



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Environment, Parks and Land Management

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 46-47]

In relation to: Bluett's Block 402 ecological conditions and LMA

Hearing Date: 31/07/2024

QTON lodgement date: 31/07/2024

Answer Due Date: 06/08/2024

MS CLAY: That would be great. I will tell you the information, take it on notice, and then we have got the Planning Minister on Monday so it is completely acceptable to come back and say, "You need to ask the Planning Minister". Are there any conditions attached to the lease? Is there a land management agreement for conservation values and if any of these things apply, do you have confidence? Do you have any information on whether those values are being implemented? Are you able to take that on notice for me?

Mr Burkevics: Absolutely, and I have asked the question whether there is an LMA just to confirm, so I should be able to that information back shortly.

Ms Vassarotti: And that does fit appropriately with us because LMA is an agreement with the Conservator.

Mr Burkevics: Absolutely. Ms Clay, colleagues have just advised me that block 402 does form part of the Molonglo National Environment Significant Plan, so there is likely to be ecological conditions on block 402 that need to be upheld, so that may be information you are looking for.

MS CLAY: That would be great too, yes, if you could come back with that.

Mr Burkevics: I will take that on notice, yes. We will wrap it up as one.

MS CLAY: Thank you. Thank you, chair.

Minister Vassarotti MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Land Management Agreement on Block 402

There is a Land Management Agreement on block 402 (Spring Valley Farm) and it requires protection of various ecological values.

It has specific management objectives to maintain values including Matters of National Environmental Significance, including:

- Efforts will be made to ensure that regeneration occurs and that some of the young tree stock is able to survive to replace older trees.
- No rock or standing or fallen timber, whether living or dead, will be removed from any areas of Block 402 and any other areas that support, Box-Gum Woodland, Natural Temperate Grassland or known Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat (PTWL).
- In known or possible PTWL habitat:
 - Stock will not be permitted to congregate.
 - Vehicles will not be driven rocks will not be disturbed or removed.
- Nutrients will not be added, and soil will not be cultivated, in areas containing endangered ecological communities or areas with a high or very high conservation value (i.e. no nutrients is to be added on Block 402).

Ecological Values on Block 402

Block 402 contains Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment NES Plan patches I, L, M, with remnant Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland, Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) habitat and Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) and Swift Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) habitat trees.

Vegetation and PTWL habitat condition monitoring is undertaken in Block 402 as per the ACT Government's commitments under the Molonglo NES Plan. Ecological condition within the block has either been maintained or slightly improved (since 2013), noting there are emerging issues at the site including the proliferation of invasive weeds. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is working with the licensee to address these issues.

Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland

This vegetation community is listed as a Critically Endangered ecological community under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* and Endangered under the *ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014 (NC Act)*. The strategic assessment identified 45.5 hectares of remnant 'White box - yellow box - Blakely's red gum grassy woodlands and derived native grasslands' (Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland) across Stromlo Block 403 (NES Patch P) and the assessed part of Block 402 (NES Patches I, L, M).

Pink-tailed Worm-lizard

The Molonglo strategic assessment identified moderate and high-quality Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) habitat patches across Stromlo Blocks 403, 402 and Denman Prospect Block 12. This species is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and NC Act.

Threatened birds

The NES plan identified that remnant Box-Gum Woodland on Stromlo Block 403, 402 provides suitable and potential habitat for the Superb Parrots (*Polytelis swainsonii*) and Swift Parrots (*Lathamus discolor*).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 6/8/2024

By the Minister for the Environment, Parks and Land Management, Rebecca Vassarotti