



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: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Pages 32-33]

In relation to: Resolution of issues relating to Majura Valley Farmers

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

QTON lodgement date: 05/08/2024

Answer Due Date: 08/08/2024

MR CAIN: Minister, I note Senator Gallagher has been quoted as saying, "Mr Barr needs to get on and resolve the Majura Valley land saga". Why has not your government responded to those landholders in a timely manner and why are you not listening to your own federal Labor senator?

Mr Steel: Well, we have been engaged directly with defence and it was—this has been going for some years, Mr Cain and we certainly did not get any traction under the old coalition government in relation to this, but we have—

MR CAIN: So you disagree with your Labor senator?

Mr Steel: No, no. We have actually got traction under the federal Labor government and particularly—

MR CAIN: So why would she say what she says—

THE CHAIR: Just wait, Mr Cain.

Mr Steel: If I can just provide an answer, Mr Cain. So we have been working closely of course with Minister Gallagher but also some of the relevant defence ministers and assistant ministers to progress and we have got to a point where we have actually commenced negotiations in March in relation to resolving these split block issues.

MR CAIN: So why would Senator Gallagher be critical of the process?

Mr Steel: Well because as part of the negotiation, of course the ball is going to be in the commonwealth's court during one part of that negotiation and then of course—

MR CAIN: Not according to Senator Gallagher.

THE CHAIR: Just wait.

Mr Steel: If you do not want to hear the answer, Mr Cain—

MR CAIN: Well you are not answering my question.

Mr Steel: Well, I am actually providing the answer to your question. So if you just listen. As part of—

MR CAIN: I beg your pardon.

Mr Steel: As part of that negotiation—

THE CHAIR: Our time is at an end. It is already one minute past our close time.

Mr Steel: Can I take that on notice, Ms Lawder?

MINISTER STEEL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government have been, and are, actively negotiating with the Commonwealth to resolve the land tenure issues in the Majura Valley. This is a priority for the ACT Government.

Following the Commonwealth Minister for Finance's (Senator the Hon Katy Gallaher) in-principle agreement to divest surplus land at Majura, the ACT Government has been negotiating with the Commonwealth Department of Defence to finalise the formal agreement for the de-gazettal of National land. The very nature of a negotiation, which is the process of coming to an agreement on a set of legally binding terms, means that at varying points the ball will be in the court of the ACT Government and at other times, the Commonwealth.

The ACT Government have, and will, continue to communicate with the split block land holders to provide updates in a timely manner, through letters, phone calls, emails and meetings with the land holders and their representatives.

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

Signature:



Date:

7/9/24

By the Minister for Planning, Chris Steel MLA