



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment - First Nations consultation

Hearing: 24 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 76–77

Transcript provided: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 4 August 2026

Ms Freya O’Brien took on notice the following question(s):

MS CLAY: Yes. Okay, and are we still on track for implementing Eastern Broadacre this term, do you think, from the information you have just given?

Mr Steel: Yes, but it obviously the third parties, the Commonwealth, needing to agree to it.

MS CLAY: We are not there yet?

Mr Steel: But I mean, I think the important thing is going and actually having it published so that the community can see, particularly the leaseholders in the area, about what the potential future plans are, because we do get inquiries from time to time and it has been ongoing for some time, this piece of work, to say the least, and so it does need—we really do want it published as soon as possible, but it really requires the commonwealth to agree to that. And to be honest, the change of view from DCCEEW was unexpected. We did not expect them to come back with the comments that they did in relation to the study. So we would have hoped to have had it out by now, and that has delayed the process.

MS CLAY: Sure. And what is the process for local First Nations consultation on these land decisions?

Ms O’Brien: Yes, so we are engaging with First Nations. We have been working through our First Nations consultation area within the directorate, and then we will be having specific consultation with First Nations communities and traditional custodians once we have a draft report prepared.

MS CLAY: Are you able to take on notice the specifics of who you will be consulting and how in the First Nations space? Is that some information you could put together and bring back on notice?

Ms O’Brien: Who we have to date or who we will into—

MS CLAY: Who you will.

Ms O'Brien: Yes, we can do that.

MS CLAY: That would be great. I mean, by role or by the process, however you can do that, that would be awesome.

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

The ACT Government is considering appropriate ways to establish and maintain respectful, ongoing partnerships with Traditional Custodians and ACT First Nations communities to inform urban planning and land-use decisions in the Territory, including on the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment (EBSA).

The City and Environment Directorate will contact Traditional Custodians and ACT First Nations people. Contact lists will be developed in consultation with the City and Environment's Traditional Custodian Engagement Team. This will provide all Traditional Custodian family groups an opportunity to participate.

Traditional Custodians and ACT First Nations people will be consulted on the draft EBSA before it is released for public consultation, which is currently scheduled to occur in early 2027.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date:

3/8/26

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