



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr (Deputy Chair), Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
27 October 2021

Asked by JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA on 27 OCTOBER 2021: MICK GENTLEMAN MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 October 2021, Page 184

In relation to: Proposed rock quarry, silica dust.

MR DAVIS: Minister, you may need to take this on notice. You raised in your earlier answer to the question of the ongoing concern for our shared constituency about a proposed rock quarry just over the border. As proposed, it would be about two kilometres away from residential dwellings in Brindabella. Would you be able to take on notice how much the work we are doing on the silica dust strategy might impact what we can and cannot do to mitigate any health risks on that community, dependent upon what might happen over the border?

Mr Gentleman: Certainly, however it relates to the ACT we could take on notice. I understand that the minister for the environment is doing some work in that space as well. I am happy to help her as much as we can in response to concerns about that quarry.

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government is a member of SafeWork Australia, the tripartite policy body with responsibility for national template work health and safety laws and regulations.

The ACT Government makes an annual financial contribution to the running of SafeWork Australia and expert ACT Government staff are active contributors on national policy development.

Through its contributions to the SafeWork Australia process, the ACT Government has influenced a range of improvements to national template laws as they pertain to silica safety, including the development of codes of practice for the safe handling of engineered stone and a reduction in the workplace exposure standard for airborne silica.

These changes, which have been adopted in NSW and the ACT (and other Australian jurisdictions), are improving silica safety standards in both jurisdictions and their border areas.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 27/10/2021

By the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Mick Gentleman MLA