



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Western Edge studies

Hearing: 24 July 2026

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Transcript provided: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 4 August 2026

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

MS CLAY: That would be great. I mean, by role or by the process, however you can do that, that would be awesome. I would love, on the urban growth boundary too, the Western Edge protection, it is the other sort of key bit of that work that we are monitoring. You gave us an update, minister, in February 2026 and that update did give us a little bit of information about the Western Edge studies. Can I get an update on where the Western Edge studies are up to?

Mr Steel: If you have got those?

Mr Engele: So just while we are pulling up those notes, obviously there are private leases there, plus the Suburban Land Agency is involved in some of that work. So they are undertaking particular studies in that area along with some of the more strategic studies that have been undertaken by the City and Environment Directorate and we can talk to those, the CED studies, if that is useful.

Ms O'Brien: Yes, so the completed studies have been updated onto the website. The work that is underway includes strategic transport assessment, utility servicing study, social infrastructure analysis, economic investigations and detailed ecological assessments.

MS CLAY: Yes, great and that matches our notes. We have seen the 17 on the website but there were five underway at the time, so those are the five studies underway. When will those be complete?

Ms O'Brien: I believe they are close to completion. I think we will probably take on notice around some of the ecological assessments.

MS CLAY: On notice would be fine, yes. Yes, if you could take on notice when those will be complete.

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

The following investigations commissioned to inform future planning and infrastructure considerations for the Western Edge Investigation Area have been completed:

- Utilities Serviceability and Options Study
- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Social Needs Assessment, including education, sport and recreation facilities
- Economic and Market Analysis
- Ecological Values and Constraints Assessment

The Government is currently considering the findings and recommendations of these studies, including how they may inform future planning and policy decisions.

The Government has not made a decision to develop the Western Edge Investigation Area but has begun to develop a landscape plan for the ACT which will include proactive protection of areas of environmental value in the Western Edge.

Environmental and other studies underway will help to inform the strategic spatial planning and later decisions about how to proactively protect, conserve and restore the areas identified in the studies on the city's urban interface.

This evidence base will provide a robust and transparent basis to inform consultation with the community about conserving the environmental values of the Western Edge.

The Government has also committed to providing regular public updates on progress through half-yearly statements to the Legislative Assembly. Previous updates and further information is available on the ACT Planning website: [Urban Growth Boundary - City and Environment Directorate - Planning](#).

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

Signature:



Date:

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

4/8/26