



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL

CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), TARA CHEYNE MLA,
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Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
13 November 2017



Asked by MS CHEYNE MLA:

In relation to: How to access Development Applications that are closed

MS CHEYNE: I do not think these questions will come as any surprise, because I asked about them last annual report hearings and Estimates, but I am interested to know how we are going in terms of making DAs more accessible, both multiple areas with the signage, but also what is available online and where DAs have been closed, and the storage of that.

Mr Ponton: Yes, thanks.

Mr Gentleman: Yes, closed. I will just give you an overarching answer, and then I will ask Mr Ponton to give you some more detail—

MS CHEYNE: Thank you.

Mr Gentleman: —but we have heard from the community, and of course Assembly members in the past, about notification and accessibility for development application, particularly documentation, so that why he have modified the development application finder app to version 2, which gives you much more detail, and actually then sends you out alerts when changes occur in your area of interest as well.

But also looking for pictures on signage where the development application is taking place at that locale, and that will give the community much more information about what is going to occur. Mr Ponton?

Mr Ponton: Thank you, minister. As I recall, Ms Cheyne, last time you particularly had a question around the notification letters, and in response to that we have worked with our colleagues in Access Canberra, and we have made changes to the notification letters.

So next time you receive one, it should be shorter and in simpler language so that—we have tried to take out as much as we can, a lot of the legalistic terminology, but of course there is still some in there that needs to be there by virtue of the legislation, but we have certainly made those changes.

As part of the work that Ms Wilden is doing, she is also working with her colleagues in Access Canberra to ensure that their notification through the website is more accessible, and I will need to confirm whether or not those DAs that have closed notification are now available. I can clarify that for you.

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Currently, Development Applications that have finished their public notification period are removed from the planning.act.gov.au website. The current practice is due to maintaining sufficient data storage and to ensure that the current website remains user-friendly (i.e. not cluttered with data).

However information about a DA (regardless of its stage of assessment) can be accessed by request. This can be done by calling (13 22 81), sending a request online (planning.act.gov.au) or in person at 16 Challis Street, Dickson from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

EPSDD is currently working with Access Canberra on a new e-development system and is looking at ways to make more information more accessible online through this platform.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal

Signature:



Date: 24/11/17

By Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management