

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Planning
Minister for Skills and Training
Minister for Transport
Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Questions on Notice Paper No 39
9 February 2024
Question No. 1579

MR CAIN MLA - To ask the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What investigations are currently underway as part of the Western Edge Investigation.
- (2) What is the total (a) cost so far for the Western Edge Investigation and (b) amount budgeted for the completion of the Western Edge Investigation.
- (3) How many more years is the Western Edge Investigation expected to take until completion.
- (4) How many hectares, of the 9,800 hectares-Western Edge Investigation Area, have been identified as containing biodiversity and ecological value.
- (5) How many houses or residents would the Western Edge Investigation Area be capable of homing according to Investigation studies so far.

MR STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The current studies underway for the Western Edge Investigation Area include:
 - Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment;
 - Plant Community Type Mapping; and
 - Scoping next steps to the Capability and Suitability Assessment.
- (2)
 - (a) Funding to date for the Western Edge Investigation Area has comprised \$0.650 million in financial year 2019-20, \$0.500 million in financial year 2020-21 and \$0.200 million in financial year 2023-24.
 - (b) There is no budget allocated beyond the current financial year.



- (3) Estimated timeframes for completion cannot be determined at this stage.
- (4) The exact areas have not been determined. The ACT Government has completed a range of preliminary background investigations. These investigations have provided an initial understanding of the values of the area. A number of these assessments indicated further investigation is required.
- (5) Investigations have not progressed to structure/concept planning to identify how many houses or residents could be accommodated within the Western Edge Investigation Area.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Planning

Date:..... 27/2/24 **.....**

This response required 3hrs 30mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$293.71.