



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Pages 11 - 13]

In relation to: Advice from Conservator regarding the ecological significance of Bluett's Block

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

QTON lodgement date: 05/08/2024

Answer Due Date: 08/08/2024

THE CHAIR: Nevertheless, the Committee could request that that advice be provided to the Committee.

Mr Steel: We can take it on notice.

MS CLAY: Can you also tell when that advice was provided?

Mr Steel: Yes.

THE CHAIR: Basically, you will take that on notice.

MINISTER STEEL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Block 402 Stromlo – Grant of further lease

- The original lease over Block 402 Stromlo was not granted as a direct sale as it preceded the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.
- In 1979, a 15-year lease was granted to the Australian National University (ANU) by direct negotiation. Further leases are granted under section 254 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.
- Since then, the lessee (ANU) has applied for and was granted further leases, over the subject site, including a further term of 15 years commencing on 1 July 2009.
- The most recent application, received 2023, for a further lease was proposed for a 99-year term.
- In considering whether to grant a further lease, the Territory Planning Authority (the Authority) consulted with the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.
- On 28 March 2023, the Conservator supported the application on the condition that it was a 15-year lease, not a 99-year lease as proposed.
- The reasons for only supporting a shorter-term lease was to ensure that the land could be made available to ACT Government, if required in the future, to assist with managing environmental values and offsets in the area.
- As such, the Authority granted a further lease for a period of 15-years which commenced on 14 June 2023.

Block 403 Stromlo and Part of Block 12 Section 1 Denman – Conservator's advice

- The process for creating a nature reserve includes amending the Territory Plan to apply a public land reserve overlay over the relevant area.
- On 23 May 2024, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna wrote to the Authority which included an opinion in relation to the environmental values on Block 403 Stromlo, and the undeveloped part of Denman Prospect block 12 (the subject land).
- Currently, the Authority is considering the opinion and will provide advice to Government for its consideration.
- Given this process is still ongoing, it is not appropriate to provide the Conservator's advice at this stage until Government has formed an opinion.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

8/8/24

By the Minister for Planning, Chris Steel MLA