



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Big Splash Development

Hearing: 12 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: pp15

Transcript provided: 18 November 2025

Answer Due: 25 November 2025

MR PARTON: All right, excellent. Has the government had any approaches or discussions about a project like a planning project, a development project, at the Big Splash site?

Mr Green: We have not had any discussions at this point, but I am aware that there is a request for a National Capital Design Review Panel review or a proposal. But I have not seen a proposal.

MR PARTON: Right. So that has not come before this this directorate as such in any meaningful form?

Mr Engle: I will just—I will correct that. So we have had an initial discussion with the planning advisors representing Big Splash about what potential could occur on the site, but without any specific details. So it was an early pre-up meeting to understand what the current status was. So we have not seen a formal—any proposal come forward on that.

MR PARTON: What would have been the reason for having that discussion? Why would that discussion have been initiated? Because I am not sure that it is a discussion that would be initiated for, you know, a stack of existing sites around Canberra. Why was it initiated for the Big Splash site?

Mr Engle: I cannot speak for the planning consultant. It was really intended to understand whether there was any additional thoughts or requirements that the government had, or ambitions the government had for that site, as part of what the planning consultant would do to try and bring forward a proposal. But as I said, it was really focused solely on the current state of the of the facility and also just trying to understand what is possible given the zoning.

MR PARTON: Mr Engle, when did you become aware of that, you know, discussion being initiated? When did you become aware it?

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Mr Engle: I would have to take that on notice to find the—the date of that would have been—where was—it would have been the last, sort of, six to eight weeks.

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

Officials from the City and Environment Directorate (CED) regularly meet with proponents and their advisors to clarify planning processes and identify the referral entities that should be involved in pre-application meetings.

On 30 July 2025, Purdon Planning (at their request) met with CED officials to provide an overview of their portfolio of projects. While not the focus of the meeting, the proponent noted they had been engaged to work on a proposal for the Big Splash Waterpark site. No concepts or proposals were presented at this meeting.

On 31 October 2025, the proponent formally contacted CED to request an opportunity to present a pre-application proposal for the site to the National Capital Design Review Panel (NCDRP). This session is scheduled for 27 November 2025.

Various pre-application processes are available for proponents to seek early advice on potential future developments, but these do not represent approval or endorsement.

As these are routine meetings, they were not reported to me.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

25/11/25

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel