



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Master Builders Association of the ACT

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 117-118]

Hearing Date: 22/07/2024

QTON lodgement date: 22/07/2024

Answer Due Date: 29/07/2024

MR CAIN: We have had over six months since the new territory plan was introduced. Do you have any general comments from your members as to how easy it is to work with the new plan or otherwise?

Mr Zakout: I think we will get from our members is that it is—there is a lot of things—a lot of delays in the approval process at the moment.

MS ORR: In fairness, Mr Zakout—

Mr Zakout: Yes.

MS ORR: —your predecessor, Mr Hopkins, used to say that when he appeared at all the committee's—

MR CAIN: Yes, okay.

MS ORR: I think that is—

MR CAIN: So delays—which particular parts of the process? Any particular parts that seem to be more difficult to get progress speedily or?

Mr Zakout: I think just—not that I am aware, any particular parts, not that I am aware of, yes.

Ms Burt: We can always take the question on notice and come back to you with further data.

[Master Builders ACT]: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Master Builders Association of the ACT reports that the feedback received from members in relation to the new Territory Plan is generally positive, however, wishes to note that the use of the new Territory Plan has been limited since its commencement.

Members are reporting a backlog of projects submitted under the previous Plan currently being processed but note that the Plan is focused more on planning which has been well-received from those members who provided feedback.

There is, however, some uncertainty in the processing of applications and approval times – the early feedback suggests that the development application (DA) process is similar to that of the old system, but the uncertainty and/or delays are likely to be addressed once approvals start progressing through the system which will then give confidence in the system.

For smaller projects, the preparation of applications has been simpler, whereas there are increased complexities for the larger scaled projects. This is a result of the need to address Design Guides requiring consultants in the design stage working more collaboratively together.

There were some indications that the Plan has highlighted some other issues, such as the impacts that this has on the Waste Code and the issues associated around design and accessibility issues for waste removal as well as costs issues. Similarly, trees and open space are a problem lowering yield and increasing costs significantly.

Master Builders ACT will continue to monitor the feedback being received from members and would encourage the continuation of this conversation over time and as more feedback is received.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 29 July 2024

By the Ziad Zakout – Acting CEO of Master Builders ACT