



Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Ed Cocks MLA on 17 November 2023: Mr Stuart Jeffress took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 17 November 2023, pages 33-34

In relation to: Heritage nomination from Urambi Village

MR COCKS: I also understand that the current state of this decision means that there are limitations and restrictions on what home owners in Urambi Village can do to their properties in terms of both improvements and renovations and that sort of thing. Can you explain what are those limitations?

Mr Jeffress: So there is a range of avenues residents in that situation could get advice. I suppose one of the key services we provide is the Heritage Advisory Service, so that is where people can go get initial free advice from a consultant around what they can and cannot do on their property. They can also obviously approach the Heritage Unit as well and we can provide advice on what someone could do in those specific situations and I suppose that would be the general way we would manage that.

MR COCKS: Sorry, but to help my understanding, could you please explain what restrictions would apply to a homeowner in this situation where there was a nomination in 2017? We are now a long way down the track and it seems like homeowners are not able to renovate or improve their homes.

Mr Jeffress: So I do not think we are in a position where people cannot, I suppose, progress any maintenance on their houses. I think they can get advice around through the services of the ...(indistinct)... [11.51.09] as to what they can and cannot do. I think the—I cannot discuss the specifics; I am not across the specifics of what the actual values that have been nominated, so I suppose I would need to take that aspect on notice.

MR COCKS: Yes, that would be useful.

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Owners of nominated places are not prevented from doing renovations or improvements on their homes. However, some restrictions can apply to works that may diminish the potential heritage values, and an evaluation of heritage impacts to these values may be required.

If an owner wishes to seek information regarding proposed works, they are encouraged to make use of the Heritage Advisory Service. The Heritage Advisory Service is an independent service supported by the ACT Government and currently provided by Philip Leeson Architects. They can assist the owners by providing early advice on development and works, and technical architectural and materials conservation advice. Queries about the proposed works can also be sent directly to ACT Heritage at heritage@act.gov.au.

These processes help to protect what makes heritage places special and valued by the community. They also help guide owners to make better choices regarding the conservation of heritage features. If owners demonstrate that they are protecting the potential heritage values of a nominated place there are no heritage restrictions that would prevent sympathetic renovations or improvements.

Owners of dwellings within Urambi Village who have concerns about undertaking maintenance should either gain advice through the Heritage Advisory Service or by contacting ACT Heritage.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 24/11/2023

By the Minister for Heritage, Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA