



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Chief Engineer

Redirected to: Minister for Major Projects

In relation to: Phillip Pool Design

Hearing: 4 August 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 115

Transcript provided: 5 August 2026

Answer Due: 12 August 2026

Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MS CARRICK: One more. Chief Engineer, the Phillip pool design. There are four levels of basement parking underneath pools. And I am just wondering whether the Chief Engineer has looked at the design to ensure that we do not have pools leaking into four levels of basement parking. So has the chief engineer had a look at the Geocon design for the 25-metre pool that we are getting?

Mr Engele: So I cannot answer for the chief engineer because that is not—

MS CARRICK: Is the Chief Engineer here? Because we have got Chief Engineer on our list. Chief Engineer.

Mr Engele: But in terms of the Territory Planning Authority, in assessing a DA we will look at the engineering compliance to ensure that it is something that can be constructed. So that would have been looked at as part of the assessment process.

[...]

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Was that going to be an answer?

THE CHAIR: Is there an answer? Are you the Chief Engineer?

Mr Haraldson: No I am not. The Chief Engineer is not here. Anthony Haraldson from Infrastructure Canberra. We can take that on notice.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Chief Engineer's role is to promote engineering excellence across the ACT by strengthening engineering capability and supporting improvements in infrastructure governance, standards and project delivery of ACT Government projects. The Chief Engineer is supported by the ACT Board of Engineering Excellence, which provides independent expert advice and helps foster strong links between government, industry and the engineering profession.

The function of the Chief Engineer does not encompass assessing, approving or certifying private development designs.

Responsibility for the engineering design rests with the developer's suitably qualified engineers, who are professionally accountable for ensuring the design meets applicable standards, codes and duties of care. The Territory Planning Authority assesses development applications against relevant planning and regulatory requirements, while independent building certifiers and associated compliance processes provide further oversight throughout detailed design and construction. Together, these processes provide a range of checks and balances to help ensure engineering and construction outcomes are safe, compliant and fit for purpose.

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

Signature: 

Date: **6.8.26**

By the Minister for Major Projects, Andrew Barr MLA