



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: CED

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: PLANNING SYSTEM EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Question received: 20 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

The City and Environment Directorate Annual Report provides an update on the Government's response to report recommendations. Recommendation 9 (pg100) of the Territory Plan and Associated documents refers to the ACT Evaluation Framework and the need to review the two-pass consultation process for Development Applications. The response released in July 2024 advises that the first major evaluation will be a process evaluation and planning has commenced for the delivery of the evaluation. Some 13 months later you advised that the City and Environment Directorate (CED) is currently considering the most appropriate scope and delivery method for the first major evaluation under the framework. Sixteen months on from the July 2024 response, is CED still considering the scope of the first evaluation and will it consider the two-stage consultation process?

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

The City and Environment Directorate (CED) is undertaking a process evaluation, focusing on how the planning system is operating in practice. This process evaluation is part of the ACT Planning System Evaluation Framework and its scope includes:

- End-to-end process mapping of the planning and development system, which has highlighted opportunities to streamline tasks and improve coordination across teams.
- Establishing a risk-based approach to simplify approvals for low-risk proposals while strengthening internal coordination for complex applications.
- Initiating a first tranche of streamlining projects, including improvements to exempt development arrangements, asset acceptance, unit titling, and environmental management approvals.

The process evaluation will also draw on:

A Development Application Design Audit, testing the methodology used in previous audits and assessing a sample of DAs for consistency and quality.

An industry survey to assess whether current guidance materials are clear and effective.

The two-pass consultation process for development applications is not a specific consideration for the process evaluation. However, the process evaluation will draw on findings from the annual industry survey which seeks views from proponents who have now had an opportunity to use the new planning system, including with regards to its accessibility, timeliness, transparency and participation and engagement. This feedback from industry will support the government to identify significant challenges, barriers and opportunities for future consideration under the evaluation framework.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

2 / 12 / 25

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