



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023**

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 14 November 2023, Annual Report of Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

In relation to: Demonstration Housing Project – Kingston

When asked about the Demonstration Housing site for the urban village in Kingston, Dr Erin Brady, Deputy Director General, Planning and Sustainable Development advised:

‘the site that was then allocated was the switching station site in Kingston, and since allocating that site and working with that site we have discovered some other aspects of the site that will mean that it takes a bit longer in terms of contamination and undergrounding of powerlines and so that’s impacted the site. So we’ve continued to talk to the proponent about whether there are other options around where that proposal could occur.’

When did the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate become aware of those ‘other aspects of the site’ that would cause it to offer another site.

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

*When did the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate become aware of those ‘other aspects of the site’ that would cause it to offer another site.*

The decommissioning of the Causeway switching station is linked to the undergrounding of the high voltage (HV) power lines through the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. The responsibility for these works sit with Evoenergy. Due to the forward program of works related to the energy network, Evoenergy has only recently submitted a development application (DA) for these works. Subject to satisfying any DA conditions, Evoenergy does not anticipate completing the undergrounding of electrical lines and decommissioning of the switching station until 2026-27.

Once the electrical infrastructure is removed from the site in three to four years’ time, a second process of site investigation to prepare a contamination Remedial Action Plan (RAP) needs to occur. The RAP will then need to be implemented before the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are able to endorse that the site is suitable for development.

The scope of the RAP is currently unknown, as is the time required to complete the site remediation. While the switching station remains 'live', site access to prepare the RAP in parallel with Evoenergy's HV power relocation project is not possible, due to operational and safety risks. Accordingly, this second stage of work may take a further two plus years following the switching station removal in 2026-27.

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

Signature:



Date: 20/11/2023

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA