



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

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

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 7 December 2023: Mr Ponton took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 7 December 2023, page 115

In relation to: Landscape architects

Mr Ponton: If I could add because you did reference the directorate. We also have a number of landscape architects who work in the Territory Plan Authority and in terms of the stage process that Mr Cilliers was talking about, he referred to an advisory panel internal. That is internal to government. It includes other parts of government including the conservative's representative and we have a separate landscape advisory panel specifically with those experts who provide landscape advice.

THE CHAIR: Can you take on notice how many FTE landscape architects you have doing that, and I am going to hand over to my colleague Suzanne.

MS ORR: I have a supplementary on this. Mr Ponton, I appreciate you have gone through that explaining how you get all this good advice on landscape architects, but I put it to you you have got a chief planner, you have got a government architect, you have got a government engineer. When you start looking at the professions of the building environment it does sort of stick out that the landscape architects do not, you know, have a similar role, you know, if I can be a little bit bold. Do we not like them?

Mr Ponton: No, no. Not at all. I mean, I see the landscape architects in terms of the design viewpoint, for example, that the government architect—I mean, it is a bit like planning. Planning considers a whole range of things. Architecture is not just about how the building looks. Architecture considers all of those considerations and the space around the buildings. So it is in input into that design process.

So from my perspective, I think having a highly qualified government architect chairing the panel, who brings in that various expertise as needed, serves us well. And, as I said, we have made sure that we have a range of different skill sets. And in taking that question on notice, Ms Clay, I point out that it is not just those employed within Mr Cilliers team, we can draw on others across government. That is why I refer to the panel.

So we will need to look at how many people are actually involved in that work. And it may not be fulltime. It may actually be drawn into the panel, depending on the skillset that we need.

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

EPSDD does not maintain a central register of employee qualifications that can be directly correlated with their full-time equivalent (FTE) status. Additionally, our role titles and team descriptors do not necessarily reflect the specific qualifications held by each employee. This means, without significant resource impact, we are unable to provide a total number of employees for the Directorate with landscape architecture qualifications.

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

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Planning, Mr Chris Steel MLA