



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 1 September 2022:** Dr Erin Brady took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Uncorrected Proof Transcript Hansard Transcript 01 September 2022 Page 86/87

In relation to:

**MR CAIN:** Thank you, Chair.

So one of the recommendations contained in the Part A, Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment, was regarding unexploded ordnance and exploded ordnance waste. And it says the status and the management of this should be made a priority. What has been the progress on ascertaining the status of this unexploded ordnance and exploded ordnance waste since this report in November 2020?

**Mr Gentleman:** Thanks, Mr Cain.

Yes, we usually work with Defence to understand whether there has been some sites that they have previously used for the burial of ordnance. But I will ask our directorate officials to give you the detail about those.

**Dr Brady:** I think I would have to take that question on notice. Just to check the status of the follow up work on it.

**Mr Ponton:** And to clear, Mr Cain, that is relation to western edge, not eastern broadacre, okay. Yes?

**MR CAIN:** Sorry, could you speak up, Mr Ponton?

**Mr Ponton:** Just to clarify, that is in relation to the western edge?

**MR CAIN:** Yes.

**Mr Ponton:** Yes.

**MR CAIN:** Yes, the western edge investigation.

**Mr Ponton:** Thank you.

**MR CAIN:** So yes, I would like a status update and management plan if there indeed is any risk of these ordnances.

**Mr Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –**

The [Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment of the Western Edge Study Area, ACT](#) (Contamination Assessment) completed in November 2020, considers Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) including unexploded ordnance (UXO) and exploded ordnance waste (EOW).

The report recommended that in relation to development – *“Once development areas have been identified, this should be used to drive staged investigations of the AECs.”* This is not an uncommon recommendation at this early stage of investigations. If proposed land use change is identified for this area, then further detailed investigations of those areas of proposed change will be undertaken at that time. Sites within the Molonglo Valley District closer to the former field firing range have already been cleared as not containing UXO/EOWs, which may indicate the low likelihood of this being found in the Western Edge investigation area.

Currently the Western Edge Investigations are not yet at the stage of identifying potential development areas to inform further, more detailed, investigations of AEC including UXO and EOW.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

17/9/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA