He still has a bit of time to go.

MR STEEL: I will take that on notice and direct that question to the Chief Planner. The Territory Planning Authority made the submission on behalf of the ACT government.

MR SPEAKER: He has taken that on notice, Mr Rattenbury.

Playgrounds and play spaces—Watson

MR EMERSON: My question is for the minister representing the Minister for City and Government Services. I was at Maliyan Park in Watson with my kids over the weekend. It is one of their favourite playgrounds, and rightly so given its \$3 million price tag! The playground surface, though, is completely falling apart. My son was finding crumbling pieces of the soft-fall surface and bringing them to me—like this one here. This playground opened only—

Ms Berry: Point of order: I believe that it is against parliamentary processes to bring a prop into the place. Mr Emerson should remove the prop, under your direction, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I would ask you not to display a prop, Mr Emerson. Standing orders say that you cannot.

MR EMERSON: I would be happy to table the piece for members' benefit.

MR SPEAKER: Just leave it alone. There are no props, and if you show it again I will have to take action.

MR EMERSON: Shall I continue?

MR SPEAKER: Please do.

MR EMERSON: This playground opened only a year and a half ago, and half of it is now fenced off for repairs because the surface has deteriorated so badly. The contract for the project specified a one-year post-completion warranty period, during which the contractor is responsible for maintenance and defects. Minister, who is footing the bill for these repairs?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. I am sure that, like me, he spends a lot of weekends touring the ACT's parks and playgrounds with our young ones. I know how valued these parks are to the Canberra community, particularly families. Maliyan Park in Watson opened on 24 August 2024. I will seek feedback via the City and Environment Directorate on behalf of Minister Cheyne in relation to the financial and maintenance requirements of the contractor and current maintenance for this particular park.

MR EMERSON: Mr Speaker, could I confirm that the detail has been taken on notice.

MR SPEAKER: By his answer, I presume that he has taken that on notice.

MR EMERSON: Thank you. Minister, what is the expected lifespan of new playgrounds being built in the ACT?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. I am happy to take that on notice. But I would certainly note that many of the playgrounds that have historically been built in the ACT have lasted many decades and continue to serve the community, though they may need maintenance from time to time to make sure that they are safe for the community to use. Indeed, when I was the minister, we had a big program around refreshing local playgrounds and painting them. An ongoing audit is undertaken in relation to safety, and improvements are made on that basis to make sure that they can continue to serve the community.

MS CARRICK: Minister, how widely has this soft-fall surface been used across ACT playgrounds? And is there any planned use for it in upcoming builds?

MR STEEL: I am not sure of the specific product that has been used at this particular playground. I will seek some advice about that. Generally speaking, a soft-fall surface is used in new playgrounds across the territory and in playgrounds in cities around Australia. It is a common safety feature that is often applied to playgrounds, but obviously the products may differ within the broader soft-fall segment. I will come back in relation to this specific playground, as well as whether any remediation is required.

Planning—Arscott House site

MS CLAY: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development. Minister, a draft major plan amendment has been released for the site that was occupied by Arscott House and used for student accommodation. The University of Canberra now owns the land and demolished the buildings in 2020. The university is proposing to vary the zoning from Community Facility to Commercial Business Zone. The site is a significant community facility of over 10,000 square metres. The amendment says the development of the site needs to make a suitable contribution to the long-term provision of community and social facilities in the broader Belconnen area. What is a suitable contribution, how is it measured and why wasn't a figure identified?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I note that, in relation to major plan amendments they can be put forward by proponents under the Planning Act, and I do not have the ability to intervene when they are. They must be considered by the

Territory Planning Authority. The Territory Planning Authority make the decision to accept those or not. If they accept them, they must prepare the draft amendment and publish that for the community to be able to provide their comment. That will be the process, I am sure, for this major plan amendment that has been proposed.

In relation to the other matters that Ms Clay mentioned, I will take the question on notice and come back to the Assembly with some further detail.

MS CLAY: With no enforceable conditions on the lease or zone, how will the government ensure that this contribution to community and social facilities is maintained in the future?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. The independent Territory Planning Authority will consider the major plan amendment and assess it against the requirements under the Planning Act. They will look at a range of different matters. Then, of course, it will go to the Assembly's planning committee. They may wish to inquire into it and make their own recommendations in relation to it before it comes back to the authority, back to me, and then to the Assembly again.

MISS NUTTALL: Minister, given that the land was gifted to the university for no cost and they no longer want it for university purposes like student accommodation, why doesn't the territory ask the university to hand the land back?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. The government has no plans to ask the university to hand the land back. We will consider the proposal that has been put forward through the planning app processes that I have outlined.

Community legal organisations—funding

MS BARRY: My question is to the Attorney-General. Attorney-General, last year, your government signed the National Access to Justice Partnership Agreement 2025-2030, agreeing "The States will maintain their level of effort and investment in legal assistance services, in real terms over the life of the Agreement, for each subsector of the legal assistance sector," to provide certainty to legal assistance providers. Why have legal service providers like Canberra Community Law still not received confirmation of their baseline funding arrangements in line with the government's commitment to providing funding certainty to these providers?

DR PATERSON: I will take the question on notice, but just to say how much we value our community law services in the territory, and that we are currently going through a budget process as we speak.

MS BARRY: Minister, in line with the NAJP agreement, will the ACT government commit to providing at least 12 months advance notice on funding distributions so these providers can effectively plan, prepare and strengthen service delivery?

DR PATERSON: As I said in the previous answer, we are currently undertaking a budget process so it will be subject to budget considerations.

MRS MORRIS: Why is the government putting vulnerable Canberrans at risk by

failing to provide funding certainty to these vital community legal service providers?

DR PATERSON: I acknowledge the challenges that these community legal services are facing and the government is hearing those responses. I know the Attorney-General is very cognisant of these issues, and as I said in the previous answers, these are matters that are subject to budget consideration.

Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—Neonatal Intensive Care Unit—funding

MR CAIN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, thanks to the Newborn Intensive Care Foundation, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or NICU, at the Canberra Hospital now has eight new monitors which provide non-invasive measures of blood oxygen and heart rate data in babies. Importantly, all eight were paid for by the foundation, following a request from the unit. Before these monitors were donated, these sick newborn babies had to have blood taken manually and await lab testing for a clinician to then evaluate treatment. Minister, despite the egregious spending habits of your Labor government, why did the funding for these vital pieces of equipment rely on a charitable foundation?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Cain for the question, and for drawing the Assembly's attention to the wonderful work of the Newborn Intensive Care Foundation. It is a long-term partner with Canberra Health Services and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or NICU, and the staff work very closely with the foundation to understand what investments might be helpful.

I do not think it is accurate to draw a conclusion that these particular pieces of equipment would not have been purchased otherwise. But I know that the foundation is very, very committed to supporting the NICU's important work. The NICU engages in a lot of nation-leading work but also engages in a lot of research to understand the best care for neonates—particularly the premature and sick babies that they look after.

MR CAIN: Minister, is it the expectation that the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit relies on outdated and manual tests?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: That would not be my expectation, but technologies change over time and the capacity of different areas of the hospital to have the latest technology available to them is an evolving situation.

As I indicated, the staff at the NICU work very closely with the foundation. They also work very closely with the Canberra Hospitals Foundation, as well as with their leadership, to understand who would like to make what investments and contributions in relation to new equipment.

So, I will do a little bit more research in relation to this particular matter, and I thank Mr Cain for drawing it to attention—but I do not agree with the way that he has characterised the issue.

MR PARTON: Minister, how could the government possibly deliver these vital

services to Canberra families without a charity doing the heavy lifting?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I think I have already answered that question, Mr Speaker. It is a part of the work that the NICU does, to work with our foundations as well as with senior leadership to ensure that neonates—premature babies and sick babies—are getting the best care. In a tertiary hospital, the NICU not only supports the people of the ACT but a wide area of surrounding NSW, and provides outstanding care for babies and their families.

Planning—City Hill park

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, can you outline the next steps for City Hill park?

MR BARR: I thank Mr Werner-Gibbings for the question, and, yes, I can. I am sure members are aware that City Hill park is a five hectare, but significantly underutilised, space in the centre of our city, enclosed by Vernon Circle—probably one of the larger roundabouts in Canberra—and it of course forms a key point in the National Triangle.

Following community interest demonstrated through the recent City Hill ideas exhibition, which received more than 600 survey submissions and 69 design proposals, the next stage is finalising a park master plan. As part of this process, the City Renewal Authority is continuing community engagement, including a community discussion delivered in partnership with Salon Canberra and complemented by a TEDxCanberra Awakening City Hill event.

A People’s Panel will also be established, comprising 30 members of the community. After the People’s Panel deliberations, draft master plan options will be shared for feedback.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Chief Minister, why is it important to reimagine City Hill as a key and potentially iconic Civic and community park?

MR BARR: Thank you. City Hill is, frankly, rarely used. There are often more rabbits there than there are people, and we have an opportunity to change this. A revitalised City Hill park can become a central park that connects the city centre. It should be used more, and as we progress this work, we are building on what we have already heard from the community to support the city centre’s growth.

MS TOUGH: Chief Minister, what are some of the suggestions that have been made to include in the park?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Tough for the supplementary. There is strong community support for improved access, lighting, safety and shade, as well as native plantings and cultural expression. There was also clear interest in family friendly areas, arts and performance spaces and recreation facilities.

Feedback from more recent events highlights further significance in prioritising pedestrian access and making City Hill a meaningful, inclusive and well-functioning public space.

Stromlo Forest Park—Tracks and Trails Masterplan

MS CARRICK: My question is to the Minister for City and Government Services. Labor's plan for Molonglo from the 2024 election promised to start implementing the Stromlo Forest Park Tracks and Trails Masterplan and to create a mountain bike trail maintenance fund. The plan also said that work will begin next year—meaning 2025—on the Stromlo to Cotter mountain flow trail. The government's public project page says construction of the Stromlo to Cotter mountain bike trail is anticipated to commence in 2026. Minister, what milestones have been completed? What is still outstanding, and will the government meet its 2026 construction timeframe?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I will take this on behalf of the Minister for City and Government Services. I will take it on notice and come back to Ms Carrick with more information about that. Obviously, the government has committed to undertaking work not only on the Stromlo masterplan but also on the Stromlo to Cotter mountain bike trail. We will come back to the Assembly with some more detail about how we will provide that facility for our mountain biking community.

MS CARRICK: Minister, has the government established a publicly available delivery schedule for stage 1 of the Tracks and Trails Masterplan and how progress against these milestones is being monitored?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question, and I refer her to the ACT Built for CBR website, where there is a project timeline. The project is currently in the detailed design and approval stage and is currently showing construction in 2026, with the project complete in 2027-28.

MR EMERSON: Minister, will the government publish a regular public trails status and maintenance schedule for Stromlo, so that riders can see what works are planned, when they will occur and what standard the government is working to?

MR BARR: The park itself sits within my areas. Yes, they are undertaking regular work. If it is not already on their website, I will ensure that it will be in the future.

Foundational Supports and Thriving Kids

MR CAIN: My question is to the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services. Minister, in your ministerial statement on 18 February this year on Thriving Kids, you confirmed that the ACT has signed a bilateral agreement with the commonwealth and that \$1.4 billion will be allocated to states and territories to deliver these services. Minister, how much of that funding will the ACT receive?

MS ORR: Mr Speaker, can Mr Cain repeat the question?

MR SPEAKER: Mr Cain, just the last bit of the question.

MR CAIN: Minister, in your statement of 18 February on Thriving Kids, you confirmed that the ACT has signed a bilateral agreement with the commonwealth and that \$1.4 billion will be allocated to states and territories to deliver these services. How

much of that funding will the ACT receive?

MS ORR: I am checking. I have the \$4 billion number in front of me. Going specifically to Mr Cain's question about how much the ACT will receive, I think I know the number, but I want to double-check it so I do not get it wrong. If Mr Cain can bear with me, I will come back in matters arising from question time.

MR SPEAKER: You have taken that on notice?

MS ORR: Yes.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Mr Cain.

MR CAIN: Minister, when will the ACT government publicly release the full bilateral agreement and funding allocation for the territory?

MS ORR: We continue to work through the bilateral agreement. Negotiations are ongoing. We will be looking at signing those in accordance with the agreement that was made by national cabinet at the beginning of the year, and we are looking at rolling out as per the revised timeframe. I believe we are looking at May to finalise that bilateral agreement, but, of course, I would note that negotiations are always negotiations, and this one has been quite a journey. It will be in May, unless we hear otherwise.

MR COCKS: Minister, will the ACT be required to match or co-fund any portion of the funding?

MS ORR: I point the member to all of the publicly available information, which indicates that this—

Opposition members interjecting—

MS ORR: If you would let me answer the question without interjecting, you would get the answer. All the publicly available information points to Foundational Supports—and Thriving Kids being part of that—being a delivery between the federal and state and territory governments, and it is on a partnership basis of 50-50.

ACT courts—case management system

MS BARRY: My question is to the Attorney-General. Given the current integrated case management system, ICMS, used by the ACT courts and the legal community more broadly expires in June this year, we are repeatedly hearing concerns about how this digital infrastructure is seriously out of date, inefficient and not fit-for-purpose. This is increasingly concerning given the high volume of work that courts face each year. Minister, has the government updated this system since it was installed? If not, why?

DR PATERSON: I will take that on notice; thank you.

MS BARRY: Minister, why has the government neglected recent calls to improve inefficiencies that have strained our courts for so long?

DR PATERSON: I reject the premise of that question. The Attorney-General is in

constant conversation with the courts around the systems that they use. I will take the first question on notice and get back to the Assembly.

MRS MORRIS: Minister, what work has the government done to prepare to upgrade this digital infrastructure once it expires in June?

DR PATERSON: I will take that on notice.

Motor vehicles—numberplate duplication

MR PARTON: My question is to whoever is dealing with Access Canberra today. I cannot remember what you pointed out at the start.

Mr Barr: It would be Minister Steel.

MR PARTON: Excellent; I like dealing with Minister Steel!

Minister, number plates are such an important component of the government's ability to identify individual vehicles, vehicle owners and drivers, particularly in this era of infringements being issued entirely on the basis of images captured on the roadside. Minister, has the government ever issued the same number plate twice, meaning that an infringement notice for a camera-issued fine could potentially go to two different car owners and if so, how could this possibly have occurred?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. I will take this on notice on behalf of Minister Cheyne who is responsible for that part of Access Canberra and come back to the Assembly with some more information. If the member has a specific instance that he wanted to pass on to Minister Cheyne that would assist in answering that question, I am sure she would be happy to receive that, and for Access Canberra to investigate what has occurred if there is an alleged issue.

MR PARTON: Minister, why is there currently a 1968 Morris Mini and 2021 Porsche registered in the ACT with the same number plate, and indeed, five other examples of duplication that have come to our attention which are very clear on the Access Canberra website?

MR STEEL: Again, I will come back on notice on behalf of Minister Cheyne in relation to that. I am happy to provide what information we can, noting that there could be some potential privacy issues there. We will see what information can be provided.

MS CASTLEY: Minister, other than other than the six instances Mr Parton mentioned, how many other instances are there of duplicated number plates in the ACT?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I will see whether we can get some information from Access Canberra about that, noting that there are different numberplate types in the territory as well.

Housing—affordability

MISS NUTTALL: My question is to the minister for housing. The National Rental

Affordability Scheme (NRAS) is due to fully end by June this year. What impact will this have on the 352 NRAS dwellings at the University of Canberra? Will they continue to be rented at an affordable rental rate? What will happen to the students who presently live in them?

MS BERRY: I will take that question on notice.

MISS NUTTALL: Minister, has the University of Canberra offered any assurances to the people living in the units that the 352 units will continue to be offered at an affordable rental rate?

MS BERRY: I will take that question on notice, as well.

MS CLAY: If the rent for these 352 dwellings increases, what support will the ACT government provide to tenants so they can continue their studies at the University of Canberra?

MS BERRY: I will also take that question on notice, because it assumes something that I do not know the answer to yet. I will bring that answer back to the Assembly.

City services—e-bikes and e-scooters

MR BRADDOCK: My question is for Minister Steel, either with his hat as Minister for Transport or as acting for the Minister for City and Government Services.

I draw your attention to the decision to award Lime scooters and e-bikes a contract for the e-mobility services in the ACT. At the same time Neuron scooters have lost their contract. Minister, why did Neuron scooters lose their contract?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. I will respond on notice on behalf of Minister Cheyne. Obviously, when it comes to procurement decisions like this, they are at arm's-length from the minister, so I will seek some advice about what decisions were made in relation to that particular contract.

MR BRADDOCK: Minister, why is the government favouring offering a monopoly to just a single service provider rather than seeking a market with competition with multiple providers?

MR STEEL: Again, I will take that on notice.

MR RATTENBURY: Minister, why is the government confident that Canberra can sustain only one e-mobility provider when it previously sustained two?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. I will come back in relation to the previous questions with some more information in relation to the decision and the tender process, but I do note that the territory did have one provider following the decision to discontinue the contract with Beam, following noncompliance with their contract. So we have actually had one provider for quite a considerable period of time up until this point, and that would continue under the new contract.

COTA ACT—UpstAgeing Canberra

MS TOUGH: My question is to the Minister for Seniors and Veterans. Minister, can you update the Assembly on the seniors arts festival that is happening in Canberra?

MS ORR: I thank Ms Tough for the opportunity to talk about what has been a very enthusiastically embraced festival. I am pleased to update the Assembly on the ACT seniors arts festival, called UpstAgeing Canberra, which is being delivered by COTA ACT. It is currently on, and it is running until this coming Sunday, 29 March. I would also like to acknowledge the advocacy and work of my Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing in developing this festival.

UpstAgeing is the first large-scale arts festival celebrating creative ageing, and it kicked off last Friday. The ACT government has a strong and longstanding partnership with COTA in addressing the issues affecting older people in Canberra. I am grateful for their leadership in coordinating this festival. There is a range of performances, exhibitions, workshops, visual arts, theatre, music, dance, storytelling, design, and more. I encourage all members and the wider community to have a look on the COTA website to see what events are still going on, and pop along and check them out.

MS TOUGH: Minister, what benefits does this festival bring to the Canberra community?

MS ORR: It is fair to say that this puts a really strong focus on older Canberrans and healthy ageing, which is essential for our community. People aged over 60 are one of the growing parts of our community. Here in the ACT we have some of the longest life expectancy in Australia.

UpstAgeing promotes Canberra as an arts capital and an age-friendly city. It fosters important conversations about healthy ageing within the community. Everyone has worked very diligently and very hard to deliver the UpstAgeing festival. A lot of community groups have been invited to provide input, and to collaborate with the organisers to run a workshop or a performance. We are seeing a great variety, with a huge number of events. It is the first time that we have done this festival. It has been embraced by the community, as has been shown in the enthusiasm that is there for not only this sort of event and activities but also the themes and the opportunities that come from having a discussion on how we can age positively.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Minister, what support is provided to this event?

MS ORR: Again, this has been advocated for by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, and the ACT government is providing funding for the festival. It is a pilot, to see how it goes, given that it is the first one in Australia. We are now seeing the benefits of that government support and investment. I would like to recognise and thank everyone who has taken this idea and the seed funding, and shown what can be achieved from it.

Mr Barr: Further questions can be placed on the notice paper, thank you.