



# 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

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Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning

Redirection:

Reference: Planning

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

In relation to: Bluetts Block Declaration as Nature Reserve

Question Lodgement Date: 06/08/2024

Date Answer Due: 08/08/2024

In yesterday's hearings there was discussion about establishing a nature reserve on Blocks 403, 402 and part Block 12 as part of Bluetts Block. The Planning Authority is considering advice from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna on the ecological values of Bluetts Block prior to making a decision on the land being designated as a nature reserve. Block 403 and part Block 12 are unleased Territory land. Block 402 is under a short-term Crown lease to the ANU.

1. Does the fact that there is a Crown lease over Block 402 provide any impediments to declaring a nature reserve over the land?
2. What would be the process for declaring Block 402 as a nature reserve?
3. Would it be necessary to extinguish the Crown lease over Block 402 to achieve this?
4. Are there any areas in Canberra that have nature reserve protection that are under Crown lease?

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

1. No. Nature reserve overlays can extend over leased and unleased land.
2. As Block 402 has a future urban area overlay over it under the Territory Plan, a minor amendment process can be used to apply a nature reserve overlay over the block. This is because the change is consistent with the principles and policies within the Molonglo District Strategy.
3. No.
4. Yes.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Steel', written over a set of horizontal lines.

Date:

A handwritten date '8/8/24' in blue ink, written over a set of horizontal lines.

By the Minister for Planning, Chris Steel MLA