

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Output 2.1.3

Topic: Release of surplus Commonwealth land for housing

Question reference number: F82(a-c)

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Payne asked:

- a) The Government has stated that it committed to releasing surplus government land for housing purposes. In September 2008, Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek, responding to a Question on Notice, said that the Commonwealth had released the following land for sale West Wattle Grove (Syd), Cannon Hill (Bris) and Schofields (Syd). For the West Wattle Grove and Schofields sites, are there any updates on this process?
- b) Will the future use of this land be for housing?
- c) Will the Commonwealth Government consider transferring ownership of these Defence sites to State governments as part of its response to the shortage of public housing?

Answer:

Parts (a) & (b)

In addition to responses provided during the Additional Budget Estimates Hearing on 24 February 2009 (Hansard F&PA 3-5) about West Wattle Grove and Schofields:

- The Schofields site is expected to go back on the market in the near future and will be disposed of in accordance with the revamped Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy. The Schofields site is considered potentially suitable for housing.
- The Commonwealth's requirement for the West Wattle Grove site is currently being reassessed and whether it will go back out to the market will be determined through that process.

Part (c)

In accordance with the revamped Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy, direct or 'priority' sales to State or local Governments will be considered where it can be demonstrated that such a sale offers the best outcomes for delivery of the Government's objectives in relation to increasing housing supply, improving community amenity and creating new jobs.