



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Clay, Jo MLA

Addressed to: Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

In relation to: Publication status of the offsets policy review and associated documents, and what can be released.

Hearing: **14 February 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **14/02/2025 pp 56-57.**

Transcript provided: **19 February 2025**

Answer Due: **26 February 2025**

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: I deeply share your hopes that it is a mere delay. Have you tabled the review that you have done? Can we have that tabled?

Ms Orr: I think it is – Ms Clay, when you use the word that it has been done, I think it is still part of an ongoing process. So until the whole consideration is complete, I think it would be a little bit odd to start tabling documents, or a component of it. But Mr Rutledge, who was nodding away when I was talking, might have something to add.

Mr Rutledge: Yes, I do not think anything further – I will take on notice the status the publication status. But as I say, I do not think, if you are looking for the – I suppose, a new policy, that will not be revealed. What we would have is the consultant's report that we did, which was actually – I say consultant, that was the university that did it. So that is – so I will just have a – I will remind myself whether or not we have published that. And if we have not, we will consider whether we publish it. But it would – we would be taking that alongside a new offset policy for government consideration, so I will just weigh that up as well, Ms Clay.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Happy to have that on notice. And you noted that the offsets policy – the work conducted on offsets was looking at governance. What insights did the review provide about making offset decisions part of the planning portfolio rather than part of the environmental nature portfolio.

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Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The 2023 independent review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy has informed ongoing work to improve the ACT Government's policy, planning and delivery arrangements for offsets.

The content and recommendations of this document remain under active consideration by the government in guiding future bodies of work.

As an internal document, the government has no plans at this time to release the document to the public.

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

Signature:

By Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date:

25/02/25