

Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

Minister for City Services

Minister for Government Services and Regulatory Reform

Minister for Human Rights

Member for Ginninderra

Our ref: MIN C2024/00036

Personal information

February 2024

Dear **Personal information**

Thank you for your letter about the RSPCA facilities.

The ACT Government has committed to building a new home for the RSPCA in Canberra. This commitment for a new facility means animals at the RSPCA ACT will enjoy better and larger facilities which are purpose-built for their care.

The preferred site is a part of Block 2 Section 14 Pialligo - located on the corner of Fairbairn Avenue and Addison Road and bordered by the Australian Defence Force Academy and Royal Military College Duntroon to the west, and Majura Parkway and Canberra Airport to the east.

Significant due diligence has been undertaken on the site including a range of preliminary heritage, environmental and planning studies as well as discussions with nearby stakeholders about the site. The location is zoned as Broadacre which already allows for animal care facilities, like the RSPCA ACT.

Engagement has been undertaken to date with stakeholders including the RSPCA, ACT Equestrian Association, Duntroon Horse Paddock Users Group, Territory Agistment (Paddock Contractor), the Department of Defence, Canberra Airport and adjoining land users who all provided feedback to inform site investigations and early concept plans.

On 26 August 2022, the proposed facility was determined to be a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The controlling provision is listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A) as the Striped Legless Lizard has been identified in the area and we acknowledge the importance of supporting this species' longevity.



As per the EPBC Act, the proposed facility is subject to assessment by Preliminary Documentation. On Friday 21 July 2023, the draft Preliminary Documentation was placed on display and comments were invited until Friday 4 August 2023. During this period, 91 public submissions were received.

The final Preliminary Documentation was available for information only from Monday 11 September to Friday 22 September 2023. A final decision from the Commonwealth is now pending.

If you would like to stay updated on this project, you can find more information on the [Infrastructure Projects page](#) of the City Services website.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City Services