



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QON No. 5**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES  
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Jo Clay:

EPSDD AR P. 45

In relation to: DA Covid Measures

As a response to the COVID-19 health emergency, a range of measures were introduced to support DA processes including extending the timeframe to commence works under a development approval to three years (from 2 years).

- Was this for all development applications or those in specific tracks?
- And if it was for specific tracks, which tracks?

Can you please describe any additional requirements on the proponent to update EPSDD if the development, or the proponent's circumstances, or the environment(?) change over time? For example, if the development is in the impact track, is there a requirement for any updated environment-related reports?

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

The extension to commencement timeframes was applied across all assessment tracks.

It is important to note that development approvals attach to the particular land, rather than the proponent.

The impact track assessment process contains existing protections by providing time limits on Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and EIS exemptions. For example, an EIS is effective for five years before it expires. This means a development application for the proposal must be lodged within five years of the EIS process being completed. Once the EIS expires, a new EIS process is required, including an updated assessment of environmental conditions and potential environmental impacts of the proposal.

Often development approvals for projects interacting with environmental values will require the proponent to prepare and to submit to the planning and land authority (the Authority), for approval, a construction environmental management plan (CEMP). The CEMP details the measures to be undertaken to protect environmental values during construction. This occurs following development approval being granted and before construction can commence. All works must be in accordance with the CEMP.



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If the proposed development changes, an amendment is required and considered by the Authority. If the changes to the development are significant changes then a new environmental assessment and development application would be required.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chris Steel".

Date:

11/3/21

By the Acting Minister for Planning and Land Management, Chris Steel MLA