

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15

06 February 2026

Question No. 858

Jo Clay MLA - To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development:

1. Have the Government's Eastern Broadacre investigations identified ecological values on Block 12 Section 111 Symonston and Block 2233 Jerrabomberra; if so, how will those investigations be factored into consideration of the development application.
2. Does the current draft assessment include any potential uses for the blocks referred to in part (1); if so, how do current proposals by proponents align or conflict with proposed uses for the blocks in the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment (EBSA).
3. Is it possible for other development proposals to be made for blocks within the EBSA area.
4. Are there any areas that a development proposal could not be made for until the EBSA is finalised.
5. How does the Government intend to manage existing and future land use, and ecological management, of areas within the EBSA area before the EBSA is finalised.

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

1. There are current development applications (DAs) for Block 12 Section 111 Symonston and Block 2233 Jerrabomberra. These sites are within the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment Area but are not subject to further detailed ecological studies associated specifically with the Strategic Assessment.

Any associated ecological considerations required under ACT legislation, and requirements under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, would need to be addressed by the proponent. The development application (DA-202544243) is currently under assessment by the Independent Territory Planning Authority.

2. Further studies are being undertaken to inform the final draft EBSA, which is currently scheduled to be re-submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water later in 2026. All public information on the EBSA is available at <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-projects/eastern-broadacre>. The draft EBSA project is not at a stage to be able to definitively identify the proposed uses for sites.

3. Yes, a lessee of a block within the EBSA may apply for a DA under the current planning requirements. Several DAs for sites have progressed while the EBSA has been underway noting that some are still subject to a statutory development assessment process.
4. Development proposals could be made if a lessee wishes to for any land within the study area while the EBSA is being prepared. Development proposals could not progress on areas that are already considered not suitable for development. Any proposals on land with ecological values would be subject to a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment process.
5. The long-term land ownership and management of development area and conservation areas will be considered as part of the EBSA. Some areas are privately leased, and some areas are unleased land where the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) is the land custodian. PCS is working to maintain ecological values on PCS managed land and provides guidance and information to private lessees on appropriate land management. Further studies are being undertaken to inform the final draft EBSA, which is currently scheduled to be re-submitted to DCCEEW later in 2026. The draft EBSA project is not at a stage to be able to definitively identify what sites will be managed for future land uses and ecological matters. All public information on the EBSA is at <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-projects/eastern-broadacre>.

There is Commonwealth-owned National Land and Designated Areas within the EBSA study area. The National Capital Authority (NCA) is responsible for managing National Land (including Designated Areas) required for the special purposes of Canberra as the National Capital. The NCA administers National Land under the *ACT (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* and the National Capital Plan.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date: 12/3/26

This response required 3hrs 16mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$307.09.