

2023

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

TENTH ASSEMBLY

Response to Petition 009-23 – Housing ACT property, Swinger Hill

RESPONSE

**Presented by
Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Women
June 2023**

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Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for Early Childhood Development
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Minister for Women
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2023, about Petition 009-23, tabled in the Legislative Assembly by Dr Marissa Patterson MLA. The petition requests the Assembly to call on Housing ACT to either safeguard or sell the property in Swinger Hill.

As part of the ACT Housing Strategy: Growing and Renewing Public Housing program and its routine asset management activities, Housing ACT is constantly assessing the future of individual properties within the public housing portfolio, considering a range of factors, including property age, condition, and recent maintenance spend; suburb ownership and surrounding holdings; site topography and development capacity; and value. Upon assessment, Housing ACT determined the property subject to this petition would be retained within the public housing portfolio, noting its close proximity to essential services and public transport routes, and Housing ACT's limited holdings within the area.

I appreciate the concern raised by members of the community. Everyone has the right to the quiet enjoyment of their home and street. I acknowledge some tenants may exhibit challenging behaviours, but do not support the view that public housing tenants are responsible for all disruptive behaviour that might occur in a neighbourhood. Such behaviours are exhibited by a small minority and are in no way reflective of all public housing tenants.

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Public housing tenants, like all people renting in the Territory, are bound by the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* and must abide by their agreement. Housing ACT works within the provisions of the Act to support its tenants to meet the requirements of their tenancy agreements. If in breach of the Act, Housing ACT will take appropriate action to ensure the tenancy is being managed suitably and the client is best supported in sustaining their tenancy.

The concern around property condition has been raised as a matter of urgency, with actions to safeguard the property undertaken by Housing ACT's maintenance contractors. Housing ACT acknowledge there has been a delay in completing external work to adhere to the ACT Heritage Council standards, due to material availability. Housing ACT is working to have this work completed as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned above the typed name and title.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
01/06/2023