



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA CSC

Addressed to: The Hon Bill Shorten, Vice-Chancellor

In relation to: Land use

Hearing: 21 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 18-19

Transcript provided: 26 February 2025

Answer Due: 5 March 2025 5:00:00 PM

Mr Shorten took on notice the following question(s):

MR HANSON: Back in 2015 there were some changes made to the Territory Plan legislation rezoning that gave the UC the ability to do developments, including, as I recall, residential developments on its land. And we sort of talk about the suburb of UC and things like that. We are running out of time, but are there any plans more broadly to either sell off land for residential purposes, or is the university considering doing a residential development on its land?

Mr Shorten: Because of the time, I will give you a sort of very high level, but then we can reply in writing, I think, and give you more detail. There was this peak development for—well, you all know the map of UC better than I. Basically, it is like the continent of UC and then there is some land beyond Haydon drive, and the other side is Benjamin, is it?

Mr Pheasant: ...(indistinct)... (11.58.46)

Mr Shorten: Yes. Within that, there is a peak development. You know, I am just sort of trying to get over the history of all the ins and outs of that. I am still getting through the history of that. So there is a residential development in that sort of bigger mass of land. Beyond that, and obviously we are having discussions with people. We want to see that sort of move forward.

But beyond that, where it is within that big continent of UC, our principal approach is that we do not want to sell off any further land. Partnerships. We would use that land to generate revenue consistent with the sort of overarching objectives of the university. So shared development would be good, but just giving it away or selling it in a one-off we are not interested in. There are two little pockets of land beyond that, which I think are in a different category, because they are just sort of—

MR HANSON: So something that will give you ongoing income, rather than a sugar hit.

Mr Shorten: Yes. Partners. Like, we would love to do more in the health space with health providers who then we have got the workforce and training. I think there is a lot of opportunities in the IT area with our science and tech faculty. It would be good. It is very early days, but I want this university—it

has got good educational partnerships. It works closely with government. I want us to work more closely with the private sector for development, which would see jobs and research and opportunities for our students and our teachers.

MR HANSON: All right. If you have got more to add on that, I would be interested.

Mr Shorten: I think we can sort of give a summary of where the peak development stuff is up to, and we could provide a bit of a state of play.

MR HANSON: Because it was sort of sold to us in 2015 as, you know, this is the panacea that is going to keep UC on a stable footing for ever and ever, and here we are. And that has not come to fruition. So I am just wondering how that land is going to be used as part of your growth plan to make sure that we are not back here.

Mr Shorten: We will take that on notice, but I think that is a fair—again, just having a ...(indistinct)... (12.00.54). I think some of that critique is fair.

MR HANSON: All right, thanks.

The Hon Bill Shorten: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I have been advised by my team that the PEET development involved the acquisition of 15 hectares of campus landholding, valued at \$66m in November 2023.

This program included the proposed residential development of 1250 apartments and ~350 terraces / townhouses. Payment occurs in tranches over the next five - seven years and includes Chair of Research, funding for property easements and edges, and water basin.

All DA related work is now being undertaken by PEET. The University has no role in this work other than approving relevant development controls and access.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy



Signature:

Date: 5 March 2025

By the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra, the Hon Bill Shorten