



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: URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Question received: 20 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

The Annual Report refers to a commitment to at least 70% of new housing within Canberra's existing urban footprint (pg 32). But the Government has now agreed to set an urban growth boundary. There is no mention of this commitment in the Annual Report. What work is underway within CED on establishing an urban growth boundary as agreed in the Legislative Assembly via an ACT Greens motion?

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

At the ACT election Labor committed to develop a landscape plan for the ACT by a new ACT Government Landscape Architect. This will include strategic spatial planning to proactively protect and restore key areas of environmental value for the future, both within the urban footprint and on the urban interface.

Environmental studies, including in Canberra's Western Edge and the Eastern Broadacre areas, are currently being undertaken to provide greater understanding and certainty of areas of environmental value and to help inform decisions of Government and development of the plan.

In the supply and confidence agreement for the 11th Assembly, Labor and the Greens also both agreed to set an urban growth boundary (UGB) following consideration of the Territory's future land needs including the need to preserve areas of environmental value.

Given the intersections between the deeper piece of work on a landscape plan and setting a UGB, it is intended that these two pieces of work are developed together and will form part of work to refresh the Planning Strategy.

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These pieces of work has been outlined as a priority in my Statement of Planning Priorities 2025-2028.

In accordance with the Legislative Assembly Resolution of 10 April 2025, the City and Environment Directorate (CED) is progressing work to establish an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Half-yearly statements on UGB progress will commence with the first Assembly sittings in 2026.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature: 

Date: 27/11/25

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