

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 13

31 October 2025

Question No.719

Leanne CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development -

1. How can a certain material be rated as bushfire-safe when employed horizontally, but unsafe when constructed horizontally, given that Access Canberra has refused to grant a Certificate of Occupancy because builders used cladding material on external walls that is not Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rated, yet the same material when used in decking is BAL-rated to 40, a high degree of safety, and though the specific product is not rated, the materials that comprise it are highly rated.
2. Is the Government able to review decisions not to grant a Certificate of Occupancy in cases such as that referred to in part (1).

CHRIS STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Access Canberra is not aware of any instances where a Certificate of Occupancy (COU) has not been granted in the above circumstances.

Further, due to a lack of sufficient information, I am unable to provide any comments in relation to the materials and their use as referenced in the question.

2. If a COU is refused, there are appeal rights through the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date: 11/11/25

This response required 1hr 45mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$181.10

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