



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Canberra Pony Club lease at Thoroughbred Park

Hearing: 24 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 94

Transcript provided: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 4 August 2026

Mr Maxwell took on notice the following question(s):

Mr Green: The proponent is the Thoroughbred Park precinct, that is—yes, sorry, Thoroughbred Park precinct.

MS CLAY: Yes, that is right. Yes, just, no, that is fine.

Mr Steel: There are a number of lessees in that area. There is the Canberra Racing Club, but then there is also Melbourn Group as well and some other lessees on the—

MS CLAY: I might check in on some of those. The Canberra Pony Club, they are currently leasing a block in there. What conversations have you had with them about where this proposal would leave them?

Mr Maxwell: So before we put DPA-08 out on consultation, we engaged with all lessees in the precinct including the pony club, about the proposal. It was an authority-initiated major plan amendment, so it was to inform them of the intentions and the initial thinking in relation to their site in the precinct. Since then, we are yet to re-engage with the pony club. That is something that needs to occur. As the DPA progresses, we are resolving those matters at the moment. So once we have answers and an update to give back to the pony club, we will need to provide them with an update.

MS CLAY: So you would re-engage with them when you have a clearer proposal.

Mr Maxwell: That is correct, yes. It is continuing as a—and to clarify Mr Green's statements, it is continuing as an authority-initiated major plan amendment. Just noting there are a number of private lessees, or a select group of private lessees in this precinct, we are just informing them all.

MS CLAY: And of course you need to engage with them all.

Mr Maxwell: Absolutely.

MS CLAY: That is very important. I am just sort of trying to get a sense of timing. I understand they are probably on different lease lengths, but I know the pony club lease, it would be useful for them to know if they are not going to have a site there. That is good for them to know and to know where they would go and it would be useful even to let them know when they will find out that information if you cannot give them that information. Is there any sort of timing on this process?

Mr Maxwell: We are getting close to resolving the draft plan amendment 08 shortly. So no exact timeframes as of today, Ms Clay, but that one is getting close. I also believe that pony club have put in a separate application to extend the lease on that site, which was being considered by the Territory Planning Authority separately as well. I am not 100 per cent sure what the outcome of that process was. They have been making their own inquiries in regards to their tenure.

MS CLAY: I wonder if you can take on notice if there is any information that you can release about that lease extension, it would be great if you could take that on notice and provide it.

Mr Maxwell: Sure I can take that on notice.

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

The Canberra Pony Club was granted a further lease on 29 October 2025 for a term of 10 years. No further decisions have been made regarding an extension of the Pony Club's lease beyond this period.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date:

4/8/26

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