



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Planning Bill 2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 7 December 2022

In relation to: Senior Landscape Architect

- (1) Is there a senior landscape architect position within Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, similar to the role of NSW's senior landscape architect? If not, why not?
- (2) Why isn't there a senior landscape architect on the Design Review Panel?
- (3) Planning involves the urban and our landscape. Is there a landscape policy in the ACT? If not, why not?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) It is unclear which position in NSW the question relates to. However, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate employs a range of expertise to support the delivery of its business, including qualified landscape architects.
- 2) The Design Review Panel membership is selected from a pool of experts identified for their skills, expertise and record of achievement in one or more fields relevant to planning, design and development. This includes qualified eminent landscape architects. Panel composition is determined by the Chair (the Government Architect) on a case-by-case basis and in response to the key design issues raised by a particular application.
- 3) There is not a specific 'landscape policy' in the ACT. However, consideration of landscape is subject to a range of policy documents for the ACT. For example, but not limited to, the ACT Planning Strategy (2018), which includes direction to 'integrate living infrastructure and sustainable design to make Canberra a resilient city within the landscape'. In addition, Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City (2019), provides guidance and actions to make sure the city is planned, designed, constructed and managed in a way that values, incorporates and protects natural assets.

The draft District Strategies are a key element of the new contemporary and best practice planning system that keeps our valued urban form and connection to the natural landscape. The blue-green network driver focuses on protection and enhancement of vegetation, nature reserves, open space, water elements and cultural heritage elements to provide the setting for a city 'in the landscape.'

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

Signature:



Date: 19/12/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA