



DPA-04 Missing Middle Housing Reform

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA

In relation to: Analysis of LiDAR imagery

Hearing: 12 February 2026

Uncorrected: Proof Transcript pp 87-55

Transcript provided: 19 February 2026

Answer Due: 26 February 2026

CHRIS STEEL MLA: took on notice the following question(s) -

THE CHAIR: Yes. And some of the other suggestions that have been made are about if the reform is passed, what monitoring do we do to make sure that this is not giving us a negative impact? We have spoken about the lidar satellite imagery is only being done once every five years. Have I got that correct?

Mr Engele: Yes, that is correct. And I think we are in the process of procurement for the next round of lidar.

THE CHAIR: Yes. Five years is quite a long time. Because we would not see that again until 2030. And then probably by the time, if we saw a problem, it would be 2032 probably until we had addressed it. Do you think five years is the right period of time to be doing something so important?

Mr Engele: So the lidar is also supported by arial imagery.

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Engele: So we do that every quarter at the moment. So that provides an opportunity for regulators to confirm. So I guess it is not as sophisticated as lidar—

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Engele: I accept that, but if the changes that we see generally, at a sort of city scale, the lidar is a reasonable time period. And then the more enforcement elements is picked up by that aerial imagery.

THE CHAIR: Sure. And that quarter-by-quarter reporting, is that public reporting?

Mr Engele: Sorry, I should have said, Sa, Engele. I am the Deputy Director-General for City Environment Directorate. Apologies.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I should have corrected you too, thank you.

Mr Engle: Sorry, to jump in. I would have to get them— I believe that is uploaded to ACTmapi, and so that is where you will get the latest imagery.

THE CHAIR: Can you take on notice where that quarterly appears? Whether it is in annual reports? Like how people could check that?

Mr Engle: Yes, it is an image, it is not an analysis of the image. So I will get, before the end of this session, some details on that.

THE CHAIR: That would be— maybe what analysis is done that is in a shorter timeframe than that five-year analysis.

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

Information on tree canopy cover including LiDAR results and urban tree canopy cover reports for Canberra are available at <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/trees-and-nature/trees/canopy-cover#report>.

LiDAR data is collected and analysed every five years to monitor progress once tree canopies exceed the minimum height for capture of 3 metres.

Complementary work is conducted in between LiDAR surveys to assess opportunities to plant new trees, assess urban forest condition, and replace dead or decaying trees.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

26/2/26

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