



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: CSIRO Heat Mapping

Hearing: 12 February 2026

Uncorrected: Proof Transcript p. 88

Transcript provided: 19 February 2026

Answer Due: 26 February 2026

Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: That would be— maybe what analysis is done that is in a shorter timeframe than that five-year analysis. The other one that was mentioned is the 2017 CSIRO Heat Mapping. Since 2017, has government got any plans about doing heat mapping again or doing heat mapping on a regular basis?

Mr Engele: I would have to confirm that with the team as to when the next heat mapping is. I guess generally the heat mapping is similar to lidar, you do not get significant changes in a period of time. So we know, you know, particular grasslands, the urban areas that above those, will have higher levels of heat, just as a result of that sort of lack of trees over the grassland areas. So it really is used to inform our planning and policy responses. And so we need them as part of preparing for things like district strategies and the refresh of the Planning Strategy. So I guess it is having that information at a period of time where we can actually use it, rather than just a series of updates where we are not proposing a response.

THE CHAIR: Yes. And when the statutory planners are checking DAs, do they look at that aerial imagery that is quite freely available?

Mr Engele: They will check the site. I guess it will be— if there is say, a part of a DA proposal might be tree removal then replanting proposals. And so I guess they, depending on the nature of the site, and the reports that are there, they may use that imagery to confirm the details on it.

THE CHAIR: Yes. They might or they might not, it depends.

Mr Engele: It really depends on the nature of the proposals coming the significance

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

The City and Environment Directorate currently have a project underway with the CSIRO to undertake urban heat mapping. The analysis is based on a 23-year time series (2002-2024) which enables robust trend detection of urban heat. This project is also undertaking a literature review and assessing the feasibility of developing an annual urban heat island index for the ACT, that could help to continue monitoring the urban heat island effect across Canberra's urban footprint on a more regular basis.

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