



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

### **Inquiry into Planning Bill 2022** **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 7 December 2022

In relation to: Definitions and training

- (1) A "good planning outcome" has a very broad umbrella definition in the Planning Bill. Many submitters have said this will require greater skill to decide and implement and more staff hours to do so. Many submitters have said that the public servants need to be as skilled and qualified as those who are submitting Development Applications and other documents. Value judgements will be increasingly made in an outcomes-focused planning system. Expertise will be required in a range of different areas, including architects, landscape architects, designers, planners and other fields.
  - a) Will the Bill require more skilled and subjective interpretation to implement?
  - b) Please outline the Full Time Equivalent (FTE), teams and their functions within the proposed Territory Planning Authority in relation to DA and planning decisions.
  - c) Please outline the hierarchies between the teams within the proposed Territory Planning Authority, and the accountability lines in place;
  - d) Please outline how many FTE staff members in each of the teams (including DA processing) within the proposed Territory Planning Authority;
  - e) Please outline the formal qualifications held by DA assessors now, and those in each of the teams within the proposed Territory Planning Authority.
  - f) Please outline the APS levels of DA assessors now, and those in each of the teams within the proposed Territory Planning Authority.
  - g) Please outline what additional resources in terms of FTE, APS levels and qualifications the Territory Planning Authority will receive in order to implement the new planning system.
  
- (2) How will ACT Government upskill and increase training for staff for an outcomes-focused planning system?

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

1) a) Yes.

c) Please refer to the organisation chart for the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate at Attachment A. There is no change proposed to the organisation structure as a result of the Planning Bill 2022, with the planning and land authority being renamed to the Territory Planning Authority .

b) and d) to g) Please refer to the answer to Question Taken on Notice No. PTCS 2 on 31 October 2022 to the Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022. There is no change proposed as a result of the Planning Bill 2022, with the planning and land authority being renamed to the Territory Planning Authority. As highlighted in this answer, staff at EPSDD and the Authority have both the skills and the qualifications to provide good planning advice.

2) The planning and land authority is currently developing a training package to assist its staff to undertake their duties in accordance with the requirements of the proposed new legislation, acknowledging the extensive range of skills, experience and qualifications that already exist within the organisation.

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

Signature:



Date: 20/12/2022

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