



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Planning Bill 2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 7 December 2022

In relation to: Consultation on the Planning Bill

- (1) Evidence was given that those who submitted on the Planning Bill were not emailed afterwards and provided with a copy of the Consultation Report. Is this correct and if so, why?
- (2) Many submitters said that they made comments during the government consultation but their views were not properly considered. In the Consultation Report, many issues were simply listed as 'noted' or 'not agreed / outside of scope'. Reasons were not given as to why they were not incorporated or rejected.

For instance, the Environmental Defenders Office said that of the 35 recommendations they made on the Exposure Draft, only 2 were incorporated in the tabled Planning Bill and detailed reasons were not given as to why.

- (3) Why weren't detailed reasons given where recommendations were rejected?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1) Yes, this is correct. The Consultation Report was not emailed to those who made submissions, but uploaded and made publicly available on the YourSay website at: [Planning Bill 2022 | ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project | YourSay ACT](#). YourSay is the ACT Government's platform for efficient, two-way consultation, which in this case, with 329 submissions, eliminated the need to email individual copies of the report.
- 2) The comment is acknowledged. Care was taken to incorporate all relevant recommendations and comments where appropriate. Several submissions provided recommendations that were outside the scope of this project.
- 3) All 'Recommendations' within the 329 submissions were considered in detail. None were 'rejected'. They were grouped by theme and appropriately responded to in the following categories to reflect the Government's position:

- Agreed – change made to Bill (this is self-explanatory – the comment is agreed, and a change has been made as a result of feedback);
- Agreed in principle – change made to Bill (this is where the principle of the feedback is agreed and that an amendment to something potentially already in the Bill has been made or that a change that is considered to retain the core principles of the Bill but also capture the principle of the feedback is made);
- Agreed in principle – no change required (this is where it is considered that the principle of the comments might already be reflected in the Bill or that elements of the comments might be agreed but it is considered no change is required to the Bill);
- Not agreed / outside of scope (this is where the comments are not agreed and not considered to align with the purpose, principles and role of the Bill and therefore outside scope of the Bill);
- Noted (this is where comments are neither agreed or not agreed; comments might relate to matters that are not relevant to the Bill or the scope of this project and therefore noted or acknowledged); and
- Noted – passed on to the relevant team/agency (this is where comments are those as described above but where it is considered the comments are not within the scope of the project and can be directed to a relevant team of the directorate, or government for information in the work that the comment might be more relevant to).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 20/12/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA