



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: George Cilliers

In relation to: Development application decisions

Hearing: 24 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 79–80

Transcript provided: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 4 August 2026

Mr Cilliers took on notice the following question(s):

MR PARTON: So my understanding is that active applications fell from 304 in March to 243 in June. And just looking at those raw numbers, without a full understanding of the complexity of the applications, it is just difficult to understand why the lower application numbers have not produced faster decisions.

Mr Cilliers: Well, they did. They did produce a faster application procedure.

MR PARTON: But Mr Cilliers, they have not.

Mr Engle: So I think there is probably two things in relation to the data. I just draw your attention to the average days to make a decision, which I can see the number you are referring to, 83 days in June 2026; however, probably a better one is looking at the median days to make a decision because those averages can be influenced by one or two really complicated and contentious DAs which require a lot of working through. And so those numbers currently sitting between—so you can see 45 days is the current median days as at June 2026, which is sort of within the range of between 35 and 45 days. So probably that is—

MR PARTON: A different story to 83.

Mr Engle: Yes, I guess the 83, so we get two or three really big ones, and we have got some really complicated ones, particularly with traffic management, that we have had to spend a lot of time going back and forth with the proponent.

MR PARTON: Well, can I ask, how many applications have been waiting a decision for more than six months?

Mr Cilliers: I will have to take that one on notice.

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

In the 2025–26 financial year, 63 development applications waited more than six months for a decision. 41 of these applications were determined within the statutory timeframe.

Several factors can contribute to the overall timeframe for a development application. This includes requests for further information, the time taken for applicants to respond, amendments to applications, and any subsequent assessment, notification or entity referral of additional material provided. Statutory decision timeframes are extended where further information is requested or amendments to the application are lodged.

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

Signature:



Date:

6/8/26

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel MLA