



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

In relation to: Territory Battery Project - updates and further submissions

Hearing: 31 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 91

Transcript provided: 4 August 2026

Answer Due: 11 August 2026

Mr Sam Engele took on notice the following question(s):

MS LEE: Yes. I mean, the development application is there but like I said it is just that it seems a bit odd that approval was conditional in April '25 and just there seems to be nothing further since then. So as far as the government's concerned, you have not received any update in relation to this project whatsoever?

Mr Engele: So Sam Engele, Deputy Director-General, Environment Planning Policy. So in terms of the planning system, we have to take that on notice, whether there has been any updates. It would not be unusual for there to be a period of time between the initial approvals and then the design phase. So there is normally development approval is given—and I am just on the website now just to see what approval that is. And then that would be a sort of detailed design stage. And then that would then normally come back to satisfy the various conditions that have been required. And then actually to build the system. So from the experience from the territory battery done in Williamsdale, there was a considerable amount of time. The sort of engineering question, the supplier, that was all worked out after the development was approved. So that sort of just gives you a sense of, it will be a battery, or it will be this, it will sort of cover this site and then so I can take on notice whether we have had any further submissions for you and come back.

MS LEE: Sure. That would be great.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The question relates to a DA for a battery storage development in Belconnen (DA 202342503). The DA was submitted to the Territory Planning Authority by Neoen in October 2024 and approved on 14 April 2025, subject to conditions and a request for further information to be submitted under s165 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* or s205 of the *Planning Act 2023*.

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Condition 1 of the Notice of Decision (NoD), which requires the submission of further information, does not specify a timeframe for compliance. However, Condition 3 (Lease Variation) requires the proponent to vary the Crown Lease and commence construction within 36 months of the date of the decision. In accordance with Condition 4 of the NoD, construction must commence within three years of the decision date. Since the approval, no application has been submitted by the proponent or the applicant to address the conditions of the Notice of Decision (NoD).

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final flourish.

Signature:

Date: 13/08/26

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA