



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mark Parton MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

Ref: City Services, Budget paper H, page number 38, output class 2.1 Roads and Infrastructure

In relation to: Line item “Connected and Sustainable Canberra – Constructing the William Hovell Drive duplication (ACT Contribution)” on p38.

William Hovell Drive consultation

Section 9.2 of the William Hovell Drive Duplication Scoping Document 2020 states that “a variety of communication methods must be used to ensure all stakeholders are engaged appropriately”.

The SMEC draft Environment Impact Statement pointed out only one instance of consultation with Hawker Residents. Further information on this instance revealed that this may have been three different phone calls with the same resident.

SMEC stated that large open forum type community consultation did not occur due to COVID and no confirmation on construction funding.

Letters have been sent out piecemeal to affected residents in Hawker but left only a very narrow window in which to respond before the consultation period ended.

1. Does the ACT Government consider the level of consultation to impacted Hawker residents conducted by SMEC, to be sufficient and that they have met the obligation to “ensure all stakeholders are engaged appropriately?”
2. Can the Minister confirm that the three phonecalls to Hawker residents were all made to the same person?
 - a. Were these phonecalls initiated by the government or SMEC representatives for the explicit purpose of consultation?
 - b. If not, what was the context of these phonecalls?
3. Why were impacted Hawker residents not consulted face to face as the ACT Equestrian Association was?
4. Of the 33 identified sensitive receivers in Hawker, how many of them have been contacted for consultation?
 - a. If none or only some of them have been contacted, when will they be contacted?
5. Were the groups Friends of Hawker or the Belconnen Community Council specifically contacted for consultation prior to 7th August 2021?
 - a. If so, when, and was there any attempt to organise in-person meetings with them?

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

1. The government is committed to engaging in meaningful consultation on large scale infrastructure projects. The consultation undertaken as part of the Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process exceeded the requirements for a project of this type.

Additional consultation has recently commenced including a Your Say survey, several community drop-in sessions and direct letters to stakeholders and local residents.

2. The phone calls were to and from different people.
 - a. The phone calls were either from the public or initiated by government in response to requests for information from members of the public.
 - b. The phone calls came via Access Canberra and from the Ministers Office.
3. Hawker residents, stakeholders and the broader community will be able to have their say face to face or online by participating in the consultation that is currently open until 19 December.
4. As part of the EIS process, all residences adjoining the project received notification letters advising of the project, where to find detailed information and the mechanism to provide a submission on the draft EIS.
 - a. All Hawker residents will receive additional written correspondence advising them of the extension to the consultation period and inviting them to attend one of the community drop-in sessions.
5. 41 local and community groups were contacted directly by TCCS Communications during the EIS process. I am advised that 'Friends of Hawker' were not on this list, however, the group has now been added and will be included in the future engagement. The Belconnen Community Council were advised of the project by the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

All Hawker residents, the Friends of Hawker and the Belconnen Community Council will be directly contacted by TCCS again to advise them of the extension to the consultation.

- a. See 5.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:



By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA