

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15

06 February 2026

Question No. 819

Laura Nuttall MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development -

Will the Minister be adopting a similar approach to engaging with the community on the community facility sites that are proposed to be released in Gowrie (two sites), Richardson, Chapman and Isaacs as the Minister for the Public Service has recently announced will commence on the long-term future use of a community site in Ainslie, which will include six pop-up sessions as well as a webpage on Yoursay with a report on what was heard during the engagement with the community; if not, why not and what community engagement will the Government be undertaking on the five sites.

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

The land release process for community facilities zoned (CFZ) land seeks to release unused (i.e. vacant land), surplus Territory land to enable the development of new community facilities.

The ACT Government is continuing to deliver an annual program of release of CFZ land that is surplus to Government needs, for not-for-profit community organisations to establish community facilities through a two-stage (expression of interest/tender) sales process. The two-stage process invites not-for-profit community organisations to submit proposals for the land, consistent with the Community Facility land use zoning under the Territory Plan. Each proposal submitted through this process is assessed against a set of criteria to demonstrate the community need for a proposal, benefit to the broader community and how the proponent would mitigate any potential impacts from the development on the surrounding area.

At the beginning of the expression of interest process, the ACT Government notifies nearby residents of the upcoming process, types of land uses that are permissible under a CFZ zone and any information specific to a block of land. Information is also provided on the City and Environment Directorate website.

If a community organisation is successful through the sales process, community consultation will be carried out during a development application process for the site. Should development approval be obtained by a successful community organisation, the sale of the land will be finalised.

Regarding the community site in Ainslie, the ACT Government underwent community engagement to help shape the future of the site. This process is different to the land release process for CFZ sites as it was about how the Territory could manage an existing Government property. The site is not proposed for release as surplus Government land at this time.

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 35 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$64.78