



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Mr Alistair Coe MLA (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair), Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA,
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE COVID PUBLIC HEARINGS – 11 June 2020

Asked by MRS DUNNE on 11 June 2020: MINISTER GENTLEMAN took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 11 June 2020, pages 352-354

In relation to: Planning for Housing

MRS DUNNE: Minister, could we get back to the question: what is the current pipeline of land supply? If there is an uptick in residential building that comes from the stimulus package, is there land available for people, and what are the prices? We have less than a quarter of an hour left and other people have questions to ask as well.

Mr Gentleman: I do not have the prices in front of me. That is not my area. I am happy to take that on notice and get those prices, if you like.

MRS DUNNE: Who is the minister responsible for the price of land?

Mr Gentleman: The Suburban Land Agency are the ones that sell the land to ACT residents or proponents that want to do construction in the ACT. We can find out the detail of the amounts that are available. I think we have that, Mr Ponton?

Mr Ponton: Yes, as the minister said, in terms of pricing, that is for the Suburban Land Agency. We can certainly talk to our colleagues in the Suburban Land Agency and get that for you.

MRS DUNNE: Thank you.

Mr Ponton: I will note that, while there was a reduction over the last 12 months in sales, with the last release in Whitlam all blocks sold in the first release. That was quite a promising result, and that was several weeks before the most recent stimulus announcements. We expect that there will be further take-up in further releases.

To respond to your immediate question, I understand—and Dr Brady will correct me if I am wrong—that, in terms of the current inventory on the shelf, there are in excess of 400 blocks available that are owned by the territory. The number is significantly more than that if you incorporate the private sector. There are in the order of 100 or 200 in Denman Prospect, so you are looking at around the 600 mark; 400 owned by the territory are sitting there and waiting to be sold. Of course, we have people out in the field constructing new areas—further stages of Whitlam et cetera. There are releases coming online. We certainly have a good inventory sitting on the shelf ready to go, which is a really good position to be in.

MRS DUNNE: Where is that inventory spread across? Is it mainly across Molonglo?

Mr Ponton: Could you repeat that question?

MRS DUNNE: Where is the inventory spread geographically? Is it mainly in Molonglo or are there—

Mr Ponton: In terms of the territory-owned land, the majority is in Gungahlin. There is some in Molonglo, but the majority is in suburbs such as Taylor and Throsby, I understand. We can talk to our colleagues in the Suburban Land Agency and get a list for you of blocks that are available and the pricing of those.

MRS DUNNE: That would be great. You spoke about Whitlam. I know that the land in Whitlam has been sold, but how far off are we from turning the first sod for buildings there? There is a lot of infrastructure that is still going in in Whitlam.

Mr Ponton: Again, I would need to get that from our colleagues in the Suburban Land Agency.

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

There are 359 single residential blocks available over the counter as at 19 June 2020 with the majority of these blocks available in the suburb of Taylor.

Further information about the blocks and prices can be found on the Suburban Land Agency website. An interactive map containing details of the blocks can be accessed through the below link: [https://suburbanland.act.gov.au/developments/?location\[\]=6&land_type=Residential&availability\[\]=1](https://suburbanland.act.gov.au/developments/?location[]=6&land_type=Residential&availability[]=1)

A block list for each suburb is also available from the SLA website:

Taylor	https://suburbanland.act.gov.au/uploads/ckfinder/files/pdf/2_Residential/Taylor/OTC-Blocks/OTC%20Block%20List%2019%20June%202020.pdf
Throsby	https://suburbanland.act.gov.au/uploads/ckfinder/files/pdf/2_Residential/Throsby/2_%20FULL%20LIST%20Throsby%20OTC%20Block%20List%20-%20Put%20and%20Call%20Options%2017_6_20.pdf
Wright/Coombs	https://suburbanland.act.gov.au/uploads/ckfinder/files/pdf/2_Residential/Molonglo_Valley/OTC/OTC%20Wright%20Coombs%20Land%20Sales%20Table_Put%20and%20Call%20Options%2019_6_20.pdf

Following the release of the Whitlam Display Village and the first 80 blocks to the community, the first construction of homes is expected to commence in March/April 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic response	
Signature:	Date: 29/6/2020
	
By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA	