



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: LMA Compliance

Hearing: 12 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **pp 2-3**

Transcript provided: **18 November 2025**

Answer Due: 25 November 2025

THE CHAIR: Can you tell me how much compliance is occurring at the moment?

Mr Lhuede: I would have to take that on notice, or we might be able to get an answer by the end of the hearings. It is a relatively low number. I think there have probably been one or two matters around land management agreements that we have dealt with that have come through as complaints that we have addressed in the last couple of years. But I have not got an exact number on that, apologies.

THE CHAIR: And I would love you to take that on notice, please. But low enforcement action, does that mean highly compliant with the land management agreements? Or does that mean no complaints were lodged, or no enforcement action was taken?

Mr Lhuede: Probably the middle, in that our approaches are based on complaints that are received. We are not proactively sort of auditing in that sense from an Access Canberra perspective. So yes, it is basically a complaints-based system, so it is reflecting complaints.

THE CHAIR: I wonder if you could take on notice how many LMAs, how many complaints, and how much enforcement action? Is that something that can be taken on notice to give us a picture of whether enforcement is happening the way people expect it to?

Mr Lhuede: Yes, we can take on hand the complaints, but I might hand to Bren just in relation to LMAs.

Mr Burkevics: Thanks, Nick. Thanks, Ms Clay. Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks. I think the question about LMAs covers off several different ministerial portfolios. I am conscious of that but, of course, in my other role as Conservator of Flora and Fauna I am one of the signatories on an LMA. Should matters with regard to compliance come to

my attention as Conservator, we have a team within the Environment, Heritage and Parks that supports the Conservator to review those sort of matters. Typically they are at the more operational level with regard to weeds or compliance with environmental conservation outcomes. And as required the team within Environment, Heritage and Parks will work with the landowner to raise those questions in the first instance. If there is anything that is more significant under an LMA that may represent a breach of another form of legislation, then it can be referred to other parts.

THE CHAIR: So having signed off on the LMA as Conservator, you then take a role in enforcing the LMA. Can you give us any sense, maybe on notice, of how many times LMAs are not being enforced properly, including weeds? Sometimes weeds might be quite significant from a biosecurity or a nature conservation perspective. So is there any information you can give us, now or on notice, to give us a picture of whether those LMAs are—whether that first educative engagement is then being followed up if it needs to be?

Mr Burkevics: I might reframe the question on notice, if I may, to assist.

THE CHAIR: Give it a go.

Mr Burkevics: First of all, I will acknowledge the effort of all of our rural lessees to comply with their LMAs. There is not a large number of rural lessees with LMAs, and they do work closely with several teams—the Parks and Conservation Service, of course; Environment, Heritage and Parks; Biosecurity; Rural Services team as well—to uphold their responsibilities. But it is not unusual that from time to time we do get matters raised with compliance, primarily around weeds and stocking levels. I am happy to take on notice the number of complaints that have been formally raised with the Conservator about an LMA. So they are quite specific, yes, number of complaints that have been formally raised with the Conservator. And timeframe, in the past financial year? What sort of timeframe, Ms Clay?

THE CHAIR: The last three years, if that is manageable?

Mr Burkevics: I think we can—yes, I can certainly seek to answer that.

THE CHAIR: Yes, last three years, and maybe what happened in those complaints. Not in the specifics, but was there regular—like, not just how many complaints, but what the outcome was from Access Canberra and from the Conservator's point of view?

Mr Burkevics: I will need to look into that because, of course, privacy provisions around that will prevail. But what I can answer, we will look to frame up that appropriately.

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

Land Management Agreements (LMAs) are approved by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (Conservator) under the *Planning Act 2023* (Planning Act). Compliance with LMAs and other legislation that applies to activities on rural land under LMA's is generally good.

Approximately ten complaints about compliance with LMAs have been received by the Conservator over the last three years. These complaints are of an informal nature and have either been resolved

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with the relevant parties or are ongoing. No formal compliance under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* has been required.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

25/11/25

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel MLA