



DPA-04 Missing Middle Housing Reform

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA

In relation to: Review of DAs

Hearing: 12 February 2026

Uncorrected: Proof Transcript p. 125

Transcript provided: 19 February 2026

Answer Due: 26 February 2026

Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question:

MS CARRICK: Yes, a question. Do you have a review process for these DAs to review the consistency, to review how whether they met the outcomes like, to review?

Mr Steel: We might take that on notice so we can provide some detail, but—yes.

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

The *ACT Planning System Evaluation Framework 2024-29* (evaluation framework) has been developed by government and is in use by the City and Environment Directorate (CED). The evaluation framework commenced in July 2024 and will span 5-years to 2029.

This evaluation framework was developed through consultation across government, with the Environment and Planning Forum, evaluation specialists and informed by public consultation on the new ACT Planning System.

Implementation of the framework to date has included:

- Delivery of an annual proponent survey,
- Establishment of a development application (DA) design audit framework, and
- Current delivery of a Development Assessment Process Performance Reform (DAPPR) Project.

The evaluation framework was established to allow for CED to undertake audits to monitor how development applications (DA's) design quality may change over time under the new outcomes-focused planning system and following the introduction of the design guides.

The evaluation framework outlines the government's approach to assessing how well the planning system is delivering outcomes that are important to the Canberra community. The framework provides guidance on how evaluation and monitoring activities should be delivered.

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A baseline audit of 40 DAs submitted under the previous planning system was completed in May 2024. Audit 2 is underway. It will review a sample of DAs lodged under the new system. The purpose of these audits is to systematically assess the design quality of DAs against the Housing Design Guide, Urban Design Guide and City Centre Urban Design Guide. Findings are used internally to identify where guidance, policy, or industry capability may need improvement.

While individual DA audit results are not released publicly, the audit program is a key part of CED's ongoing quality and consistency review process.

An outline of the staged assessment process for individual DAs, which includes oversight by a senior assessment officer, is provided in the response to QTON 09 of this Inquiry.

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