



# 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: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning

Redirection:

Reference: Planning

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

In relation to: Chief Planner

Question Lodgement Date: 06/08/2024

Date Answer Due: 08/08/2024

Minister, you have appointed Mr Cilliers as the ACT Chief Planner. There is no information on the planning website as to who the Chief Planner is. When will you update this? Is anyone backfilling Mr Cilliers position or is he doing both jobs?

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

- On 1 July 2024, Mr Cilliers was appointed as the ACT Chief Planner, under section 26 of the *Planning Act 2023*, until 31 December 2024.
- This appointment took effect under notifiable instrument NI2024-337 which is published on the Legislation Register at <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2024-337/>.
- This appointment was undertaken as a response to recommendations made in the *ACT Planning System Governance Review: Final Report, 2024* (the Final Report).
- The Final Report was part of a review to make sure that the governance arrangements are best practice and fit for purpose for the new planning system.
- Amongst other things, recommendations in the Final Report suggested that the role of Chief Planner should be separated from the responsibilities of the Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), which would deliver a better governance arrangement.
- The intention of this appointment was to adopt an immediate interim arrangement pending a long-term arrangement.
- The roles of the Chief Planner are in addition, and complimentary, to Mr Cilliers' statutory role as Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning Division, EPSDD.
- Arrangements to backfill and support some of the functions associated with Mr Cilliers' role, where required, is currently underway within EPSDD.

- The full Final Report outlining all recommendations is available at [https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/2464871/ACT-Planning-System-Governance-Review-Final-Report.PDF](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/2464871/ACT-Planning-System-Governance-Review-Final-Report.PDF).
- Updates relating to addressing recommendations from the Final Report, including a link to NI2024-337, are available on EPSDD's website at <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/professionals/our-planning-system/about-the-planning-system/accordion-content/planning-governance-review-implementation-plan>.

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

Signature:



Date:

8/8/24

By the Minister for Planning, Chris Steel MLA