



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Minister for Planning and Land Management

Public Accounts Committee Hearing

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report No. 8 of 2018: Assembly of rural
land west of Canberra

Wednesday 16 October 2019

3.30pm to 4.15pm

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report No. 8 of 2018: Assembly of rural land west of Canberra	
1.	[REDACTED]
2.	[REDACTED]
3.	Western Edge planning
4.	[REDACTED]

Planning and Urban Renewal Committee

Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA – Chair

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA – Deputy Chair

Ms Bec Cody MLA

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICE

WITNESS LIST FOR COMMITTEE AND HANSARD
INQUIRY INTO BUILDING QUALITY IN THE ACT

To assist the Committee with its records and Hansard in recording the appearance of all officers who are likely to give evidence to the Committee, you are requested to provide the following information. Please return this information electronically to the Committee Secretary.

Committee Name: Public Accounts Committee	
Hearing Date & Time: Wednesday, 16 October 2019. 3:30pm to 4:15pm	
Title / Full name / Position / Branch or Division / Department or Agency	Portfolio area
Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD	EPSDD
Mr Stephen Miners, Deputy Under Treasurer, Treasury	CMTEDD

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: WESTERN EDGE PLANNING

Talking points:

- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is undertaking preliminary environmental, planning, heritage and infrastructure investigations into land west of Canberra’s metropolitan area – also known as the Western Edge.
- The Western Edge Investigation Area has not been comprehensively investigated to date (refer to attached map).
- Funding of \$1.15m has been made available to EPSDD in the 2019-20 budget, spread across two years, to undertake initial planning and environmental studies to assist determine the long term use of the rural land west of Canberra.
- The preliminary investigations are seeking to ascertain the values of the area and provide information about a range of possible future uses, including nature reserves, environmental offsets, cultural and heritage values, potential urban areas, infrastructure and other rural uses.
- There is a need to consider the long term opportunities for urban growth as greenfield land supply in Gungahlin and Molonglo is likely to be exhausted by around 2022 and 2031 respectively.
- Studies being progressed through the first phase of procurement include preliminary environmental investigations of ecology (flora, fauna, birds), bushfire, hydrology, air, noise, contamination, geotechnical, landscape and visual assessments. Outcomes of these early studies will inform a broader planning and infrastructure investigation in year two.
- The outcomes of this work will be brought to government to inform strategic land supply and planning decisions.
- This work is consistent with the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 and addresses recommendations made by the then ACT Auditor-General in ‘Report No 8/2018 Assembly of rural land west of Canberra’.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/10/2019	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 76842
Contact Officer name:	Alison Moore	Ext: 72693
Lead Directorate:	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Carolyn O’Neill	

Key Information

- The first phase of investigation focuses on the issues, values, possible future land uses and management of the western edge of the city to ultimately provide greater certainty to Government, the community and adjoining jurisdictions about the future of this area.
- It will assist to establish the background information and identify where further more detailed work may be required over the coming years to inform Government decision making.
- EPSDD intends to procure technical input to conduct preliminary environmental, planning and infrastructure investigations.

Background Information

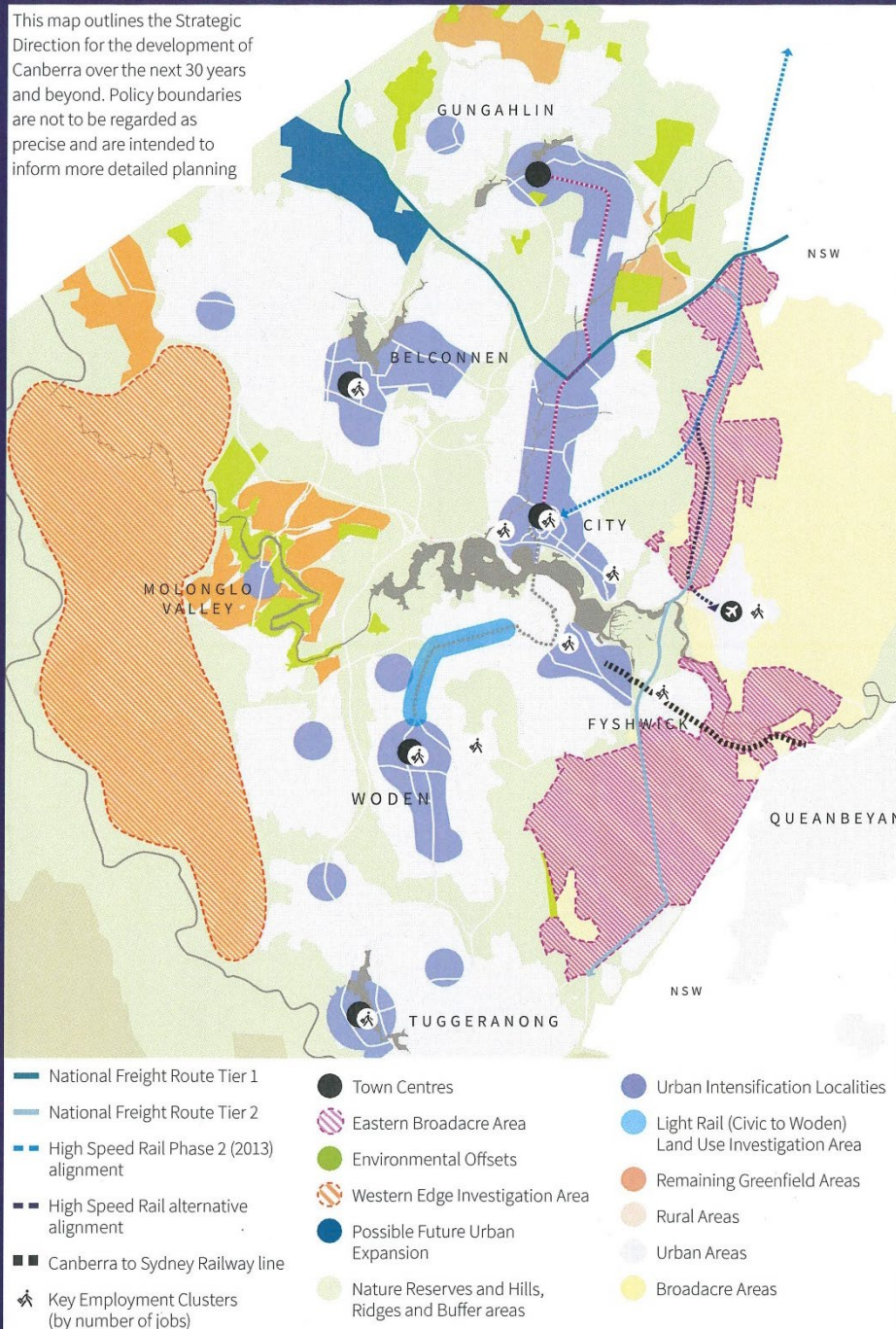
- Significant population growth brings demand for new residential development in a range of locations. Many new housing areas on the edge of Canberra (known as 'greenfield areas') identified in the 2012 Planning Strategy have now been developed.
- Continuing to provide diversity in where and how people live is a critical component of the 2018 Planning Strategy, as is the need to investigate the potential urban capability of the Western Edge.
- Direction 1.2 of the ACT Planning Strategy 2018 provides framing and guidance for these investigations.
- It should be noted that further work may be required after these initial studies are complete, to undertake more detailed spatial urban and infrastructure planning for any land determined as being urban capable. Environmental assessments (for example: a Strategic Assessment undertaken with the Commonwealth Government) that may be required would likely extend these timeframes.

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POLICY PLAN

Summary plan outlining the strategic directions for the development of Canberra over the next 30 years and beyond.

This map outlines the Strategic Direction for the development of Canberra over the next 30 years and beyond. Policy boundaries are not to be regarded as precise and are intended to inform more detailed planning



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02/10/2019
Executive Group Manager
Alison Moore
Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development
Yes
Carolyn O'Neill

Ext: 76842
Ext: 72693

From: [EPSD Government Services](#)
To: [EPSDD PlanningUrbanPolicy](#)
Cc: [O'Neill, Carolyn](#)
Subject: FOR ACTION - DUE TO GS 20/04 - QON 733 - Clay to Gentleman - Western Edge Investigation Area - PUP
Date: 8 April 2022 14:54:00
Attachments: [QON 733 - Clay to Gentleman - Western Edge Investigation Area - PUP.obr](#)

OFFICIAL

Good Afternoon

Questions on Notice Paper No. 16 has a new question from Ms Clay which requires a response.

- (1) Can the Minister identify, by block and section number, the five blocks in the Western Edge Investigation Area that have been sold in the last five years.
- (2) Can the Minister identify any blocks in the Western Edge Investigation Area that are currently on the market

Please find attached the folder reference for the QON with a template for you to use for the response. **Please let us know asap if you require input from another directorate or if this QON is not for your area.**


Where a response to a question asked is available online, please insert link to respond to the question.

We are also now required to calculate the time spent for each officer involved completing the QON. Please use the spreadsheet located in the folder to record minutes and calculate costings. Government Services will add final costings to the QON response.

Could you please provide the completed response, cleared by your Executive Group Manager, to Government Services by [4pm Wednesday 20 April 2022.](#)

Many Thanks

Tash

[Anastasia Hartwig](#) | Directorate Liaison Officer | ACT Legislative Assembly
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
Office of the Chief Minister | City Renewal Authority | Suburban Land Agency (matters within urban renewal precinct)
Office of Minister Vassarotti | Environment and Heritage | Sustainable Building and Construction
MS Teams: 6207 0701 |  | Email: epsdddlo@act.gov.au