



# 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 ON NOTICE

Asked By: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business

Redirection: Minister for Planning

Reference: Planning

Hearing Date: 5 August 2024, 9.00am to 10.30am

In relation to: Majura Valley

QON lodgement Date: 01/08/2024

Answer Due date: 08/08/24

In regard to management of the Majura Valley Farmers leases and decisions around renewal of the leases.

- 1) Why was there no correspondence between the Majura Valley Chair or Vice Chair until 24th June 2024 informing the Chair that there needed to be "Community consultation and East Broadacre Study completed first"?
- 2) Will the Minister commit for a clear outcome regarding the 25 year leases which were offered to farmers in the Majura Valley in July 2022?
- 3) When will a lease renewal decision by Government be decided and confirmed and will the additional leases with withdrawal clauses over them be decided at the same time?
- 4) How will the Minister inform the farmers of the Government's decision and how soon can they expect to be contacted by Government?

**Chris Steel MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) Why was there no correspondence between the Majura Valley Chair or Vice Chair until 24th June 2024 informing the Chair that there needed to be "Community consultation and East Broadacre Study completed first"?

The ACT Government wrote to the land occupiers in June 2024, following receipt of a letter from the Commonwealth Finance Minister in March 2024, confirming in-principle agreement to commence negotiations. In this correspondence there is no reference on the need to complete the community consultation on the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment first.

Both the ACT Government's negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Defence on national land transfer, and the finalisation the of Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment with the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water are running concurrently, but the timing of the community consultation of the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment is not reliant on resolution of land transfer negotiations or vice versa.

- 2) Will the Minister commit for a clear outcome regarding the 25 year leases which were offered to farmers in the Majura Valley in July 2022?

The ACT Government is committed to providing certainty of land tenure on the Majura Valley split blocks.

- 3) When will a lease renewal decision by Government be decided and confirmed and will the additional leases with withdrawal clauses over them be decided at the same time?

The Government will soon decide the future land tenure arrangements of the Majura Valley split blocks. This is of course subject to the ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth with respect to the transfer of the National land portion of the split blocks from the Commonwealth to the Territory.

- 4) How will the Minister inform the farmers of the Government's decision and how soon can they expect to be contacted by Government?

The ACT Government will provide further advice, in writing, to Majura Valley landholders in the coming weeks.

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

Signature:



Date:

7/8/24

By the Minister for Planning, Chris Steel MLA