

Chris Steel MLA

Treasurer

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Member for Murrumbidgee

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 6****9 May 2025****Question No. 363****MR EMERSON MLA** - To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development:

- (1) Given that the Downer Community Association (DCA) have funds ready to invest in infrastructure to support the community, including the installation of solar panels and the construction of an electric vehicle charging site for the Downer Community Centre which they currently have a month-to-month lease for, however, they are hesitant to use these funds as their month-to-month lease creates uncertainty for future operations, can the Minister explain why there was a change in lease conditions when it has previously leased the Centre for much longer time periods.
- (2) When will the DCA be offered a longer-term lease for the Downer Community Centre.

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

- (1) An executive lease for Block 16 Section 61 Downer was issued to the ACT Government for 99 years in 1994. The executive lease is held by the Justice and Community Services Directorate (JACS). A sublease to the Downer Community Association (DCA) was issued in 2013, which expired on 31 January 2018. I've been advised by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate that they have not received a request to extend the sublease, with the DCA continuing to occupy the site on a month-to-month arrangement.
- (2) The granting of a sublease to the DCA could be considered if a request is made to JACS, who hold the executive lease. The Territory would then consider the granting of a sublease, following the consent of the Territory Planning Authority.



Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date:.....6/5/25.....

This response required 1 hour to complete, at an approximate cost of \$120.14.