



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 6 December 2023

In relation to: Signs controls in new Planning System

Canberra has historically restricted billboards and other public space advertising. The Signs General Code sets limits on what advertising could occur. The Signs General Code has been incorporated into the various district and zones policies of the new Territory Plan 2023 and associated documentation including technical specifications. It is not clear that the new provisions will adequately allow adequate control of advertising.

What action does the Minister intend to take to strengthen the controls over advertising so that public space is clearly delineated for the public?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Under the interim Territory Plan, all development must demonstrate how it meets the assessment requirements of the Zone Policies. The specific public space and amenity assessment requirement in the zone policies for signage is: *Any advertising or signs are suitable for their context and do not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area (for instance due to size or light emission).*


In demonstrating compliance with this assessment outcome, the technical specifications may serve as a benchmark. The technical specifications for commercial and industrial zones provide a table that outlines benchmarks for content control, building locational requirements for principal, second party and third-party advertising signage as well as size requirements for signs. These are identical to what was in the signs general code of the previous Territory Plan 2008.

The technical specifications for all other zones provide guidance on limits on quantity, height, setback and size of signs, with no illuminated or third-party advertising permitted.

Additionally, under the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013*, approval is required to place a sign, including movable signs on public unleased land. Unleased public land includes designated public roads.

The interim Territory Plan provides provisions to control advertising in the public realm.

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

Signature: 

Date: 20/12/23

By the Minister for Planning, Mr Chris Steel MLA