



Andrew Barr MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MINISTER FOR PLANNING
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



Mr Zed Seselja MLA
Chair
Select Committee on Estimates 2009-2010
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Seselja

Thank you for your letter of 2 June 2009 offering me the opportunity to answer questions from the Select Committee on Estimates 2009-2010 with regard to my decision to direct the ACT Planning and Land Authority to refer to me three development applications seeking approval for the construction of a nine storey car park at The Canberra Hospital and two temporary car parks.

As you are aware, this decision is made in accordance with Section 158 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*. It is the first step in a process under the Act which requires that I make a number of other decisions over coming days and weeks. I am concerned that any hearing of the committee to "discuss this process" would inevitably anticipate the issues presently before me for decision under the Act. Therefore I do not think it appropriate for me to appear before the committee at this time.

My appearance before the committee at this time would also inevitably risk politicising the planning process. As you know, I am determined to keep politics out of planning.

I am aware that my colleague the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, has indicated that she will be available to appear before the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Planning

4 JUN 2009

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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