



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 ON NOTICE

Asked by: Mr Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Redirection:

Reference: Housing and Suburban Development

Hearing Date: 26/07/2024

In relation to: Community Services Directorate and Purchase of land by Housing ACT

Question Lodgement Date: 31/07/2024

Date Answer Due: 08/08/2024

You have said in the past that the purchase of land had been deferred for 'budgetary reasons'. This has affected the capacity of Housing ACT to deliver homes for vulnerable Canberrans. In recent questions to the Chief Minister as to why Housing ACT pays full market value for the land, as opposed to a below market rate, the Chief Minister made reference to the capacity of Housing ACT to build properties and said that this is the primary reason Housing ACT turns down properties, not because of 'budgetary reasons'.

What is the reason why Housing ACT is unable to purchase the land made available at market value, is it a budgetary question or one of capacity?

Yvette Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

To date and as of 30 June 2024, Housing ACT have accepted and purchased 92 percent of land offers from the land release program (268 of 290). Several factors are considered at the time land is 'build ready' and offered to Housing ACT; these include site characteristics that may lead to increased construction costs or reduced dwelling amenity and the preferences and needs of tenants.

Of those land offers not accepted, all have been offset through alternative acquisitions to ensure Public Housing targets are fulfilled.

Housing ACT remain committed to fulfilling its Public Housing targets through new land purchases and works closely with the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) in determining suitable sites to achieve the Public Housing targets in new land releases.

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

Signature:

Date:

7/08/24

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Ms Yvette Berry