

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 16

3 March 2026

Question No. 934

Thomas Emerson MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

1. How is consideration given to community benefit over other factors such as profit when considering bids for blocks that are zoned for demonstration housing projects.
2. Is there currently government policy around reasonable timelines for government responses to requests for tender; if so, what is the policy?
3. Is there a policy around reasonable communication and transparency when negotiating with demonstration housing project stakeholders; if so, what is the policy?

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

1. Demonstration Housing Project objectives emphasise community-focused outcomes, including sustainability, design quality, innovative housing models, and meeting the needs of diverse Canberrans. The criteria did not consider factors such as profit from land sales. An overview of the evaluation criteria is publicly available at: <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-projects/demonstration-housing-project/the-process>
2. ACT Government Request for Tender (RFT) processes are subject to the *Government Procurement Act 2001*, which does not specify timelines for government responses given the differing complexity of processes. Noting the complex nature of Demonstration Housing and its objective to deliver new housing typologies for Canberra, some RFT timeframes may need to be extended to allow for proponents to develop a proposal, secure funding (including through Commonwealth programs) and/or for the Territory to appropriately consider a proposal.
3. There is no specific Demonstration Housing policy regarding reasonable communication and transparency for negotiation. The Demonstration Housing program and associated Expression of Interest/RFT processes clearly outline key milestones in the process and when information and feedback stages will occur, noting also the need to adhere to appropriate probity and confidentiality requirements.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date: 23/3/26

This response required 3hrs 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$377.19