



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QON No. 24**

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 Nicole Lawder:**

In relation to:

- 1) I note that commencement of construction of the ACT's new crematorium has started. Can you advise when the development application was lodged?
- 2) What compliance standards will apply to the new operation?
- 3) What assessment has been made by the Environment Protection Authority and what permissions are needed before it can become operational?
- 4) Was there a delay in construction and if so, why was this the case?
- 5) When will the new facility be operational?
- 6) Will the facility be mobile? For example, will it be able to move to Southern Memorial Park in the future?

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

- 1) A Development Application (DA) was waived on 19 March 2020 after a recommendation was endorsed by Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 17 March 2020, on the grounds that a public health emergency had been declared for the ACT (under section 119 of the *Public Health Act 1997*). Under section 151 of the *Building Act 2004*, a Building Commencement Notice, was issued on 29 June 2020.
- 2) The Crematorium is a Class A Activity under the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, requiring authorisation. Approval of the Crematorium is not required under the *Public Health Act 1997*, however ongoing processes of operation are monitored by the Department of Health.
- 3) After consultation with the EPA, signed Authorisation was issued on 25 November 2020 and the EPA approved an Environmental Management Plan for the crematorium on 4 March 2021.
- 4) There was no delay in the construction of the crematorium and the facility was handed over on 15 December 2020. On 26 June 2020, the Canberra Times quoted Minister Steel the crematorium was "...among several projects fast-tracked due to coronavirus(sic) and is expected to be completed by December".
- 5) The crematorium became operational on 24 February 2021.
- 6) The cremator (furnace) and the mechanical equipment associated with it are transportable and can be relocated if required.

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

Signature:

Date:

11/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA