

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 14

05 December 2025

Question No. 777

Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

1. Has any Minister or Government representative met with the owners or representatives of Big Splash Pool regarding potential redevelopment or residential use of the site; if so, on what dates did these meetings occur and who attended, including any planning advisors or consultants.
2. Has the Government received any formal or informal proposals for redevelopment of the Big Splash site, and has it provided any advice, guidance, or support regarding rezoning or planning approvals.
3. Can the Minister confirm the timeline publicly advised that Big Splash Pool would reopen in mid-November 2025 and provide details of any Government involvement or support in ensuring the site was prepared to reopen on schedule.

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

1. The Minister for Sport and Recreation met Purdon on 14 October 2025. Attendees at the meeting included:
 - a. The Minister for Sport and Recreation;
 - b. Sport Advisor, Minister Berry Office;
 - c. Senior Advisor, Minister Steel Office;
 - d. Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation (CMETEDD); and
 - e. Representatives from Purdon, representing the owner of Big Splash.
2. An informal concept for the site was shared by Purdon at the meeting with the Minister for Sport and Recreation on 14 October 2025. No advice, guidance or support was provided by any of the ACT Government representatives in attendance at the meeting regarding rezoning or planning approvals.

An early concept master plan proposal for Block 1 Section 53 Macquarie was presented to the National Capital Design Review Panel (NCDRP) for review on 27 November 2025. Formal NCDRP advice was issued to the proponent on 11 December 2025.

The Territory Planning Authority has not received any requests or applications to rezone the Big Splash site and has not provided any guidance regarding rezoning or planning approvals.

The ACT Government has no plans to rezone the land at Big Splash.

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3. Access Canberra was advised by the operators of Big Splash that they intended to open mid-November 2025.

Access Canberra has taken regulatory action against the lessee in relation to the use provisions of the lease, with the Territory forming a view the lease has not been used in accordance with these provisions for more than 12 months. A Controlled Activity Order was issued on 12 December 2025, requiring the lessee to comply and use the land as per its intended purpose under the Crown Lease by no later than 23 January 2026.

A range of options are available to the Territory should the lessee fail to comply with these Orders, including prosecution and lease termination.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Date: 20 / 1 / 26

This response required 1hr 55 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$217.51.