

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 2

7 February 2025

Question No. 157

MR CAIN MLA - To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development:

- (1) What process does the ACT Government have for landowners who wish to rent land to Tiny Houses on Wheels (THOW).
- (2) How has the ACT Government sought to give confidence to THOW owners about the rules of the ACT.
- (3) What information is available for THOW owners and landowners.
- (4) Is the ACT Government seeking to increase the number of THOW in the ACT.
- (5) What confidence is the Government giving to the private sector, who provide or want to provide services for THOW.
- (6) What research has the ACT Government conducted into THOW policy in other Australian jurisdictions.
- (7) How does the ACT Government protect people living in THOW from being unreasonably ordered to move from their location.
- (8) What is the ACT Government's future plan for THOW in the ACT.

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

- (1) There is no specific established process for landowners who wish to rent land to THOW.
- (2) The Territory Planning Authority (the Authority) provide advisory services to members of the public on the application of planning requirements in the ACT, including for owners of THOW. Noting that each situation may be different, tailored advice can be provided by contacting the Authority.
- (3) There is currently no specific information provided. I have asked the Authority to consider whether there is sufficient demand and requests for advice to warrant the provision of information more generally. Noting that the Authority already provides tailored advisory services when requested.
- (4) The ACT Government does not have an existing policy commitment to increase the number of THOWs in the ACT. However, it may explore options for doing so alongside other innovative housing models.
- (5) There are no restrictions on the private sector building and selling THOWs in the ACT, and individuals are not prohibited from owning them. However, the use of a THOW may be subject to approval processes, noting that tiny homes on wheels are designed to be mobile, akin to a caravan or motorhome, which are not permanently connected to utilities such as sewerage and water networks.
- (6) The Affordable Housing Policy Coordination team within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate has undertaken a basic assessment of the THOW sector in Australia in early 2024. This involved desktop research and a meeting with the program manager of the Surf Coast Shire Council's THOW trial program manager to learn more about their program design.
- (7) There are no specific protections in place, noting there is no specific policy for the use of THOW.
- (8) The ACT Government will continue to monitor the THOW sector across Australia and consider options for how this solution could be included in future policy considerations.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date:.....3/3/25.....

This response required 1hrs 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$141.47.