



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES  
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**25 February 2021**

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Asked by MS CLAY:

In relation to: Unsold former “Mr Fluffy” blocks

**THE CHAIR:** We have got quite a lot of remediated blocks that are remediated but unsold. There are a few scattered around Belconnen actually. I think they are probably all around Canberra. The annual report specifies how many of these blocks have been remediated and sold. But it does not actually tell us how many vacant Fluffy blocks there are that are unsold. I am wondering if you have got that information, and if there are any intentions for long-term, unsold blocks?

**Ms Vassarotti:** Sure. Thank you very much for the question. As you know, we have been working over a number of years, since 2014 when the scheme opened. And we have, sort of, made quite significant progress. In relation to the scheme, in relation to that specific question, I will hand over to Mr Fitzgerald, then we can run through the specific numbers.

**THE CHAIR:** Yes, that would be great.

**Mr Fitzgerald:** Bruce Fitzgerald, executive group manager, development and implementation, and I acknowledge the privilege statement. At this stage, we have got two blocks that are unsold. So they have been through the remediation process and are waiting a sales process. Some of those blocks that you refer to are waiting on development applications. They have been sold to the private sector. We are now waiting for the development to commence.

**THE CHAIR:** Yes.

**Mr Fitzgerald:** We do not have a number on how many vacant blocks exist.

**THE CHAIR:** Yes.

**Mr Fitzgerald:** It could be something that—we can take that on notice and see if we can get the data.



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 5

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES  
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

**MINISTER VASSAROTTI:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Properties acquired by the Territory under the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme (Scheme) are demolished, remediated and, for affected properties, removed from the Affected Residential Premises Register. Remediated blocks are then offered for sale in the following order:

1. to the former owner who reserved their First Right of Refusal (FROR)<sup>1</sup>.
2. to government agencies
3. to the general public through a competitive process

As at 28 February 2021, there are 21 Territory-owned remediated vacant blocks at various stages of the sales process:

- One has a live FROR offer to the former owner
- Seven are reserved for asset transfer to Housing ACT
- Seven are exchanged to private purchasers with future settlement dates
- Six are available for public sale with auction event planning underway

Additionally, the rebuild of three Territory-owned units in a Unit Complex<sup>2</sup> is underway with the development to be completed prior to them being offered for public sale.

Rebuild activity, whether by a former owner or a new owner, is subject to the standard ACT development and building approval processes. It is the responsibility of the new owner to seek the required approvals and redevelop on the block within the relevant timeframes. Since commencement of the Scheme in 2014 and as at 28 February 2021, there has been 941 remediated blocks sold (settled) by the Asbestos Response Taskforce. It is not possible for the Taskforce to determine how many of those blocks sold have yet to commence construction.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Signature:

Date: 2 March 2021

By the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

<sup>1</sup> FROR is not available to the former homeowner of an affected or impacted property in a Units Plan.

<sup>2</sup> Ministerial consent was given in January 2019 to the rebuild of units demolished as part of the Scheme prior to them being offered for resale.