



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL

CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), TARA CHEYNE MLA,
NICOLE LAWDER MLA, JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into draft variation to the Territory Plan No 344 – Woden town centre, zone changes and
amendments to the Phillips precinct map and code**

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

18 October 2017



Asked by MS LE COUTEUR:

In relation to: AMC and Feasibility Study

THE CHAIR: *You said you have been talking to Woden Community Service. They gave evidence to us and, clearly, they want a larger collocated site; there is no doubt about that. One thing they mentioned is they are currently using part of the Callam Offices. As we are aware, the AMC did a study on the uses of that and they thought this was at least of interest. Is it possible to make this publicly available? I have already written a couple of times asking for that, without success. This is basically the site we are talking about, with car parks around, and Woden Community Service are there now.*

Mr Gentleman: *I would have to check whether there is some sort of commercial arrangement there. We will see what we can do for you. In regard to community facilities and Woden Community Service, a number of us did a tour of the new facilities being constructed to the very north of this area, just above the oval, which is the old club site. During the construction, when we had a visit there, the club proponents said to us that they have quite a large area for a community facility and that unfortunately their particular client had fallen over in the last period.*

We visited that area too, with the chair of the Woden Valley Community Council, and I put forward an idea of whether they would want to engage with Woden Community Service for sharing that site. I understand that there were some conversations, but I am not sure of the outcome of those and whether they proceeded further. But certainly the site they were after would have fitted into what was available at the club site. So there is an opportunity in a privately owned building for that to occur.

THE CHAIR: *What do you see as the future of the Callam Offices, given that they are heritage listed and government owned? They are partially being used by Woden Community Service and clearly are surrounded by car parks. There is adequate space for almost any community facility you can think of.*

Mr Ponton: *The work you were referring to was AMC Architecture presumably?*

THE CHAIR: *Yes.*

Mr Ponton: *As I recall, that work was commissioned by Economic Development, as it was then. That area now sits within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. In terms of where that work went, I do not believe the government has made any decisions in response to that work. In terms of the government's views on what might happen to the site, the government has not been fully briefed in*

relation to that work. I would need to review the files to see where that work is at and where any briefings might be. But, as the minister said, in terms of the release of the work, let us have a look at that and see what might be publicly available.

MS LAWDER: I have another question related to what we heard from Woden Community Service last week. They mentioned that there had been a feasibility study for a new Woden community centre, and they mentioned 2012 and \$200,000. Any idea what happened to that? Did that feasibility study and design take place?

Mr Ponton: I believe that that is linked to the AMC work.

THE CHAIR: I believe it is.

Mr Ponton: I saw an early draft of that in a previous life, but I could not tell you the details. I would need to check the record.

MS LAWDER: So it kind of did take place and the \$200,000 was spent?

Mr Ponton: Yes.

MS LAWDER: But it is not publicly available at this time?

Mr Ponton: Not at this time, but we will have a look at what is publicly available. And when I say confidently the figure of \$200,000, I cannot say that that is the amount that was spent, but we can check that, too.

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In 2013 the Community Services Directorate (CSD) commissioned the former Colin Stewart Architecture to investigate options for a Woden / Weston Creek community hub. The total contract price for the *Woden / Weston Creek Community Hub Feasibility Study* was \$215,688.00 (GST inclusive).

Stage 2 of this investigation was the *Woden Community Hub – Design and Feasibility Study* undertaken by AMC Architecture. This contract was to the value of \$38,533.00 (GST inclusive).

The details of both studies are available on the ACT Government Contracts Register.

The AMC Report is currently with me for consideration.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal

Signature:



Date: 31/10/17

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman