



DPA-04 Missing Middle Housing Reform

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Flood Modelling

Hearing: 12 February 2026

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THE CHAIR: So the other thing is water, is the other big one for climate change and hard surfaces. Is government tapping maybe expertise over at UC or getting any other sort of longitudinal regular feedback on whether what we are doing in the built environment is okay for an increased climate risk of flooring, or whether that is taking us backwards?

Mr Engele: Absolutely, yes. We do flight modelling on a— once again, on a semiregular basis. So every sort of five years we have got some work underway on flood modelling across the southern— as part of the Southern Gateway work. Which is really understanding the nature of the flows, changes in possible development proposals. So what we think the trajectory of development will be across that. And also climate change, of course, is the big one.

THE CHAIR: And is that happening Canberra-wide or are you just doing that on Southern Gateway and some of those big—

Mr Engele: Yes, it is normally across— it is across sort of different catchments. So at the moment I know there is— we have got some work in the inner north, along Sullivans Creek, and then in the inner south, along that Yarralumla Creek into Woden area.

THE CHAIR: Could you take on notice for me, probably in the last five or 10 years, just whatever is handy, what sort of reports, what work government has got on that flood mapping in different areas of Canberra?

Mr Engele: Yes, sure.

THE CHAIR: And also whether those are regular things? Like, we do this one every five years. Can you just take that detail on notice?

Mr Engele: Yes, I can take that on notice. I know that the results are presented in

ACTmapi, so you can search, for say the inner north, and look at the latest flood modelling and it will show you the two per cent and one per cent inundation areas.

THE CHAIR: Yes, okay. Thank you.

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

The ACT Government holds a number of flood studies conducted over about two decades and has produced indicative flood mapping from the most recent of these studies for each urban catchment. This flood information is available on the public facing ACTmap website under the 'Flood Map' tab at <https://www.actmap.act.gov.au>.

The flood studies used to produce this mapping were conducted over a period of time by different industry expert consultants and for different government clients. They have used different modelling approaches, assumptions and parameters. These were reviewed in 2016-17, with some minor changes, before the mapping of the 1 per cent AEP flood (previously known as the 1 in a 100-year flood) was placed on the ACTmap website.

The areas covered by the current mapping relate only to major stormwater channels, creeks and rivers and do not include flooding that may occur at street scale or on individual blocks. Flooding at this more localised scale is related to the drainage system of pits, pipes and overland flow paths that can become blocked by debris and other obstructions. Determining flood risks at this local scale requires detailed drainage studies that are not usually undertaken after suburb development – unless there are major flooding issues identified.

The ACT Government is currently undertaking a program of revised flood studies covering urban districts and the Murrumbidgee River in the ACT. This program is partly funded by the Commonwealth National Emergency Management Agency under the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) program. To date, updated flood studies have been prepared for the Tuggeranong district, the city west area and the Murrumbidgee River in the ACT. Studies underway include those for Yarralumla Creek (Woden Valley), Weston Creek and Sullivans Creek (Inner North Canberra). Studies programmed for the next two years include those for Ginninderra Creek (Belconnen and Gungahlin), Woolshed Creek and Jerrabomberra Creek (both in East Canberra).

Missing middle reforms relate primarily to allowances for more intensive housing on existing urban zoned land. It is not anticipated that there are significant flooding issues on existing zoned land however, development applications are required to address flooding as part of the assessment outcomes for residential zones.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

26 / 2 / 26

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel MLA