



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Jo Clay MLA on 31 October 2022: Dr Erin Brady took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 31 October 2022, PAGE 22-23

In relation to: Western Edge Lease Holders

THE CHAIR: Good result. Right, I will move onto the next substantive. Great. Minister, the Greens have asked a lot of questions about the western edge and various places like Bluett's Block—a spectacular area, Bluett's Block, there's actually a lot of really special and high value areas in there.

Now, last time I asked we understood from the update that there is land capability assessment underway and that those were fathering all the information together. I wanted to get an update on where that process is up to; where that data collection process and those land use assessments are up to.

Mr Gentleman: So western edge, as I have mentioned, comprises 9,800 hectares, and that includes the lands that you have talked about. It is bordered by Murrumbidgee River, Belconnen, Molonglo, Western Creek and Kambah, and of course we are doing that due diligence work to see what the land would be capable of and any environmental aspects of the land that need to be preserved as well. So with that I will ask directory officials to talk about what work has occurred so far and what we need to do to complete that.

Dr Brady: I think, Ms Clay, if you want me to go back over the list that we have done so far, but I think your question is focussed on where are we really now.

THE CHAIR: Just the update from the last time that we asked.

Dr Brady: Yes, so currently we are still doing that assessment so we are still taking the preliminary studies and we have embarked on a further ecological assessment and a bushfire assessment. So we are still working with that and we are still in the process of kind of combining all that information which will happen still for—it will be an ongoing thing over the next probably couple of years as we get more and more information and we can lay that together to start really seeing what are the areas where there might be critical environmental values or other constraints to what might be potential uses.

So we are still in the process of just continuing to do studies and continuing to sort of overlay all of that together to help us move toward identifying what might be possible uses, but we have really got to understand what the constraints and opportunities are for that still.

THE CHAIR: And how many private leaseholders do we have in those areas

Dr Brady: I think we have got at least two big areas I am aware of. I think we have done a question on notice previously that broke down the landholdings, but I might have to come back, take that as a question on notice to clarify where it is government and other holdings.

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

There are 16 unique private lessees within the Western Edge investigation area, this includes companies, trusts and not for profit organisations.

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

Signature:



Date: 7/11/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA