



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 7 December 2023

In relation to: Consultation - Good Consultation Guidelines, Design Guides and Technical Specifications

The Planning Act 2023 established principles of good consultation (s11). The Minister (for Planning) must make guidelines about the principles of good consultation and how they must be applied (s12).

The Planning (Good Consultation) Guidelines 2023 (No 1) established the Good Consultation Guidelines (Good Consultation Guidelines (NI2023-779). The Guidelines specify that a person or entity **required** to undertake consultation under the Planning Act must take the Guidelines into consideration when undertaking consultation. Examples referred to include the Executive making a planning strategy and the Minister amending a district strategy.

The Minister (for Planning) may prepare Design Guides to support the Territory Plan(s50). The Chief Planner may prepare Technical Specifications to support Design Guides and the Territory Plan (s51). Neither s50 nor s51 **require** the Minister or Chief Planner to undertake community consultation when preparing either Design Guides or Technical Specifications.

1. Why there was no consultation on the preparation of the Good Consultation Guidelines?
2. Will the Good Consultation Guidelines apply to the preparation of Design Guides and Technical Specifications in the future?
3. Will s50 and 51 of the Planning Act 2023 be amended to require consultation on the preparation of Design Guides and Technical Specifications?

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

1. The Good Consultation Guidelines largely reproduce the Principles of Good Consultation from the *Planning Act 2023* (the Act). As there was extensive consultation on the principles during the preparation and finalisation of the Act, further consultation on the guidelines was not considered necessary.

If changes are made to the Good Consultation Guidelines (the guidelines) in the future, consultation on the guidelines will be considered at that point in time.

2. The *Planning Act 2023* requires that any consultation undertaken in accordance with the Act must take the guidelines into consideration when undertaking consultation. As the Act does not specify consultation requirements for the preparation of design guides and planning technical specifications, the guidelines will not apply.

However, consideration may be given to the principles during the preparation of documents associated with the Territory Plan as relevant.

3. At this point it is not intended to amend sections 50 and 51 of the *Planning Act 2023* to require the proposed consultation. However, that does not exclude future consideration.

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

Signature: 

Date: 20/12/23

By the Minister for Planning, Mr Chris Steel MLA