

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 15

06 February 2026

Question No. 845

**Ms Deborah Morris MLA:** To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development -

1. What is the statutory timeframe for the determination of a development application (DA).
2. What was the longest duration a DA was active before a decision was made in (a) 2020-2021, (b) 2021-2022, (c) 2022-2023, (d) 2023-2024, (e) 2024-2025 and (f) 2025-2026 to date.
3. How many DAs were submitted to the planning authority in each of the reporting periods referred to in part (2).
4. Noting the median decision time for DAs since September was 45 days, what is the average.
5. What is the current full-time equivalent staffing level of the development assessment team, and how many vacancies currently exist within that team.

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

1. Under the *Planning Act 2023*, the statutory timeframe for determining development applications (DA) are as follows:
  - Standard DAs: 30 working days, or 45 working days if a representation is received; and
  - Significant DAs: 60 working days.
2. The longest duration a DA was active before a decision was made for each financial year is as follows:

Reporting Period	DA (Location – summary)	Days from lodgement to decision
(a) 2020–2021	201426138 (8/21 Braddon – lease variation)	1,664
(b) 2021-22	202037029 (5/39 Turner – proposal for multi-unit development)	358
(c) 2022-23	201731633 (67/35 Deakin – remove concessional status and lease variation)*	1,062
(d) 2023-24	202239940 (6/3 Hall – lease variation)	541

Reporting Period	DA (Location – summary)	Days from lodgement to decision
(e) 2024-25	201732583 (25/6 Barton — remove concessional status from the lease)*	1,721
(f) 2025-26	DA 202138682 (1/66 Weston — remove concessional status from the lease)*	906

\*Note that in relation to DAs to remove concessional status under the *Planning and Development Act 2007 (repealed)*, no decision can be made on an application unless consideration of the development application is in the public interest. There was no statutory timeframe for making this public interest decision in the Act.

3. The total number of DAs submitted to the Planning Authority is as follows:
  - a) 2020–2021: 917
  - b) 2021–2022: 1,062
  - c) 2022–2023: 1,055
  - d) 2023–2024: 788
  - e) 2024–2025: 769
  - f) 2025–2026: 433 (the number of DAs lodged by month for 2025-26 is published on the [ACT Planning website](#)).
  
4. The average number of days to make a decision for a DA between 1 July 2025 and 31 January 2026, inclusive, is 67 days.

Monthly DA statistics, including the percentage of DAS decided within statutory timeframes, and average and median number of days to make a decision on a DA, for the current reporting period are published on the ACT Planning website here:

<https://www.planning.act.gov.au/applications-and-assessments/development-applications/development-statistics/development-applications-da-statistics-2025-26>

5. There are 22.5 full-time equivalent staff in the Development Assessment team. There are currently 3 vacant positions within this team.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

**Chris Steel MLA**  
**Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development**

**Date:**

16/3/26

This response required 1hr 55mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$194.37.