



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report 4 of 2020: Residential Land Supply and Release
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
27 April 2022

Asked by Ms Kikkert on 27 April 2022: Dr Brady took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 April 2022, page 27.

In relation to: ACT Land and Property report

THE CHAIR: Thank you, minister. Minister, in your submission, in recommendation 2, you noted the ACT land and property reports from 2019 to 2020 and I was trying to find the land and property report for January to June 2021, is that available? And also, the December—July to December 2021.

Mr Gentleman: Dr Brady will take that one.

Dr Brady: Erin Brady, Deputy Director-General, Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and I acknowledge the privilege statement. With respect to the property reports, the January to June 2021 was published on the website on 17 November 2021. The July to December 2021 is just being finalised and there has been some delays and it will be uploaded, it is anticipated, in June this year, so next month, I am sorry, June.

THE CHAIR: That is quite a lengthy delay. What is the purpose of the delay?

Dr Brady: There has been some delays just in terms of getting the right data and input from some of the agencies that we work with to gather the data.

THE CHAIR: Is that due to the agency being complicated to communicate with and it is difficult for them to get the data? Are these new data that you are asking for and they find it hard to complete?

Dr Brady: To answer your first question, I do not believe it is any difficulty in relationships between our agencies. I think it is more—I have been advised that there has just been a delay in getting the data to put into the report. I can take that on notice if you need further detail.

THE CHAIR: Yes, that would be great, if it is new data or not. Because five months, around the fifth month, right, yes, five months is a long delay and if you are asking them for new data, if that is the delayed process or.

Dr Brady: It is not new data; it is just that normal data that we input to the reports and I understand there has been a delay in getting that data to update the report.

THE CHAIR: Do you know the reason why there is a delay from the agencies?

Dr Brady: I do not, actually, so if I can take that on notice if you would like me to find out.

THE CHAIR: That would be great. I am actually surprised, five months and you are not aware of why the data is taking forever from the agency to supply it, so you can update the report.

Dr Brady: The reports are usually several months behind because we rely on different sources of data for it, so it is usually not straight away afterwards that we would have that report done.

THE CHAIR: And when was this report due?


Mr Ponton: Sorry, Chair, if I could just jump in there. Ben Ponton, Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable development Directorate, I have read and acknowledge the privileges statement. Just in addition to that, I understand Dr Brady may want to talk a little bit about this but I do understand that the issue was some of the data migrated to different software and that has impacted the ability to extract the data.

So in terms of the further detail of that, as Dr Brady said, we can certainly take that on notice and give you more detail but it was actually a software issue in terms of extracting the data.

Minister Gentleman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) provide data input to the work for the reports and SLA had moved to a new data storage system in the period of preparation of this report - which resulted in further time required for the analysis of the data and discussions between the Environment and Planning Directorate and SLA to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Signature: 

Date: 18/5/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA