



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Work Health and Safety Commissioner

Redirected to:

Reference: 2026-27 Budget Estimates

Hearing: 29 July 2026

In relation to: Geocon 220 Northbourne Ave Project

Question received: 30/07/2026

Answer Due: 13/08/2026

During estimates hearings, Mr Smith stated the last complaint received regarding the issue of rocks flying over the fence of the building site at 220 Northbourne was received on 17 June 2026. I understand email correspondence was sent to WorkSafe on 26 June detailing additional incidents.

(1) Can you please clarify if this was received by WorkSafe?

(a) If so, was any action taken after receipt of this email?

Mr Smith also outlined that in response to a complaint made about trucks blocking access on Lowanna St, one inspection was completed but no breach of the temporary traffic management plan was found.

(1) Is one site visit standard protocol when investigating a complaint?

Jacqueline Agius: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Excavation works

(1) At the time of the hearing WorkSafe ACT had four (4) public complaints recorded in its case management system (Salesforce) regarding the Geocon site at 220 Northbourne Avenue, they were:

- **30 April 2026** - Rocks ejected from excavation into neighbouring property and a broken window.
- **8 May 2026** - Rocks ejected from excavation into neighbouring property.
- **17 June 2026** - Unsafe work practices and rocks ejected from excavation into neighbouring property.
- **5 July 2026** - Traffic management.

On 25 June 2026, the WorkSafe ACT Inspector who attended the 220 Northbourne site emailed Strata Management for the neighbouring property and advised that the case had been finalised and formally closed.

WorkSafe ACT confirms that on 26 June 2026 a member of the neighbouring property's Owners Corporation Executive Committee emailed the responsible WorkSafe ACT Inspector in response to the 25 June 2026 email and provided further information regarding ongoing issues. The additional information included a statement that they had *"continued to observe additional rocks on our property, particularly on the stairs, which appear to be consistent with the material being excavated and broken up on the adjoining construction site"*.

At the estimates hearing, Mr Smith inadvertently overlooked the 26 June 2026 email and the clarification of previous concerns set out in this correspondence.

WorkSafe ACT Inspectors attended the Geocon worksite at 220 Northbourne on 7 August 2026 and observed that:

- the excavation work that led to the complaints of 30 April 2026, 8 May 2026, 17 June 2026, and 26 June 2026 had been completed;
- excavation work is now occurring central to the site and at a greater depth meaning the risk of rocks being ejected from this process is greatly reduced;
- the carpark and stairs of the neighbouring property were inspected and no rocks or dirt from excavation works was observed in these areas

Traffic management

- (2) There is no standard protocol or set number of inspections (workplace visits) WorkSafe ACT will conduct following receipt of a public complaint or notification of an incident. The need for multiple workplace visits is usually dictated by the nature of the hazards and the level of risk observed by WorkSafe ACT Inspectors at the time of the visit.

It is not unusual for inspectors to carry out a single visit at a workplace for their enquiries in response to a complaint, however if follow up work or more detailed investigation is required, then repeat visits may be undertaken.

Where WorkSafe ACT Inspectors are satisfied that the person conducting a business or undertaking has safe systems of work in place, and they are being followed, one workplace visit may be sufficient.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates



Signature:

Date: 10 August 2026

By the Commissioner for Work Health and Safety, Jacqueline Agius