



Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

Redirected to:

In relation to: Reason for withdrawal of briefing on Block 1 Section 121

Hearing: 2/10/2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 13-14

Transcript provided: 8/10/2025

Answer Due: 15/10/2025

ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

UPT pp 13-14

MS CASTLEY: Thank you. Chief Minister, do you recall receiving a ministerial briefing from the CEO of the City Renewal Authority and the Under Treasurer on 24 October 2024 in relation to the CRA finalising a significant contract for block 1, section 121 which is the northwest cloverleaf?

Mr Barr: Yes, yes, that process commenced prior to caretaker. It was part of a budget and a land release program. Obviously, the sale is independent of ministerial engagement and they were simply briefing me on the outcome of that process.

MS CASTLEY: So that was your recollection that the main point was just to let you know where that was up to?

Mr Barr: Yes, certainly not for a decision from me, just simply—and the decision to release the land occurred prior to the caretaker period.

MS CASTLEY: So it says that the critical reason for the brief was to advise you that the City Renewal Authority is finalising a significant contract for the sale of that block. Do you agree that that is what the briefing was about?

Mr Barr: Yes, that sounds correct. We, in the indicative land release program, as part

of the budget, indicated that that block was for sale. It was, as I recall, by a public auction process, I believe, and they would have been advising me of the conclusion of that process.

MS CASTLEY: So just before you received the briefing, there is also an email chain from a Directorate Liaison Officer in EPSDD on 8 October 2024 where they appeared to have saved a briefing for review which was to advise the Leader of the Opposition on the same contract finalisation with a critical date of 10 October 2024. Was the Leader of the Opposition meant to be briefed on this contract?

Mr Barr: I do not know. I am not sure in relation to the timing of the conclusion of that process. The CRA may well have sought extra time to conclude that. I will need to take that on notice and seek some advice from them. But to be clear, no minister and no minister's office is involved in the sale of land in that regard.

MS CASTLEY: So an email sent later on 8 October indicates that the CRA requested then to withdraw the briefing pack to the Leader of the Opposition and that they would consider resubmitting it after election. Why did the CRA withdraw the briefing?

Mr Barr: I will need to take that on notice and seek advice from the CRA.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

It became apparent to the City Renewal Authority that the sale of Block 1 Section 121 would not proceed as quickly as expected due to ongoing coordination and finalisation of key sales contract documents with the buyer. The final sale occurred following the election and appointment of the incoming Government. It then became routine business of the City Renewal Authority, under the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (CRASLA) Act. The City Renewal Authority information brief was drafted on the earlier expectation of timing and was withdrawn as the sale had not finalised. It was resubmitted once the sale finalised.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

Signature: 

Date: **15.10.25**

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA