



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: COMPLETENESS CHECKS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Question received: 20 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

The Annual Report identifies that the first time failure rate for completeness checks is 81%. The first time failure rate in 2023-2024 was 84% (pg356). That is 622 out of the 769 Development applications in 2024-2025 failed the completeness check first time.

1. Why is the failure rate so high?
2. Is the City and Environment Directorate's efforts to improve the planning system focussing on making sure that the completeness check first time failure rate is substantially reduced?

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

1. When development applications (DAs) are submitted, the Territory Planning Authority (the Authority) will undertake a completeness check. These checks are in place to ensure that there is sufficient documentation available to the community for the notification period. The checks are also undertaken to ensure that there is enough information for entities and the Authority to commence an assessment on the application.

When the Authority undertakes a completeness check, the documentation is considered against the [minimum documentation requirements](#). The documentation requirements set out both the supporting documents to be lodged with varying development types as well as the specific information to be provided on the plans supplied to assess the proposed works (e.g. setbacks, site coverage). If a DA does not meet the minimum documentation requirements, the Authority will request further information before the DA can be accepted. The rate of 81% was due to the DAs and amendment applications not meeting the minimum standard.

2. The first-time failure rates for completeness checks, for the 2024-2025 reporting period, was 81%. This was a reduction of 3% from the previous year (i.e. 2023-2024) being 84% first-time failure rates for completeness checks.

Information on the DA process is available to all applicants on the [planning website](#). In addition, general planning enquiries can be made with the Authority's [DA Gateway Team](#) who can provide advice on documentation requirements, including identifying necessary plans and supporting documents and the requirements to be included on each, as well as providing guidance on submitting an application. The DA Gateway Team also undertakes [pre-DA meetings](#) to assist with DA requirements.

The Authority is also currently looking at the structure and content of information available to applicants about submitting DAs. This includes the detail and formatting of information on the website as well as considerations to refining or reducing the level the minimum documentation required for a DA. However, this is a balance of finding efficiencies, and progressing applications, and ensuring that the community have been properly informed about a development proposal.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

1/12/25

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