



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 20 July 2023: Mr Dietz took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 20 July 2023 pp 110-111]

In relation to: SLA – timeline of conversations with the Commonwealth

MR CAIN: Thank you, Chair. And it is just to clear up a statement. You said that I was making stuff up. I am going to actually read from your own documents and please, could you pay attention carefully. So from the Umwelt Consultants audit in August last year, it states:

Riverview Projects is not compliant with condition 5 in relation to the New South Wales portion of the conservation corridor. A legally binding mechanism to secure the land for conservation in perpetuity has not yet been approved by the department or secured over the land, which was meant to be done by 18 July 2019.

In the Ginninderry Annual Report 21-22, again August last year, it states:

Whilst the audit reports states condition 5 is non-compliant, Riverview has been working with the department prior to the audit review report and continues to work for the department in finding a suitable legally binding mechanism.

Obviously, Minister, as we have picked up today, if you are finding something you have not yet founded, could you describe what types of conversations you are having with the commonwealth, and a timeline of those conversations with SLA, about gaining compliance which you do not currently have?

Mr Dietz: I will take that on notice. Thank you, Mr Cain.

MR CAIN: Thank you. And you also said, I think, Mr Dietz might have said this, forgive me if I have got the wrong person, that you had been in discussion with the owners of land you currently do not own, so could you detail the discussions of those with those other owners who own their own land, and you do not, even though they are in the corridor.

Mr Dietz: Yes. Just to correct that, that is the Ginninderry Joint Venture representatives who have been in discussion, and I will take on notice to provide you with the history of those discussions.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The Ginninderry Joint Venture (GJV) has undertaken transparent dialogue with relevant State, Territory and Commonwealth departments since 2013.

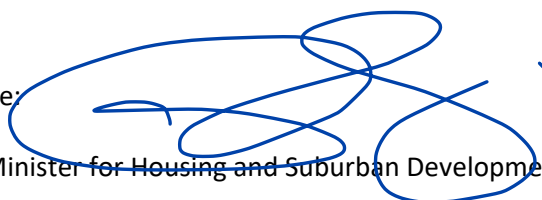
Conditional strategic assessment approval for the project under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act was granted by the Commonwealth in 2017 (EPBC Approval). Following this, the GJV sought clarification in March 2018 from the Commonwealth, to confirm that securing land for conservation in accordance with the EPBC Approval conditions was to be undertaken in a staged manner in accordance with the Program Report. The Commonwealth confirmed this position in a letter dated 13 September 2018. Both letters are publicly available on the GJV's website:

<https://ginninderry.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Letter-March-2018-Compliance-Conditions-4-and-5-124KB.pdf>

<https://ginninderry.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Letter-Sept-2018-Compliance-Conditions-4-and-5-Satisfied-158KB.pdf>

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date:

31/07/23

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Yvette Berry MLA