



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Heritage

Reference: CED

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Griffith Oval Heritage

Question received: 20 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

(1) A community member has reported that the white picket fence around Griffith Oval was recently taken down without notice, despite the fence being mentioned in the Oval's heritage listing. They were then told that the Heritage Council was unaware of this change, and that City Services had taken the fence down without their knowledge. Can you confirm the validity of this account.

(2) What processes are currently in place to ensure that heritage objectives are aligned with the work of City Services.

(3) When will a new fence be installed in line with any heritage requirements for the site.

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

1. The white picket fence around Griffith Oval is located within the registered heritage place 'Griffith Oval No.1' and therefore subject to the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2004*. On 1 October 2025, the City and Environment Directorate (CED) was advised by the Chair of the Inner South Canberra Community Council that the white picket fence around Griffith Oval has been removed. Subsequent inquiries have identified that the fence was removed by CED and without consultation of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).
2. Obtaining the necessary approvals of the Council is the responsibility of the owners or property managers of places or objects listed on the Heritage Register. The responsible area within CED will review their internal processes to ensure that heritage, or any other statutory approvals, are obtained before works commencement.
3. ACT Heritage on behalf of the Council has requested the Sports and Recreation Facilities unit submit the details of the fence's removal, and any future proposed works in relation to the fence. Upon receipt of this information, formal Heritage Council advice will be issued in

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relation to the matter and any action required to ensure that the significance of Griffith Oval No. 1 is retained.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Steel', written over a light blue grid background.

Date:

2 / 12 / 25

By the Minister for Heritage, Mr Chris Steel MLA