



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
19 October 2021

Asked by Peter Cain MLA on 19 October 2021: Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 October 2021, Pages 8-9]

In relation to: The Environment Protection Guidelines for Construction and Land Development in the ACT

MR CAIN: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Minister, I have got a question regarding the environment protection guidelines for construction and land development in the ACT. I have a copy in front of me here, a draft version of that document, dated October 2019.

Minister, is that document still in draft?

Ms Cheyne: Yes, I am just pulling it myself, Mr Cain. I will just check with Ms Bayer, if she has a further update for us.

MR CAIN: I am sorry that is not the higher document on your radar, minister, it received very significant contributions.

THE CHAIR: Mr Cain, the minister is just looking for the document.

MR CAIN: Thank you.

Unidentified Speaker: Have we found it?

MR CAIN: It is a document on the government's website. And it is an EPA document.

Ms Cheyne: Mr Cain, could you state the title of it again for us please?

MR CAIN: The document I am looking at is called, Draft environment protection guidelines for construction and land development in the ACT.

I am obviously very interested in what has happened to that draft, which is under the EPA's purview.

Unidentified Speaker: Have you found it?

MR CAIN: I have certainly found it.

Ms Cheyne: I do not have the draft in front of me, Mr Cain. I have the previous confirmed document—

Mr Pryce: March 2011.

Ms Cheyne: 2011.

MR CAIN: Well I have a 2019 document in front of me. I just did a simple Google search. October 2019.

Mr Pryce: We might have to take it on notice if you cannot find it.

Ms Cheyne: Yes, we will have to take it on notice, Mr Cain.

MR CAIN: Thank you. And some other questions regarding that document, please take on notice as well.

Unidentified Speaker: Are you sure it is EPSTD?

MR CAIN: October 2019, it is—

Unidentified Speaker: Are you sure, because I am about to text David.

MR CAIN: Okay. Well I will let you do that.

But also, other questions are one, what is the plan for this draft document? When will it be completed? And once it is completed, will it be publicly available?

Ms Cheyne: Okay.

Mr Cain, I am just confirming, but I think this might have been being drafted within EPSDD with the Minister for Environment. So I will just take that on notice so that we can consult with the Minister for Environment and confirm.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, minister.

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

I refer to my response on pages 26 and 27 of the proof transcript for this hearing:

Ms Cheyne: Minister Vassarotti's office has just confirmed with me that this does sit with her responsibilities. Again, environmental protection policy, which can then apply to how the EPA does its job, sits with Minister Vassarotti. You might say it has been created within the EPA; it can apply to the EPA but be created within a different portfolio. The EPA does not sit within the EPSDD, as we have discussed today; it sits within Access Canberra. I have just confirmed for you unequivocally that these questions are best directed to Minister Vassarotti, who I understand will be appearing later this week.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 28/10/21

By the Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Tara Cheyne MLA