



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Population Projections

Hearing: 12 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: pp 40

Transcript provided: 18 November 2025

Answer Due: 25 November 2025

MS CASTLEY: Thank you. Minister, Treasury published updated population projections this September which showed, amongst other things, the population fall was falling to zero by 2065. Following Question Time, Treasurer said that, “These population projections are not intended to present predictions of the demographic future to any degree of reliability or precision.” That is Hansard, page 2,761. Did the directorate have any input into Treasury’s population projections, either into the methodology or feedback on the projections, prior to publication? And if so, what advice was provided?

Mr Steel: Just in the interests of time we might take that on notice. Yes, but I think Treasury has been clear that they were informed by the sort of planning work more broadly that was occurring in the territory to inform some of the methodology.

Chris Steel: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

ACT Treasury collaborated with the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) (now the City and Environment Directorate (CED)) when preparing population projections for the ACT. Consultation on the methodology and feedback on projections occurred prior to publication. EPSDD provided guidance on qualitative factors, including predictions for future housing development in greenfield and infill areas.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature: 

Date: 26/11/25

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel