

From: [Huggett, Jenna](#) on behalf of [ACDLO](#)
To: [Liu, Michael](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT CLEARANCE - AC INPUT - QON 123: Minister Orr - Technology Upgrade Fund Cessation - Ms Clay to the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Date: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 4:41:00 PM

Hey Michael

We don't use a number as it changes regularly... we just say: *'most services and transactions can be completed online, outside of the establishing of identity, or surrendering or collecting number plates'*

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: Liu, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 12:07 PM
To: ACDLO ; Treloar, Naomi
Subject: RE: URGENT CLEARANCE - AC INPUT - QON 123: Minister Orr - Technology Upgrade Fund Cessation - Ms Clay to the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Looks good to me.

Do we still have that line about X% of transactions that are able to be done online?

Michael Liu

Chief of Staff | Office of Tara Cheyne MLA

From: Huggett, Jenna <Jenna.Huggett@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** ACDLO
Sent: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 9:34 AM
To: Treloar, Naomi <Naomi.Treloar@act.gov.au>
Cc: Liu, Michael <Michael.Liu@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT CLEARANCE - AC INPUT - QON 123: Minister Orr - Technology Upgrade Fund Cessation - Ms Clay to the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

OFFICIAL

Hey Na

Seeking your urgent clearance on the below highlighted AC input prior to sharing with CSD. (I understand Digital CBR are also providing input).

Q. In light of physical shopfronts, such as Centrelink/Services Australia reducing across ACT, what other support will the ACT Government put in place to increase access to digital and online support for Canberrans experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

A. Access Canberra Service Centres have locations across the ACT (Woden, Tuggeranong, Dickson, Gungahlin, and Belconnen) and ACT Libraries have nine branches also located across the ACT (Tuggeranong, Erindale, Woden, Kippax, Belconnen, Dickson, Civic, Kingston, Gungahlin) which support Canberrans with a range of services, transactions and assistance.

Service Centres have a number of self-service computer kiosks in all locations where customers can complete transactions digitally, with concierge officers who can assist if

required. Through Access Canberra's Contact Centre (13 22 81) Canberrans can be assisted and guided with digital transactions. Service Centres also have phones available which customers can use to support their transactions.

ACT Libraries have publicly available computers, printing services (printers, scanners, photocopiers) and can support assistance, where possible.

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: CSDDLO <CSDDLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 9:57 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>; ACDLO <ACDLO@act.gov.au>; CMTEDD, Public Service and Industrial Relations DLO <PSIRDLO@act.gov.au>

Cc: CSDDLO <CSDDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: REDIRECTION REQUEST - QON 123: Minister Orr - Technology Upgrade Fund Cessation - Ms Clay to the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Scarlett, Ashleigh and Jenna

Seeking a redirection to either *Minister for Public Service* or *Minister for City and Government Services* for the QON 123.

HCSD have input ready to go for question 1, however HCSD does not hold any information for question 2:

2. In light of physical shopfronts, such as Centrelink/Services Australia reducing across ACT, what other support will the ACT Government put in place to increase access to digital and online support for Canberrans experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

Would Digital Canberra, CED or CMTEDD be able to lead this one?

Kind regards

Andrew

Andrew Kirkwood (he/him) | **Directorate Liaison Officer** | **Office of Minister Orr** | **Director**

Phone: MS TEAMS | Email: andrew.kirkwood@act.gov.au

Governance | **Health and Community Services Directorate** | **ACT Government**

GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or

families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Important information

The information contained in this email and any attachments is for the intended recipient only. It may contain material of a confidential nature relating to the operations of the Health and Community Services Directorate, or its clients, contractors or stakeholders. Information of this nature may be subject to the provisions of the *Information Privacy Act 2014, Public Sector Management Act 1994, Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997 and other legislative protections*. Any person who inappropriately discloses this information may be subject to disciplinary/criminal proceedings under any of these Acts. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and then delete this transmission and any attachments.

 *Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

From: [Treloar, Naomi](#)
To: [ACDLO](#)
Subject: QON 159
Date: Thursday, 14 August 2025 12:29:40 PM

Hey Jen

Can [QON 159](#) be rewording with the standard wording (unreasonable diversion of resources).

Naomi Treloar

Adviser | Office of Tara Cheyne MLA

(02) 6205 0100

CHEYNE@act.gov.au

QON No. 159

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED Access Canberra – Road Transport (General) Vehicle Registration and Related Fees Determination 2025 (No 1), Schedule 1.

Hearing: 31 August 2025

In relation to: Vehicle Registration

Question received: 4 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

I refer to the Road Transport (General) Vehicle Registration and Related Fees Determination 2025 (No 1), Schedule 1. <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2025-59/>

1. How many vehicles were registered in the ACT broken down by each subcategory in Part 1 (ie 1.1.1 to 8.13) of the instrument at:
 - a) 1 July 2024 and
 - b) at 1 July 2025?
2. In the answers given at 1), does Category C vehicles include those without a Green Vehicle Rating? If so, can these be differentiated, so there is Category C and "not rated" listed separately.
3. For subcategories (business registration):
 - a) 2.1.4, b) 2.2.4, c) 2.3.4, d) 2.4.4, e) 2.5.4, and f) 2.6.4

Please break down how many of each vehicle there are into the same weight categories used for private registration (ie how many for each Green Vehicle Category AAA/AA/A/B/C/D/unrated for each weight range of 1505kg<2505kg, 2505<2795kg, and 2795<4500kg) at:

- a) 1 July 2024, and
 - b) 1 July 2025.
4. In the answers given at 3) does Category C vehicles include those without a Green Vehicle Rating? If so, can these be differentiated, so there is Category C and "not rated" listed separately.

QON No. 159

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Mr Chris Steel MLA on behalf of **Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The effort to collect, assemble and analyse the information sought to respond to the question would require significant effort, such that would not enable its completion and clearance within the required timeframe.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Mr Chris Steel on behalf of Ms Tara Cheyne

From: [Huggett, Jenna](#) on behalf of [ACDLO](#)
To: [Liu, Michael](#)
Cc: [Treloar, Naomi](#)
Subject: URGENT: CLEARANCE: AC Input: QON 163 Emerson - WWVP Scheme
Date: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 3:27:00 PM
Attachments: image003.png

Hey Michael

The answer is; yes, decisions about WWVP registration suspensions are included automatically in the National Reference System database.

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: Liu, Michael <Michael.Liu@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 12:08 pm
To: ACDLO <ACDLO@act.gov.au>; Treloar, Naomi <Naomi.Treloar@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT: CLEARANCE: AC Input: QON 163 Emerson - WWVP Scheme
Can I check whether we also share inter-jurisdictionally, or to the national reference system database?

Michael Liu

Chief of Staff | Office of Tara Cheyne MLA

From: Huggett, Jenna <Jenna.Huggett@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** ACDLO
Sent: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 9:29 AM
To: Treloar, Naomi <Naomi.Treloar@act.gov.au>
Cc: Liu, Michael <Michael.Liu@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT: CLEARANCE: AC Input: QON 163 Emerson - WWVP Scheme

OFFICIAL

Hey Na

Seeking your clearance o the attached AC input before sharing with CSD

Thank you

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: Huggett, Jenna <Jenna.Huggett@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** ACDLO
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 9:57 AM
To: CSDDLO <CSDDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: Access Canberra Government Business & Coordination <AccessCanberraGBC@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Redirection: QON 163 Emerson - WWVP Scheme

OFFICIAL

Hey Andrew

Just following up on the below QON redirection please. Noting this QON is due on Friday.

Thank you

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: Huggett, Jenna **On Behalf Of** ACDLO

Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 12:22 PM

To: CSDDLLO <CSDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Redirection: QON 163 Emerson - WWVP Scheme

Hey Andrew

AC are seeking a redirection to the attached QON.

AC can provide input for question four. Questions 1-3 relate to the scheme which falls under HCSD.

Can you please provide confirmation and I will email the Committee.

Thank you

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: LA Committee - Estimates

Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 9:17 AM

To: ACDLO

Cc: LA Committee - Estimates

Subject: QON 159 to 165 and QON 189 - Estimates 2025-2026 Hearing of Thursday, 31 July 2025 - Minister for City and Government Services session

OFFICIAL

Good morning Jenna Huggett (AC DLO),

Please find attached Questions on Notice (QON) from Estimates 2025-2026 Hearing of Thursday, 31 July 2025 - Minister for City and Government Services session.

The answers to these Questions on Notice are due by COB Friday, 15 August 2025.

Please contact us if there are any concerns or difficulties.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you and best regards,

Dikshes Patel

Committee Support Office

Parliamentary Support Branch

The Office of the Legislative Assembly

P: (02) 6205 0142 | E: LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au



Office of the Legislative Assembly:

Professionalism • Independence • Honesty • Integrity • Impartiality • Transparency

W www.parliament.act.gov.au

QON No. 163

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Redirected to: Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Reference: CED Access Canberra

Hearing: 31 July 2025

In relation to: Working With Vulnerable People Scheme and 2017 Review of Scheme

Question received: 5 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

In 2017 the Govt undertook a review of the WWVP scheme, and 26 recommendations were made.

1. How many of those recommendations have been fully implemented?
2. Which recommendations have not been implemented, and why?
3. What is the timeline for implementing the remaining recommendations?
4. Is it true that notifications of Working With Vulnerable People card suspensions are paper-based.
 - a. If so, to whom are they sent.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

In accordance with section 59 (2)(b) of the *Working with Vulnerable (Background Checking) Act 2011* (the Act), the Commissioner for Fair Trading must tell the person's employer (if any) in writing that the person's registration has been suspended.

Access Canberra sends WWVP suspension notifications to employers via email or hard copy letters depending on contact details on record. These notifications are sent to any employer/s nominated by the person in their application, and any other regulated activity employer/s associated with them, if known to Access Canberra. Information about a suspension is also shared with other relevant entities, in accordance with section 63A of the Act (e.g. the Teacher Quality Institute).

Decisions about WWVP registration suspensions are included automatically in the National Reference System database.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, Suzanne Orr MLA

QON No. 176

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - Budget Statement E, Output 2 City Services

Hearing: **31 July 2025**

In relation to: **Bike/pedestrian access to Mitchell waste transfer facility**

Question received: **08 August 2025**

Answer Due: **15 August 2025**

- 1) Does the ACT Government have a policy to not allow pedestrian and bike access to Mitchell waste facility
- 2) When did this rule come into force?
- 3) Could you provide a copy of the risk assessment that led to the introduction of this rule?
- 4) Could you provide the number of accidents or incidents to the public over the appropriate time frame that provoked the introduction of this rule?
- 5) Could you provide the number of accidents or incidents to the public since this rule has been invoked?
- 6) Could you provide the ratio of car vs large truck visits to the waste facility?
- 7) How are constituents who do not drive or do not have a car meant to access the facility in order to responsibly and safely dispose of items?

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

- 1) A principal contractor manages and controls site activities at Mitchell Resource Management Centre on behalf of the ACT Government. Under their Operational, Traffic Management and Work Health and Safety Plans they determine the policies of the types of vehicles allowed onsite to drop off materials to ensure safety to the public visiting the resource management centres.
- 2) This has been an existing policy for a number years.

- 3) While the City and Environment Directorate (CED) holds copies of relevant risk assessments, it is unable to provide these as they are the work product of the external service providers. These facilities are active operational sites involving the use of heavy plant vehicles and equipment. As such, the contracted operators are responsible for the development and implementation of traffic and safety management plans, as well as conducting comprehensive risk assessments to identify and mitigate all actual and perceived risks on site, on behalf of the ACT Government.
- 4) There are no reported incidents related to bike users accessing the site.
- 5) As per answer to question 4 above.
- 6) 2024 waste audits undertaken at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre of approximately 140 loads recorded the type of vehicle. The main vehicle types included box trailers (32%), tippers (22%), utilities (20%), and vans (13%). The audit did not capture service vehicles entering the site, only vehicles entering to drop off waste.
- 7) ACT residents can dispose of items through the Territory's Bulky Waste Collection Service. This service is ideal for hard waste disposal that is too big for your kerbside bins. Booking can be made through the [bulky waste booking form](#). Cyclists are also able to drop off reusable items to Goodies Junction at both Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres and any cardboard/paper and comingled recyclables at all Recycling Drop Off Centres located at Tuggeranong, Phillip, Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre, Belconnen and Gungahlin. Information on other disposal options can be found at www.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#) on behalf of [CED, Directorate Liaison Office](#)
To: [TCCS_AssemblyLiaison](#)
Subject: FOR REVIEW - QON 176 - BRADDOCK - Bike or pedestrian access to Mitchell waste transfer facility
Date: Friday, 15 August 2025 12:18:00 PM
Attachments: [QON176~1.DOC](#)

Hi Chloe,

Minister's office have a question within the attached QON response – for review/ revision ASAP please.

Thanks!

Ashleigh Savage | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Office of Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation (Sportsgrounds)

Phone: (02) 6205 5649 or MS Teams | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | www.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - Budget Statement E, Output 2 City Services

Hearing: **31 July 2025**

In relation to: **Bike/pedestrian access to Mitchell waste transfer facility**

Question received: **08 August 2025**

Answer Due: **15 August 2025**

- 1) Does the ACT Government have a policy to not allow pedestrian and bike access to Mitchell waste facility.
- 2) When did this rule come into force?
- 3) Could you provide a copy of the risk assessment that led to the introduction of this rule?
- 4) Could you provide the number of accidents or incidents to the public over the appropriate time frame that provoked the introduction of this rule?
- 5) Could you provide the number of accidents or incidents to the public since this rule has been invoked?
- 6) Could you provide the ratio of car vs large truck visits to the waste facility?
- 7) How are constituents who do not drive or do not have a car meant to access the facility in order to responsibly and safely dispose of items?

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

- 1) A principal contractor manages and controls site activities at Mitchell Resource Management Centre on behalf of the ACT Government. Under their Operational, Traffic Management and Work Health and Safety Plans they determine the policies of the types of vehicles allowed onsite to drop off materials to ensure safety to the public visiting the resource management centres.
- 2) This has been an existing policy for a number years.

OFFICIAL

- 3) While the City and Environment Directorate (CED) holds copies of relevant risk assessments, it is unable to provide these as they are the work product of the external service providers. These facilities are active operational sites involving the use of heavy plant vehicles and equipment. As such, the contracted operators are responsible for the development and implementation of traffic and safety management plans, as well as conducting comprehensive risk assessments to identify and mitigate all actual and perceived risks on site, on behalf of the ACT Government.
- 4) There are no reported incidents related to bike users accessing the site.
- 5) As per response to question 4 above.
- 6) 2024 waste audits undertaken at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre of approximately 140 loads recorded the type of vehicle. The main vehicle types included box trailers (32%), tippers (22%), utilities (20%), and vans (13%). The audit did not capture service vehicles entering the site, only vehicles entering to drop off waste.
- 7) ACT residents can dispose of items through the Territory's Bulky Waste Collection Service. This service is ideal for hard waste disposal that is too big for your kerbside bins. Booking can be made through the [bulky waste booking form](#). Cyclists are also able to drop off reusable items to Goodies Junction at both Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres and any cardboard/paper and comingled recyclables at all Recycling Drop Off Centres located at Tuggeranong, Phillip, Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre, Belconnen and Gungahlin. Information on other disposal options can be found at www.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia.

Commented [PB1]: Does this not contradict the answer at 1 and 2?

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 176



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - Budget Statement E, Output 2 City Services

Hearing: 31 July 2025

In relation to: **Bike/pedestrian access to Mitchell waste transfer facility**

Question received: 08 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

- 1) Does the ACT Government have a policy to not allow pedestrian and bike access to Mitchell waste facility.
- 2) When did this rule come into force?
- 3) Could you provide a copy of the risk assessment that led to the introduction of this rule?
- 4) Could you provide the number of accidents or incidents to the public over the appropriate time frame that provoked the introduction of this rule?
- 5) Could you provide the number of accidents or incidents to the public since this rule has been invoked?
- 6) Could you provide the ratio of car vs large truck visits to the waste facility?
- 7) How are constituents who do not drive or do not have a car meant to access the facility in order to responsibly and safely dispose of items?

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

- 1) A principal contractor manages and controls site activities at Mitchell Resource Management Centre on behalf of the ACT Government. Under their Operational, Traffic Management and Work Health and Safety Plans they determine the policies of the types of vehicles allowed onsite to drop off materials [via the weighbridges](#) to ensure safety to the public visiting the resource management centres.
- 2) This has been an existing policy for a number years.

OFFICIAL

- 3) While the City and Environment Directorate (CED) holds copies of relevant risk assessments, it is unable to provide these as they are the work product of the external service providers. These facilities are active operational sites involving the use of heavy plant vehicles and equipment. As such, the contracted operators are responsible for the development and implementation of traffic and safety management plans, as well as conducting comprehensive risk assessments to identify and mitigate all actual and perceived risks on site, on behalf of the ACT Government.
- 4) There are no reported incidents related to bike users accessing the site.
- 5) As per response to question 4 above.
- 6) 2024 waste audits undertaken at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre of approximately 140 loads recorded the type of vehicle. The main vehicle types included box trailers (32%), tippers (22%), utilities (20%), and vans (13%). The audit did not capture service vehicles entering the site, only vehicles entering to drop off waste.
- 7) ACT residents can dispose of items through the Territory's Bulky Waste Collection Service. This service is ideal for hard waste disposal that is too big for your kerbside bins. Booking can be made through the [bulky waste booking form](#). Cyclists are also able to drop off reusable items to Goodies Junction at both Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres and any cardboard/paper and comingled recyclables at all Recycling Drop Off Centres located at Tuggeranong, Phillip, Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre, Belconnen and Gungahlin. Information on other disposal options can be found at www.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia.

Commented [PB1]: Does this not contradict the answer at 1 and 2?

Commented [JR2R1]: Residents do not need to access the weighbridge that leads to the Transfer Station to go to either Goodies Junction shopfront making it accessible to residents on bicycles etc.

Commented [KH3R1]: I have updated Q1 to reflect that it relates to weighbridges.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

QON No. 177

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED – City Services

Hearing: **31 July 2025**In relation to: **Cycle paths**Question received: **08 August 2025**Answer Due: **15 August 2025**

- 1) Where is the funding for path upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek in the budget?

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

- 1) Funding for upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek is committed through the 2025–26 ACT Budget as part of a four-year initiative **Active Travel Infrastructure and Maintenance Program** (P91, Budget Outlook) which includes \$5 million for path renewal in Woden and Weston Creek over four years from 2025-26. This investment is offset against the Asset Renewal Program (P62, Budget Statement E).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chri Steel MLA

QON No. 177

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED – City Services

Hearing: **31 July 2025**In relation to: **Cycle paths**Question received: **08 August 2025**Answer Due: **15 August 2025**

- 1) Where is the funding for path upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek in the budget?

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

- 1) Funding for upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek is committed through the 2025–26 ACT Budget as part of a four-year initiative **Active Travel Infrastructure and Maintenance Program** (P91, Budget Outlook) which includes \$5 million for path renewal in Woden and Weston Creek over four years from 2025-26. This investment is offset against the Asset Renewal Program (P62, Budget Statement E).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chri Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 177



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED – City Services

Hearing: 31 July 2025

In relation to: Cycle paths

Question received: 08 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

- 1) Where is the funding for path upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek in the budget?

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

- 1) Funding for upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek is committed through the 2025–26 ACT Budget as part of a four-year initiative **Active Travel Infrastructure and Maintenance Program** (P91, Budget Outlook) which includes \$5 million for path renewal in Woden and Weston Creek over four years from 2025-26. This investment is offset against the Asset Renewal Program (P62, Budget Statement E).

Commented [PB1]: I think we also need to speak to infill and new paths (as question turns on upgrades, rather than maintenance), can we please add these details?

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chri Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 177



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED – City Services

Hearing: 31 July 2025

In relation to: Cycle paths

Question received: 08 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

- 1) Where is the funding for path upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek in the budget?

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

- 1) Funding for upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek is committed through the 2025–26 ACT Budget as part of a four-year initiative **Active Travel Infrastructure and Maintenance Program** (P91, Budget Outlook) which includes \$5 million for path renewal and path upgrades in Woden and Weston Creek over four years from 2025–26. This investment is offset against the Asset Renewal Program (P62, Budget Statement E).

The program of works in Woden and Weston Creek will undertake renewal work to repair end of life assets in the path network and upgrades which could include upgrading existing paths (such as widening) or building new sections of path to address missing links in the network.

Commented [PB1]: I think we also need to speak to infill and new paths (as question turns on upgrades, rather than maintenance), can we please add these details?

Commented [SC2R1]: Updated to reflect both renewal and upgrades

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chri Steel MLA

QON No. 181

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - 2025-26 Budget Outlook, p. 198

Hearing: **31 July 2025**

In relation to: **Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund**

Question received: **08 August 2025**

Answer Due: **15 August 2025**

The Federal Infrastructure Department website does not contain information on ACT funded projects under the Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund.

- 1) Can you provide more information on the breakdown of where that money is going?
- 2) Has the ACT Government explored using Black Spot Projects funding to resource safer streets such as traffic calming measures around schools, better cycle path/pedestrian crossings? Or is the funding only going to car-focused initiatives?

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

- 1) Information for all Infrastructure Australia funded or co-funded projects are provided on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, and the Arts (DITRDCA) website. Projects can be filtered by program (e.g. for Black Spot Projects and Roads to Recovery) and status. The Major Projects Business Case Fund is for Canberra Light Rail - Stage 2B Planning.

Link: [Investment Infrastructure Programs](#)

- 2) The ACT Government nominates projects that meet the [Black Spot Program Guidelines](#), noting there are specific eligibility criteria for this program and decisions regarding successful projects are made by a Consultative Panel – not the ACT Government. The ACT Government has also been historically successful in attaining Commonwealth funding for traffic calming and other active travel initiatives that protect vulnerable road users through the Road Safety Program (now titled 'Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program').

Relevant extract of info from the DITRDCA website:

“Anyone can nominate a Black Spot, including state and territory governments, local governments, community groups and associations, road user groups, industry and individuals. On receipt of a completed Black Spot nomination form, the relevant state and territory transport agency will examine the nominated site’s eligibility, and may undertake an economic assessment of a treatment proposal.

Nominations are considered annually by Consultative Panels in each state and territory, who recommend projects for approval by the responsible Minister. The Panels are chaired by a Member of Parliament or Senator appointed by the responsible Minister and consist of representatives drawn from community and road user groups, industry, Australian and local government, and state road and transport agencies.”

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#) on behalf of [CED, Directorate Liaison Office](#)
To: [TCCS_AssemblyLiaison](#)
Subject: FOR REVISION - QON 181 - BRADDOCK - Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund
Date: Friday, 15 August 2025 10:02:00 AM
Attachments: QON181~1.DOC

Hi Chloe,

MO have a comment on this QON – can we check the link, revise and provide back ASAP?

Thank you.

Ashleigh Savage | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Office of Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation (Sportsgrounds)

Phone: (02) 6205 5649 or MS Teams | Email: CEDDLLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | www.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

OFFICIAL

QON No. 181



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - 2025-26 Budget Outlook, p. 198

Hearing: 31 July 2025

In relation to: **Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund**

Question received: 08 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

The Federal Infrastructure Department website does not contain information on ACT funded projects under the Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund.

- 1) Can you provide more information on the breakdown of where that money is going?
- 2) Has the ACT Government explored using Black Spot Projects funding to resource safer streets such as traffic calming measures around schools, better cycle path/pedestrian crossings? Or is the funding only going to car-focused initiatives?

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

- 1) Information for all Infrastructure Australia funded or co-funded projects are provided on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, and the Arts (DITRDCA) website. Projects can be filtered by program (e.g. for Black Spot Projects and Roads to Recovery) and status. **The Major Projects Business Case Fund is for Canberra Light Rail - Stage 2B Planning.**

Link: [Investment Infrastructure Programs](#)

- 2) The ACT Government nominates projects that meet the [Black Spot Program Guidelines](#), noting there are specific eligibility criteria for this program and decisions regarding successful projects are made by a Consultative Panel – not the ACT Government. The ACT Government has also been historically successful in attaining Commonwealth funding for traffic calming and other active travel initiatives that protect vulnerable road users through the Road Safety Program (now titled 'Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program').

Relevant extract of information from the DITRDCA website:

Commented [PB1]: Not available at the link provided.

OFFICIAL

“Anyone can nominate a Black Spot, including state and territory governments, local governments, community groups and associations, road user groups, industry and individuals. On receipt of a completed Black Spot nomination form, the relevant state and territory transport agency will examine the nominated site’s eligibility, and may undertake an economic assessment of a treatment proposal.

Nominations are considered annually by Consultative Panels in each state and territory, who recommend projects for approval by the responsible Minister. The Panels are chaired by a Member of Parliament or Senator appointed by the responsible Minister and consist of representatives drawn from community and road user groups, industry, Australian and local government, and state road and transport agencies.”

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 181



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - 2025-26 Budget Outlook, p. 198

Hearing: 31 July 2025

In relation to: Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund

Question received: 08 August 2025

Answer Due: 15 August 2025

The Federal Infrastructure Department website does not contain information on ACT funded projects under the Black Spot Projects, Roads to Recovery and Major Projects Business Case Fund.

- 1) Can you provide more information on the breakdown of where that money is going?
- 2) Has the ACT Government explored using Black Spot Projects funding to resource safer streets such as traffic calming measures around schools, better cycle path/pedestrian crossings? Or is the funding only going to car-focused initiatives?

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

- 1) Information for all Infrastructure Australia funded or co-funded projects are provided on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, and the Arts (DITRDCA) website. Projects can be filtered by program (e.g. for Black Spot Projects and Roads to Recovery) and status. Link: [Investment Infrastructure Programs](#)

The Major Projects Business Case Fund identified in the link below is for Canberra Light Rail - Stage 2B Planning. Link:

<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/sites/federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/files/2025-05/FFAS%20Funding%20Table%20-%20ACT%20-%202025-26%20Budget.pdf>

- 2) The ACT Government nominates projects that meet the [Black Spot Program Guidelines](#), noting there are specific eligibility criteria for this program and decisions regarding successful projects are made by a Consultative Panel – not the ACT Government. The ACT Government has also been historically successful in attaining Commonwealth funding for traffic calming and other active travel initiatives that protect vulnerable road users through the Road Safety Program (now titled 'Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program').

Commented [PB1]: Not available at the link provided.

Commented [TR2R1]: Correct - it is not on the map data above. Refer to this link with table.

OFFICIAL

Relevant extract of information from the DITRDCA website:

“Anyone can nominate a Black Spot, including state and territory governments, local governments, community groups and associations, road user groups, industry and individuals. On receipt of a completed Black Spot nomination form, the relevant state and territory transport agency will examine the nominated site’s eligibility, and may undertake an economic assessment of a treatment proposal.

Nominations are considered annually by Consultative Panels in each state and territory, who recommend projects for approval by the responsible Minister. The Panels are chaired by a Member of Parliament or Senator appointed by the responsible Minister and consist of representatives drawn from community and road user groups, industry, Australian and local government, and state road and transport agencies.”

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 227



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Environment

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Conservation and Grassland Earless Dragon – funding offset

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

Is, or will, any of the Budget funding announced for Protecting the Canberra
Grassland Earless Dragon being offset by funding provided by the Canberra Airport
Group.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

No. The funding from the Canberra Airport Group [REDACTED]

Commented [ST1]: Please make this consistent with the Clay QON q 3 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Would probably just say No. The funding from CAG will be additional to the ACT Govt investment. But will leave it with you to take a look, thank you!

Commented [RB2R1]: Done. It is more correct to just say no

Commented [RC3R1]: For clarity, some additional explanation left in.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr

OFFICIAL

QON No. 227



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Environment

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Conservation and Grassland Earless Dragon – funding offset

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

Is, or will, any of the Budget funding announced for Protecting the Canberra

GGrassland Earless Dragon being offset by funding provided by the Canberra Airport

_Group.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

No. ~~The~~ The funding from the Canberra Airport Group would be additional to the ACT
Government investment

Commented [ST1]: Please make this consistent with the Clay QON q 3
Commented [RB2R1]: Done. It is more correct to just say no
Commented [RC3R1]: For clarity, some additional explanation left in.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr

OFFICIAL

QON No. 228



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment and Environment initiatives funding

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

- (1) Environment and climate was only 2% of the budget this year - is that sufficient to reverse the long standing trend of biodiversity decline, habitat fragmentation and the climate crises?
- (2) Were there any environment funds or initiatives that were discontinued between last budget and this budget? If so, which ones?
- (3) Are there plans or strategies in the environment portfolio that do not currently have any funding attached to their implementation?
- (4) Is there any funding in the 2025-26 budget, or ongoing funding from previous budgets, for any of the following initiatives?
 - (a) Implementing the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy
 - (b) Implementing the Local Food Strategy
 - (c) Re-naturalising Sullivans Creek
 - (d) Connecting Nature, Connecting People program
 - (e) Healthy Waterways program
 - (f) Building a new visitor centre at Tidbinbilla
 - (g) Canberra Nature Map
 - (h) Implementing heritage reforms and the heritage database
 - (i) Implementing actions to deliver the government target to phase out

OFFICIAL

wood heaters by 2045

(j) Environmental grants

(k) Weeding programs – an uplift of approx. 200k per annum over 2 years was provided in the Landscape Architect budget initiative to provide additional funding beyond base allocations to meet acute inflationary pressures.

(l) Other initiative-funded habitat restoration programs

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The pressures facing the ACT’s environment are complex, growing and evolving. The Government provides the funding that it can within a finite resource envelopment to support environmental initiatives. This included a significant investment to prevent the extinction of the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon, and ongoing funding for the fight against invasive pests.
- (2) Initiatives that did not continue or commence included the Fisheries Compliance and Conservation Officer, and the Regulatory Impact Assessment to consider the phase out of wood heaters.
- (3) There are a number of strategies that do not have specific funding attached but where actions will be carried out through base funding and business as usual activities in a Action Plans for threatened species and ecological communities under the Nature Conservation Act that do not have specific funding attached to their implementation. There are also other plans and strategies that are delivered through base funding and business as usual activities where elements of those plans provide a strategic, coordinated and articulated approach to management.
- (4)

Commented [JM1]: Chris Steel answered a question on this, we should be consistent with what he said

Commented [JM2]: Fisheries Officer now BAU?

(a) Implementing the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy	<u>\$75K funded through a multiyear agreement</u> The Woodlands and Wetlands Trust receives \$75,000 per year from base budgets to support implementation of the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy and other operational costs.
---	---

(b) Implementing the Local Food Strategy	<u>\$190k in 2025/26</u> \$455,000 was provided in 2024-25 to progress implementation of the Food Strategy. \$190,000 is in the budget for 2025-26.
--	--

(c) Re-naturalising Sullivans Creek	<u>Not Government policy and therefore would not attract funding</u> No specific funding allocated.
-------------------------------------	--

Commented [JM3]: this was discussed in the 2nd session - make consistent

OFFICIAL

(d) Connecting Nature, Connecting People program.	Funding for this initiative concluded in June 2024. Legacy activities from the program continue into 2025-26 through base budgets.
(e) Healthy Waterways program	<p><u>\$1.177M to continue development and delivery of the next plan</u>\$177,000 in new funding was provided to continue the development and delivery of programs to encourage residents to manage leaves, grass clippings and fertilisers in a waterway friendly manner.</p> <p>There is also ongoing funding for approximately \$1 million per year, mostly for staffing.</p>
(f) Building a new visitor centre at Tidbinbilla	<p><u>2024/25 budget provided 2 years of funding</u>Funding was provided for 2 years in the 2024/25 budget to progress further planning for the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.</p>
(g) Canberra Nature Map	<p><u>\$110k funded through agreements with NatureMapr</u>The ACT Government has two agreements with NatureMapr for funding, \$50,000 ex GST until June 2028 and \$60,000 until June 2030 ex GST.</p>
(h) Implementing heritage reforms and the heritage database	<p><u>\$1.096M in 2025/26</u>The Government allocated \$1.096 million in expense funding in 2025-26 to continue the existing initiative funded team of 6 FTEs to deliver reforms for heritage systems.</p>
(i) Implementing actions to deliver the government target to phase out wood heaters by 2045	<p>No specific funding allocated in 2025/26. \$90,000 was provided in 24/25 budget.</p>
(j) Environmental grants	<p><u>\$360k provided annually</u>Funding for the 2025-26 grants round is \$360,000. On going funding for this annual grants program is through base funding.</p>
(k) Weeding programs	<p><u>Covered through a range of initiatives and business as usual activities</u>No specific funding allocated beyond base budget.</p>
(l) Other initiative-funded habitat restoration programs	<p><u>It is unclear what programs are being referred to. Restoration works are covered through a range of initiatives and business as usual activities.</u>Habitat restoration with the</p>

OFFICIAL

~~Ngunnawal community received \$427,000K in the 2025-26 budget to build on work with the Ngunnawal community over the last two years to develop a partnership approach to restoration.~~

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
To: [Miltorpe, Josh](#)
Cc: [Taylor Pindo, Sara](#); [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: REVISED QON Responses - 228 & 270
Date: Thursday, 21 August 2025 12:03:46 PM
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Apologies for the delay getting these back to you, but confirming that the revised responses to the following QONs have been saved to your folder:

- 250818 - CED Estimates QON 228 - CLAY - Environment initiatives funding
- 250819 - CED Estimates QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives

I have left the word docs in track for ease of review and have provided clean PDF versions for Minister to sign.

These responses were due to the Committee by 18 August 2025.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

QON No. 228

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment and Environment initiatives funding

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

- (1) Environment and climate was only 2% of the budget this year - is that sufficient to reverse the long standing trend of biodiversity decline, habitat fragmentation and the climate crises?
- (2) Were there any environment funds or initiatives that were discontinued between last budget and this budget? If so, which ones?
- (3) Are there plans or strategies in the environment portfolio that do not currently have any funding attached to their implementation?
- (4) Is there any funding in the 2025-26 budget, or ongoing funding from previous budgets, for any of the following initiatives?
 - (a) Implementing the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy
 - (b) Implementing the Local Food Strategy
 - (c) Re-naturalising Sullivans Creek
 - (d) Connecting Nature, Connecting People program
 - (e) Healthy Waterways program
 - (f) Building a new visitor centre at Tidbinbilla
 - (g) Canberra Nature Map
 - (h) Implementing heritage reforms and the heritage database
 - (i) Implementing actions to deliver the government target to phase out

wood heaters by 2045

(j) Environmental grants

(k) Weeding programs – an uplift of approx. 200k per annum over 2 years was provided in the Landscape Architect budget initiative to provide additional funding beyond base allocations to meet acute inflationary pressures.

(l) Other initiative-funded habitat restoration programs

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

- (1) [Please refer to the answer provided by the Treasurer Chris Steel MLA when the same question was previously asked during Estimates on 23 July 2025 \(p201 of the Proof Transcript\)](#)~~The pressures facing the ACT’s environment are complex, growing and evolving. The Government provides the funding that it can within a finite resource envelopment to support environmental initiatives. This included a significant investment to prevent the extinction of the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon, and ongoing funding for the fight against invasive pests.~~
- (2) Initiatives that did not continue or commence included the Fisheries Compliance and Conservation Officer, and the Regulatory Impact Assessment to consider the phase out of wood heaters.
- (3) There are a number of [strategies that do not have specific funding attached but where actions will be carried out through base funding and business as usual activities in a Action Plans for threatened species and ecological communities under the Nature Conservation Act that do not have specific funding attached to their implementation. There are also other plans and strategies that are delivered through base funding and business as usual activities where elements of those plans provide a strategic,](#) coordinated and articulated approach to management.
- (4)

(a) Implementing the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy	\$75K funded through a multiyear agreement The Woodlands and Wetlands Trust receives \$75,000 per year from base budgets to support implementation of the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Strategy and other operational costs.
(b) Implementing the Local Food Strategy	\$190k in 2025/26 \$455,000 was provided in 2024-25 to progress implementation of the Food Strategy. \$190,000 is in the budget for 2025-26.

(c) Re-naturalising Sullivans Creek	<u>Not Government policy and therefore would not attract funding</u> No specific funding allocated.
(d) Connecting Nature, Connecting People program.	Funding for this initiative concluded in June 2024. Legacy activities from the program continue into 2025-26 through base budgets.
(e) Healthy Waterways program	<p><u>The 2025-26 Budget provided \$327,000 in funding under the <i>Safeguarding the Territory's water resources – Improving Lake Tuggeranong</i> initiative to develop the Lake Tuggeranong Catchment Plan. Previous budgets have provided ongoing funding of \$1,611,000.</u></p> <p>\$177,000 in new funding was provided to continue the development and delivery of programs to encourage residents to manage leaves, grass clippings and fertilisers in a waterway friendly manner.</p> <p>There is also ongoing funding for approximately \$1 million per year, mostly for staffing.</p>
(f) Building a new visitor centre at Tidbinbilla	<u>2024/25 budget provided 2 years of funding</u> Funding was provided for 2 years in the 2024/25 budget to progress further planning for the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.
(g) Canberra Nature Map	<u>\$110k funded through agreements with NatureMapr</u> The ACT Government has two agreements with NatureMapr for funding, \$50,000 ex GST until June 2028 and \$60,000 until June 2030 ex GST.
(h) Implementing heritage reforms and the heritage database	<u>\$1.096M in 2025/26</u> The Government allocated \$1.096 million in expense funding in 2025-26 to continue the existing initiative funded team of 6 FTEs to deliver reforms for heritage systems.
(i) Implementing actions to deliver the government target to phase out wood heaters by 2045	No specific funding allocated in 2025/26. \$90,000 was provided in 24/25 budget.
(j) Environmental grants	<u>\$360k provided annually</u> Funding for the 2025-26 grants round is \$360,000. On-going funding for this annual grants program is through base funding.

(k) Weeding programs	<u>Covered through a range of initiatives and business as usual activities.</u> No specific funding allocated beyond base budget.
(l) Other initiative-funded habitat restoration programs	<u>It is unclear what programs are being referred to. Restoration works are covered through a range of initiatives and business as usual activities.</u> Habitat restoration with the Ngunnawal community received \$427,000K in the 2025-26 budget to build on work with the Ngunnawal community over the last two years to develop a partnership approach to restoration.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

QON No. 230

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay

Addressed to: Minister City and Government Services

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment (Dingo Management)

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

- (1) How much funding was directed towards wild/dog dingo control programs, such as baiting, trapping and shooting programs annually for the past 5 years?
- (2) How many baits were distributed in the last 3 years?
- (3) How are baits distributed?
 - (a) Are the ground baits distributed by landholders, or is there an employed contractor who distributes the baits?
 - (4) Are any other species affected by baits and if so, what species and what are the figures or estimates for this?
 - (5) How much livestock loss has been attributed to dingoes/wild dogs in the last 3 years, broken down by number of livestock reported as dead or injured and value of livestock?
 - (6) What percentage of livestock loss is attributed to dingoes/wild dogs, and how is this information verified?
 - (7) What is the value of compensation paid by ACT Govt to farmers to compensate for livestock losses?
 - (8) How many soft-jaw traps have been distributed annually for the past 5 years?
 - (9) How many dingos have been caught annually for the past 5 years?
 - (10) How many dogs have been euthanised after being caught in traps, annually for the past 5 years?
 - (11) How many dogs have been relocated after being caught in traps, annually for the past 5 years?

(12) Have any other species been caught in soft-jaw traps and if so, what types and what are the figures or estimates for these?

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

- (1) The Parks and Conservation Service deliver wild dog and Dingo control programs across all districts as part of an integrated approach to pest animal control. Establishing an accurate figure for this work is not possible.
- (2) Approximately 7,090 baits were distributed in designated buffer zones between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2025.
- (3) Baits are distributed at predetermined locations along ‘baiting runs’ within the ACT.
 - (a) Baits are distributed by ACT Government staff. Rural landholders may undertake baiting on private rural leases, often in response to livestock attacks but also as part of an annual coordinated winter landholder baiting program. Contractors may be engaged seasonally to undertake baiting.
- (4) The poison used in baits (1080) is highly toxic to canids (dogs, foxes, dingoes) due to their low natural tolerance to the compound. Feral pigs are moderately sensitive to 1080. Native animals have evolved natural resistance to 1080 due to its presence in native plants. This evolutionary adaptation provides them with a high tolerance significantly reducing the risk of non-target poisoning and making 1080 a strategically valuable tool in wild dog and fox control.
- (5) Refer table below:

Livestock attacks/ losses	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Data not available	49	27

- (6) Data not available as stock losses not attributed to wild dog / Dingo attacks is not reported to the Government.
- (7) The ACT Government does not pay compensation for livestock losses.
- (8) This information is not recorded.
- (9) Refer table below:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Dogs trapped /shot	27	17	15	48	39	2

- (10) All.
- (11) Nil.
- (12) Yes. Occasionally off target animals are accidentally trapped. The most commonly effected species are wallabies, however, in most cases wallabies are released without injury. It is currently estimated that approximately four off-target animals are euthanised annually.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Acting Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
To: [Liu, Michael](#); [Treloar, Naomi](#)
Subject: RE: CED (PCS) QON 230 - CLAY - Dingo management
Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 10:26:00 AM

Hi Michael,

Confirming PCS have accepted your suggestion. Will proofread now and provide onto James E. Thanks!

Ashleigh Savage | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services
Office of Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation (Sportsgrounds)
Phone: (02) 6205 5649 or MS Teams | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | www.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Liu, Michael

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 4:32 PM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer ; Treloar, Naomi

Subject: RE: CED (PCS) QON 230 - CLAY - Dingo management

Thanks for that. One suggested revision for PCS to review/consider.

If accepted, happy for tracked changes to be accepted and for it to go to a/g Min (following a thorough proofread).

Michael Liu

Chief of Staff | Office of Tara Cheyne MLA

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 2:24 PM

To: Treloar, Naomi <Naomi.Treloar@act.gov.au>

Cc: Liu, Michael <Michael.Liu@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: CED (PCS) QON 230 - CLAY - Dingo management

OFFICIAL

Hi Na,

Updated in tracked changes and in the folder [here](#).

Regarding your question below - we do not provide any, however the team have put in a statement about how we support rural lessees following an attack.

Kind regards,

Ashleigh Savage | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services
Office of Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation (Sportsgrounds)
Phone: (02) 6205 5649 or MS Teams | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | www.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Treloar, Naomi <Naomi.Treloar@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 10:37 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: CED (PCS) QON 230 - CLAY - Dingo management

Morning Ash

This one needs to back to PCS for review. Comments made by MO.

Can we please confirm via Bren the details around compensation of livestock. Comments have been made by staff under Min Vassarotti that yes, there was some form of compensation. Maybe its not financial but more a trapping services or on group assistance.

Naomi Treloar

Adviser | Office of Tara Cheyne MLA

(02) 6205 0100

CHEYNE@act.gov.au

OFFICIAL

QON No. 230



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay

Addressed to: Minister City and Government Services

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment (Dingo Management)

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

- (1) How much funding was directed towards wild/dog dingo control programs, such as baiting, trapping and shooting programs annually for the past 5 years?
- (2) How many baits were distributed in the last 3 years?
- (3) How are baits distributed?
 - (a) Are the ground baits distributed by landholders, or is there an employed contractor who distributes the baits?
- (4) Are any other species affected by baits and if so, what species and what are the figures or estimates for this?
- (5) How much livestock loss has been attributed to dingoes/wild dogs in the last 3 years, broken down by number of livestock reported as dead or injured and value of livestock?
- (6) What percentage of livestock loss is attributed to dingoes/wild dogs, and how is this information verified?
- (7) What is the value of compensation paid by ACT Govt to farmers to compensate for livestock losses?
- (8) How many soft-jaw traps have been distributed annually for the past 5 years?
- (9) How many dingos have been caught annually for the past 5 years?
- (10) How many dogs have been euthanised after being caught in traps, annually for the past 5 years?
- (11) How many dogs have been relocated after being caught in traps, annually for the past 5 years?

OFFICIAL

(12) Have any other species been caught in soft-jaw traps and if so, what types and what are the figures or estimates for these?

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

- (1) The Parks and Conservation Service deliver wild dog and Dingo control programs across all districts as part of an integrated approach to pest animal control. Establishing an accurate figure for this work is not possible.
- (2) Approximately 7,090 baits were distributed in designated buffer zones between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2025.
- (3) Baits are distributed at predetermined locations along ‘baiting runs’ within the ACT.
 - (a) Baits are distributed by ACT Government staff. Rural landholders may undertake baiting on private rural leases, often in response to livestock attacks but also as part of an annual coordinated winter landholder baiting program. Contractors may be engaged seasonally to undertake baiting.
- (4) The poison used in baits (1080) is highly toxic to canids (dogs, foxes, dingoes) due to their low natural tolerance to the compound. Feral pigs are moderately sensitive to 1080. Native animals have evolved natural resistance to 1080 due to its presence in native plants. This evolutionary adaptation provides them with a high tolerance significantly reducing the risk of non-target poisoning and making 1080 a strategically valuable tool in wild dog and fox control.

(5) Refer table below:

Livestock attacks/ losses	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Data not available	49	27

- (6) Data not available as stock losses not attributed to wild dog / Dingo attacks is not reported to the Government.
- (7) The ACT Government does not pay compensation for livestock losses.
- (8) This information is not recorded.
- (9) Refer table below:

Commented [ML1]: Are there at least budget initiatives and/or publicly provided funding details to include here?

At the very least we should identify the dedicated/key staff and/or contracts that work on wild dog/dingo control programs.

Also, is it not possible to establish a figure because of the resources/time constraints, or are just ever? The latter is hard to justify...

Commented [ML2]: Please include line provided in recent media response re non(requirement) for farmers to report losses as a result of wild dogs/dingoes.

Commented [ML3]: Why not? Do we know the number in our inventory?

Doesn't seem to make sense that we track baits distributed but not traps used. If there's a reason then it should be provided.

Commented [ML4]: As at when?

OFFICIAL

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Dogs trapped /shot	27	17	15	48	39	2

(10) All.

(11) Nil.

(12) Yes. Occasionally off target animals are accidentally trapped. The most commonly affected species are wallabies, however, in most cases wallabies are released without injury. It is currently estimated that approximately four off-target animals are euthanised annually.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Acting Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 230



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay

Addressed to: Minister City and Government Services

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment (Dingo Management)

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

- (1) How much funding was directed towards wild/dog dingo control programs, such as baiting, trapping and shooting programs annually for the past 5 years?
- (2) How many baits were distributed in the last 3 years?
- (3) How are baits distributed?
 - (a) Are the ground baits distributed by landholders, or is there an employed contractor who distributes the baits?
- (4) Are any other species affected by baits and if so, what species and what are the figures or estimates for this?
- (5) How much livestock loss has been attributed to dingoes/wild dogs in the last 3 years, broken down by number of livestock reported as dead or injured and value of livestock?
- (6) What percentage of livestock loss is attributed to dingoes/wild dogs, and how is this information verified?
- (7) What is the value of compensation paid by ACT Govt to farmers to compensate for livestock losses?
- (8) How many soft-jaw traps have been distributed annually for the past 5 years?
- (9) How many dingos have been caught annually for the past 5 years?
- (10) How many dogs have been euthanised after being caught in traps, annually for the past 5 years?
- (11) How many dogs have been relocated after being caught in traps, annually for the past 5 years?

OFFICIAL

(12) Have any other species been caught in soft-jaw traps and if so, what types and what are the figures or estimates for these?

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

- (1) The Parks and Conservation Service deliver wild dog and Dingo control programs across all districts as part of an integrated approach to pest animal control. Establishing an accurate figure for this work is not possible.
- (2) Approximately 7,090 baits were distributed in designated buffer zones between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2025.
- (3) Baits are distributed at predetermined locations along ‘baiting runs’ within the ACT.
 - (a) Baits are distributed by ACT Government staff. Rural landholders may undertake baiting on private rural leases, often in response to livestock attacks but also as part of an annual coordinated winter landholder baiting program. Contractors may be engaged seasonally to undertake baiting.
- (4) The poison used in baits (1080) is highly toxic to canids (dogs, foxes, dingoes) due to their low natural tolerance to the compound. Feral pigs are moderately sensitive to 1080. Native animals have evolved natural resistance to 1080 due to its presence in native plants. This evolutionary adaptation provides them with a high tolerance significantly reducing the risk of non-target poisoning and making 1080 a strategically valuable tool in wild dog and fox control.
- (5) Refer table below:

The data reported includes reports of attacks and fatalities. Typically, if a wild dog attack is not fatal, injured livestock are euthanised either because of the extent of injury or risk of disease/infections resulting from bacteria (Brucella, Salmonella, and Campylobacter) that may be carried by wild dogs.

Livestock attacks/ losses	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Data not available	49	27

This figure likely underrepresents the issue due to:

- o NSW neighbouring property reports being captured by NSW Government.
- o Unconfirmed losses (e.g. sheep not inspected by ACT Government staff) are not included in these numbers.

Commented [ML1]: Are there at least budget initiatives and/or publicly provided funding details to include here?

At the very least we should identify the dedicated/key staff and/or contracts that work on wild dog/dingo control programs.

Also, is it not possible to establish a figure because of the resources/time constraints, or are just ever? The latter is hard to justify...

Commented [LH2R1]: No - its not tennable to split out costs. The programs are run across PCS teams through an integrated program and resourcing is not desitinct.

Commented [MW3R1]: Agree - it would potentially misrepresent the effort to identify the dedicated time or expenditure on the program noting the staff and programs are inextricably linked to other programs.

Commented [ML4R1]: In that case suggest replacing with, “Given this integration, it would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide even a broad funding estimate.”

Commented [ML5]: Please include line provided in recent media response re non(requirement) for farmers to report losses as a result of wild dogs/dingoes.

Commented [LH6R5]: Done based on Dot Point response from D Childs

Formatted: List Paragraph, Indent: Left: 1 cm

Formatted: Font: Calibri

Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 1.9 cm + Indent at: 2.54 cm

OFFICIAL

- (6) Data not available as stock losses not attributed to wild dog / Dingo attacks is not reported to the Government.
- (7) The ACT Government does not pay compensation for livestock losses. however, the ACT actively supports rural lessees following attacks on livestock by providing resourcing and effort to control the attacking animals.
- ~~(8) This information is not recorded. Soft-jaw traps are typically deployed in reaction to a report of livestock attacks. The distribution and number of traps used in response is guided by the expertise of the trapper and therefore can vary between years and sites. -~~
(4)
- ~~(2)(9) Refer table below:~~

<u>Financial Years</u>	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	<u>AUGUST</u> 2025/26
Wild dogs/ dingoes trapped /shot	27	17	15	48	39	2

- ~~(3)(10) All.~~
- ~~(4)(11) Nil.:~~
- ~~(5)(12) Yes. Occasionally off target animals are accidentally trapped. The most commonly affected species are wallabies, however, in most cases wallabies are released without injury. It is currently estimated that on average approximately four off-target animals on average are euthanised annually.~~

Commented [ML7]: Why not? Do we know the number in our inventory?

Doesn't seem to make sense that we track baits distributed but not traps used. If there's a reason then it should be provided.

Commented [LH8R7]: Updated information

Commented [LH9R7]: Baits are buried in the ground and required to be checked and collected after a defined period if not taken. Baits are laid in defined baiting runs/lines in designated buffer zones.

Commented [MW10R7]: The number of traps in our inventory is not indicative of how the traps are deployed into the landscape. The number in the landscape is determined by the officer laying the traps on a case by case and according to site conditions.

Formatted: Strikethrough

Formatted: Strikethrough

Formatted: Strikethrough

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1 cm, No bullets or numbering

Commented [ML11]: As at when?

Commented [LH12R11]: Updated period for and month for 25/26

Formatted: Default Paragraph Font, Font: Calibri

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

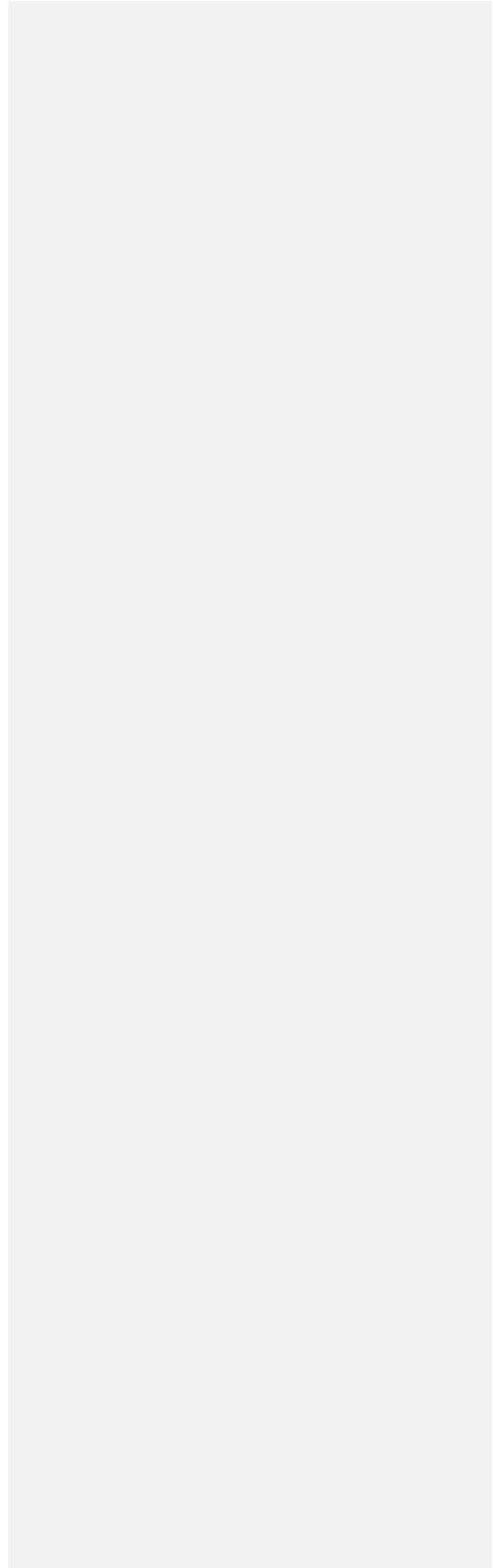
Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

OFFICIAL

Signature:

Date:

By the Acting Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA



OFFICIAL

QON No. 239



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment and Earless Dragon Funding

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

ACT Government has put \$4 - \$4.5M into dragon breeding and related programs. The approval from Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt under last week's EPBC 2009/4748 Variation to Condition requires the Canberra Airport Group to contribute another \$1M to the ACT Government for breeding programs.

- (1) If these programs are successful, where will dragons be released?
- (2) How much funding from the \$4.5 million will be allocated to habitat restoration?
- (3) What does the ACT Government plan on spending the additional \$1 million from Canberra Airport Group on? Will any of this funding go to habitat restoration to support earless dragon reintroductions from the breeding program?
- (4) Are the habitat locations identified in the Earless Dragon Recovery Plan in the ACT of sufficient quality to support reintroduced dragons from the breeding colony?
 - (a) If there is varying habitat quality, what is the breakdown per hectare for habitat quality?
- (5) Has the ACT Government or Federal Government undertaken mapping of the extent of suitable habitat for the Earless Dragon in the ACT?
 - (a) How many hectares of habitat suitable for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon are there in the ACT?
 - (b) How much of that habitat is in protected areas like reserves?
 - (c) How much of that habitat exists on land with no conservation protected status?

OFFICIAL

- (6) What plans exist to ensure the ongoing protection of land identified as suitable habitat for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon?
- (7) Has the City and Environment Directorate been provided with a briefing from DCCEEW on new conditions imposed on the airport road development?
- (8) Will the ACT Government play any role in monitoring compliance by the developer with conditions set in the EPBC decision?
- (9) Regarding the areas to be rehabilitated in conditions 1A a, b and c of the EPBC decision - are these new and additional areas of habitat required to be rehabilitated or are they areas that conditions from previous approval decisions applied to?

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government envisages potential releases of captive bred dragons into two sites over the next four years in the Jerrabomberra Valley, with some additional potential population augmentation in the Majura Valley.
- (2) \$0, noting this Government investment is focused on building a robust and secure insurance population with adequate genetic diversity to underpin long-term recovery.
- (3) [REDACTED]
- (4) Eight of the 12 sites in the *Action Plan for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon* (CGED) 2025-2035 have been mapped as containing Natural Temperate Grassland (NTG) that has suitable habitat characteristics to sustain dragon reintroductions.

(a) Refer to the following table. For simplicity, this is based solely on ecological communities. These estimates represent current best available information, which varies in recentness and reliability across sites ([Error! Reference source not found.](#)[Error! Reference source not found.](#)[Table 1](#)).

Site	NTG (high quality habitat)	Native Pasture (low quality habitat)
Amtech	6.1	0
Bonshaw North	2	55.1
Bonshaw South	0.4	105.3
Cookanalla	10.3	171
Jerrabomberra West	57.1	104.1
Jerrabomberra East	43.8	0
Majura West	18.1	47.8
Callum Brae	0	140
Canberra Airport*	64.2	72.6
Majura Training Area	127.3	8.3
Campbell Park	10.9	1.3

Commented [ST1]: Will need to update to reflect line questioning in Estimates around FTE covering restoration work

Commented [ST2]: Heya, this will need to be amended [REDACTED]

Commented [ST3]: This has info on the sites, can we remove the table and summarise in the body of the text above? Total should be fine

OFFICIAL

Malcolm Vale	0	160.2
ACT TOTALS	340.2	865.7

*note recent development has reduced this figure.

(5) Yes.

(a) 265.1ha.

(b) 57.1 ha is formally protected as a reserve.

(c) One site is managed by a Commonwealth Government entity (127.3 ha), one site is managed as a rural lease (10.3 ha), and four sites are unleased territory land managed by the Parks and Conservation Service for conservation purposes (totalling 70.4 ha).

(6) The Commonwealth *National Recovery Plan for Four Grassland Earless Dragons* (*Tympanocryptis spp.*) of Southeast Australia is a jointly-made plan with input from all land managers/stakeholders to ensure all dragon habitat is managed well. A key action in the Recovery Plan is to improve the management and protection of dragons where they occur on land that is not currently protected or managed to benefit the species. The ACT Government is forming a Nationally Registered Recovery Team that will pursue actions in the ACT's *Action Plan for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon 2025-2035*, consistent with the national Recovery Plan. The Recovery team will seek to ensure that all land managers and stakeholders manage CGED habitat appropriately. The long-term vision of the Action Plan is that in 2075, viable populations of the CGEDs are established across multiple climatically suitable and protected sites.

(7) No.

(8) No, noting the Commonwealth are the regulator for EPBC conditions.

(9) New.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 239



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Environment and Earless Dragon Funding

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 18 August 2025

ACT Government has put \$4 - \$4.5M into dragon breeding and related programs. The approval from Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt under last week's EPBC 2009/4748 Variation to Condition requires the Canberra Airport Group to contribute another \$1M to the ACT Government for breeding programs.

- (1) If these programs are successful, where will dragons be released?
- (2) How much funding from the \$4.5 million will be allocated to habitat restoration?
- (3) What does the ACT Government plan on spending the additional \$1 million from Canberra Airport Group on? Will any of this funding go to habitat restoration to support earless dragon reintroductions from the breeding program?
- (4) Are the habitat locations identified in the Earless Dragon Recovery Plan in the ACT of sufficient quality to support reintroduced dragons from the breeding colony?
 - (a) If there is varying habitat quality, what is the breakdown per hectare for habitat quality?
- (5) Has the ACT Government or Federal Government undertaken mapping of the extent of suitable habitat for the Earless Dragon in the ACT?
 - (a) How many hectares of habitat suitable for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon are there in the ACT?
 - (b) How much of that habitat is in protected areas like reserves?
 - (c) How much of that habitat exists on land with no conservation protected status?

OFFICIAL

- (6) What plans exist to ensure the ongoing protection of land identified as suitable habitat for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon?
- (7) Has the City and Environment Directorate been provided with a briefing from DCCEEW on new conditions imposed on the airport road development?
- (8) Will the ACT Government play any role in monitoring compliance by the developer with conditions set in the EPBC decision?
- (9) Regarding the areas to be rehabilitated in conditions 1A a, b and c of the EPBC decision - are these new and additional areas of habitat required to be rehabilitated or are they areas that conditions from previous approval decisions applied to?

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government envisages potential releases of captive bred dragons into two sites over the next four years in the Jerrabomberra Valley, with some additional potential population augmentation in the Majura Valley.
- (2) No funding announced in the ACT Budget 2025-26 towards the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon will be allocated to habitat restoration \$0, noting this Government investment is focused on building a robust and secure insurance population with adequate genetic diversity to underpin long-term recovery. Mr Burkevics addressed ongoing restoration of ACT parks and reserves during Estimates on 7 August 2025- (Hansard).
- (3) The recently announced funding to be provided by the Capital Airport Group towards the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon is subject to further Government consideration.
- (4) Eight of the 12 sites in the *Action Plan for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon* (CGED) 2025-2035 have been mapped as containing Natural Temperate Grassland (NTG) that has with suitable habitat characteristics, extent, and connectivity to sustain dragon reintroductions. Dragons are also known to temporarily use native pastures adjacent to NTG, and these areas may provide opportunities for restoration to NTG. The total estimated amount of NTG across the twelve sites is 340.2 ha, and the total amount of native pasture habitat at these same sites is 865.7 ha.
- (a) Refer to the following table. The total estimated amount of NTG (high quality habitat) across the eight twelve sites is 340.2256.1 ha, and the total amount of Native Pasture (low quality habitat) habitat at across these same sites is 865.7491.6 ha. For simplicity, this these estimates are based solely on extent of ecological communities present, without considering size or connectivity. These estimates They Estimates represent

Commented [ST1]: Minister, updated in track to reference Bren's comments from call back hearing which go to this.

STP

NEW COMMENT TO MINISTER. I was tempted to send back to see if we can have further context added to our answer in 2, but Rosie's comments seem to contradict that. Happy to chat, everything else looks ok, I just wonder if this is a bit too short? For your views

Commented [ST2]: Will need to update to reflect line questioning in Estimates around FTE covering restoration work

Commented [RC3R2]: The funded restoration work will not intersect at all with GED restoration. None of the 4.5\$ will contribute to restoration, and none of the Ngunnawal/restoration work will contribute to GED conservation (it has a whole momentum and prior investment in other areas).

Commented [RB4R2]: I think there is confusion here about the funded "restoration" component of the LA bid, and just BAU weed management / habitat maintenance at sites where there is CGED habitat (for example Jerra East) which would be covered under other base/initiative funding. Would you like me to add in a line here that refers to this?

Commented [RC5R2]: Note BAU weed management does not constitute habitat restoration for the purposes of GED reintroduction. Suggest no change - this is accurate as it is.

Commented [BB6R2]: Amended further.

Commented [ST7]: Heya, this will need to be amended

Commented [RB8R7]: done

Commented [BB9R7]: Shortened further.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 0.63 cm

OFFICIAL

current best available information, which varies in recentness and reliability across sites (Table 1).

Site	NTG (high-quality habitat)	Native Pasture (low quality habitat)
Amtech	6.1	0
Bonshaw North	2	55.1
Bonshaw South	0.4	105.3
Cookanalla	10.3	171
Jerrabomberra West	57.1	104.1
Jerrabomberra East	43.8	0
Majura West	18.1	47.8
Callum Brae	0	140
Canberra Airport*	64.2	72.6
Majura Training Area	127.3	8.3
Campbell Park	10.9	1.3
Malcolm Vale	0	160.2
ACT TOTALS	340.2	865.7

*note recent development has reduced this figure.

Commented [ST10]: This has info on the sites, can we remove the table and summarise in the body of the text above? Total should be fine

Commented [RB11R10]: done

Commented [RC12R10]: Note to Sara: just for ref, the info in the table on the sites is not sensitive - only information on where we are actually going to release them (which would be limited areas within a small sub-set of these).
Note we have now limited the answer to this question to the eight sites we say above are suitable for future potential reintroduction.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.62 cm, Hanging: 0.63 cm

(5) Yes.

(a) 265.1ha.

(b) 57.1 ha is formally protected as a reserve.

(c) One site is managed by a Commonwealth Government entity (127.3 ha), one site is managed as a rural lease (10.3 ha), and four sites are unleased territory land managed by the Parks and Conservation Service for conservation purposes (totalling 70.4 ha).

(6) The Commonwealth *National Recovery Plan for Four Grassland Earless Dragons* (*Tympanocryptis spp.*) of Southeast Australia is a jointly-made plan with input from all land managers/stakeholders to ensure all dragon habitat is managed well. A key action in the Recovery Plan is to improve the management and protection of dragons where they occur on land that is not currently protected or managed to benefit the species. The ACT Government is forming a Nationally Registered Recovery Team that will pursue actions in the ACT's *Action Plan for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon 2025-2035*, consistent with the national Recovery Plan. The Recovery team will seek to ensure that all land managers and stakeholders manage CGED habitat appropriately. The long-term vision of the Action Plan is that in 2075, viable populations of the CGEDs are established across multiple climatically suitable and protected sites.

(7) No.

(8) No, noting the Commonwealth are the regulator for EPBC conditions.

(9) New.

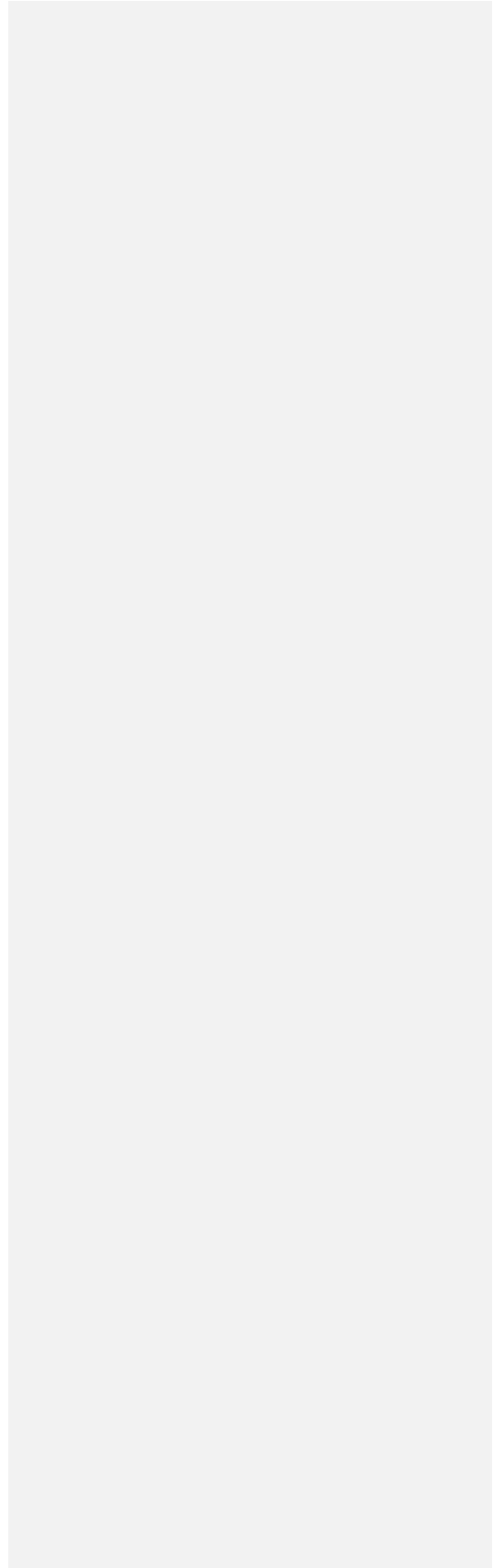
OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA



OFFICIAL

QON No. 270



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Offsets and climate initiatives

Question received: 12 August 2025

Answer Due: 19 August 2025

Regarding the budget initiative ‘continuing climate change action and environmental protection’, allocated \$9.593 million over four years:

(1) What is the funding breakdown for this initiative?

(a) How much is allocated to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment offset?

(b) What climate change initiatives are being funded through this item?

(c) Please list any other programs that will be funded through this item.

(2) Is there any other funding for environmental offsets in the 2025-26 budget?

(3) What action is currently being undertaken on the government's review of the offset policy?

(4) Government contracted a consultant to undertake a review of the offsets policy in 2023 - EP2233123. Has this work been complete? Can you provide the committee with a copy of the consultant's report?

(5) Has government accepted or rejected recommendations from the consultant's report?

Ms Suzanne Orr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) (a) \$429,000 has been allocated to the Parks and Conservation Service in 2025-26 to prepare for future works to meet restorations obligations associated with the GSA, on behalf of the ACT Government.

(1)(b) What climate change initiatives are being funded through this item?

OFFICIAL

The broad Climate action – Continuing climate change action and environmental protection initiative will support a range of activities in the climate change and energy portfolio. This includes climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience statutory and reporting obligations, such as the annual greenhouse gas inventory reporting, the ACT Climate Change Council and communicating climate projections and future scenarios, such as NARLiM 2.0.

The initiative also supports ongoing policy work across mitigation, adaptation, energy, gas transition and consumer energy policy as well as continuation of Community Zero Emissions grants program. This also includes detailed studies to support ongoing policy analysis and design, including for the next climate change strategy.

(1)(c) Nil.

(2) In addition to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, funding for offsets is provided through a range of initiatives and base funding.

Commented [AS1]: For fact-checking

(3) Following previous reviews of offsets and associated matters, the Government is considering options to refresh the offsets policy.

(4) An independent review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy was completed in 2023. As the document is being used to inform and guide a refresh of the offsets policy, the Government has no plans to release the document.

(5) The Government is using the outcomes of the review to guide and inform the ACT Government's next steps to refresh the offsets policy.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
To: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#); [Milthorpe, Josh](#)
Subject: RE: DUE 19/08 -QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives
Date: Tuesday, 19 August 2025 9:04:56 AM

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

In response to your original queries below:

1. A copy of the Offset Review can be found [here](#)
2. Correct, the funding appropriated for the GSA is new funding. Funding for the management of offsets is in base budgets.

Hope this helps?

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Sent: Monday, 18 August 2025 3:22 PM

To: Milthorpe, Josh ; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Subject: RE: DUE 19/08 -QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Regarding your most recent email below, I have been advised that the budget of \$9.593m is correct as that is the net amount after taking offsets into account.

This figure came from page 96 of the [Budget Outlook](#).

I will come back to you when I have responses to your other queries.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 August 2025 11:58 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: DUE 19/08 -QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives

OFFICIAL

Also: if I add up the amounts in Budget Statements E Table 71 (pg. 50) for "Climate action – Continuing climate change action and environmental protection", I get \$10.788M over 4 years, not \$9.593M as per the question. Is this the correct amount, or should I be looking in another place for the funding for this initiative?

From: Milthorpe, Josh

Sent: Monday, 18 August 2025 11:36 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Cc: Taylor Pindo, Sara <Sara.TaylorPindo@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: DUE 19/08 -QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives

Hi Andrew,

Is the consultant's report (2023 review of the offsets policy EP2233123) available somewhere I can read it? (I understand from the draft answer that this is not to be released.)

Regarding (2) "Is there any other funding for environmental offsets in the 2025-26 budget?" – I assume this relates only to the initial purchase/creation of offset areas, not to ongoing management which is presumably in another line item of the budget – do I understand correctly?

Thanks,

Josh

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 15 August 2025 4:39 PM

To: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Cc: Taylor Pindo, Sara <Sara.TaylorPindo@act.gov.au>; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: DUE 19/08 -QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Hopefully the last QON for today!:

[250819 - CED Estimates QON 270 - CLAY - Offsets and climate initiatives](#)

This is due to the Committee by **19 August 2025**.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

OFFICIAL

QON No. 270



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Offsets and climate initiatives

Question received: 12 August 2025

Answer Due: 19 August 2025

Regarding the budget initiative ‘continuing climate change action and environmental protection’, allocated \$9.593 million over four years:

- (1) What is the funding breakdown for this initiative?
 - (a) How much is allocated to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment offset?
 - (b) What climate change initiatives are being funded through this item?
 - (c) Please list any other programs that will be funded through this item.
- (2) Is there any other funding for environmental offsets in the 2025-26 budget?
- (3) What action is currently being undertaken on the government's review of the offset policy?
- (4) Government contracted a consultant to undertake a review of the offsets policy in 2023 - EP2233123. Has this work been complete? Can you provide the committee with a copy of the consultant's report?
- (5) Has government accepted or rejected recommendations from the consultant's report?

Ms Suzanne Orr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) (a) \$429,000 has been allocated to the Parks and Conservation Service in 2025-26 to prepare for future works to meet restorations obligations associated with the GSA, on behalf of the ACT Government.

OFFICIAL

(1)(b) What climate change initiatives are being funded through this item?

The broad Climate action – Continuing climate change action and environmental protection initiative will support a range of activities in the climate change and energy portfolio. This includes climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience statutory and reporting obligations, such as the annual greenhouse gas inventory reporting, the ACT Climate Change Council and communicating climate projections and future scenarios, such as NARCLiM 2.0.

The initiative also supports ongoing policy work across mitigation, adaptation, energy, gas transition and consumer energy policy as well as continuation of Community Zero Emissions grants program. This also includes detailed studies to support ongoing policy analysis and design, including for the next climate change strategy.

(1)(c) Nil.

(2) Environmental offsets continue to be planned and managed in 2025-26 with an operating and staffing budget of approximately \$2.5 million. This includes \$1.5 million through three initiatives supporting the offset commitments for West Kenny, Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment and the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment. In addition to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, funding for offsets is provided through a range of initiatives and base funding.

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Highlight

Commented [AS1]: For fact-checking

Commented [VC2R1]: In 2025-26, offsets continue to be planned and managed from ten budgets with recurrent funding and two initiatives. Additional funding will be required in 2026-27 and beyond.

Commented [BB3R1]: This is good Victoria.

(3) Following previous reviews of offsets and associated matters, the Government is considering options to refresh the offsets policy.

(4) An independent review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy was completed in 2023. As the document is being used to inform and guide a refresh of the offsets policy, the Government has no plans to release the document.

(5) The Government is using the outcomes of the review to guide and inform the ACT Government's next steps to refresh the offsets policy.

Approved for circulation to the SeSelect Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 270



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Offsets and climate initiatives

Question received: 12 August 2025

Answer Due: 19 August 2025

Regarding the budget initiative ‘continuing climate change action and environmental protection’, allocated \$9.593 million over four years:

- (1) What is the funding breakdown for this initiative?
 - (a) How much is allocated to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment offset?
 - (b) What climate change initiatives are being funded through this item?
 - (c) Please list any other programs that will be funded through this item.
- (2) Is there any other funding for environmental offsets in the 2025-26 budget?
- (3) What action is currently being undertaken on the government's review of the offset policy?
- (4) Government contracted a consultant to undertake a review of the offsets policy in 2023 - EP2233123. Has this work been complete? Can you provide the committee with a copy of the consultant's report?
- (5) Has government accepted or rejected recommendations from the consultant's report?

Ms Suzanne Orr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) (a) \$429,000 has been allocated to the Parks and Conservation Service in 2025-26 to prepare for future works to meet restorations obligations associated with the GSA, on behalf of the ACT Government.

OFFICIAL

(1)(b) What climate change initiatives are being funded through this item?

The broad Climate action – Continuing climate change action and environmental protection initiative will support a range of activities in the climate change and energy portfolio. This includes climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience statutory and reporting obligations, such as the annual greenhouse gas inventory reporting, the ACT Climate Change Council and communicating climate projections and future scenarios, such as NARCLiM 2.0.

The initiative also supports ongoing policy work across mitigation, adaptation, energy, gas transition and consumer energy policy as well as continuation of Community Zero Emissions grants program. This also includes detailed studies to support ongoing policy analysis and design, including for the next climate change strategy.

(1)(c) Nil.

(2) Environmental offsets continue to be planned and managed in 2025-26 with an operating and staffing budget of \$2.2 million, including three initiatives supporting the offset commitments for West Kenny, Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment and the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

Environmental offsets continue to be planned and managed in 2025-26 with an operating and staffing budget of approximately \$2.5 million. This includes \$1.5 million through three initiatives supporting the offset commitments for West Kenny, Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment and the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

In addition to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, funding for offsets is provided through a range of initiatives and base funding.

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Italic

Formatted: Highlight

Commented [AS1]: For fact-checking

Commented [VC2R1]: In 2025-26, offsets continue to be planned and managed from ten budgets with recurrent funding and two initiatives. Additional funding will be required in 2026-27 and beyond.

Commented [BB3R1]: This is good Victoria.

Commented [CW4R1]: Have replaced with CFO cleared response

(3) Following previous reviews of offsets and associated matters, the Government is considering options to refresh the offsets policy.

(4) An independent review of the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy was completed in 2023. As the document is being used to inform and guide a refresh of the offsets policy, the Government has no plans to release the document.

(5) The Government is using the outcomes of the review to guide and inform the ACT Government's next steps to refresh the offsets policy.

Approved for circulation to the SeSelect Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

QON No. 283

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: CED - Planning

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Use of Crown Lease and Planning Act 2023 to enforce compliance

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 19 August 2025

The condition of the Richardson shops and its derelict nature need to be addressed. The old Hawker Tennis Centre (Block 9 Section 3 Hawker) have been in a derelict state for many years. The site closed in 2010 and has not been run as a tennis centre since that time. After a fire the clubhouse had to be demolished. I understand that the developer has sought to establish a childcare centre there.

1. Has Access Canberra been in contact recently with the Crown lessee about their intentions for the site and if so, what information can you provide?
2. What action is being taken to clean-up the site and make it safe?

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

Access Canberra has not been in recent contact with the lessee regarding their intentions for the site. Therefore, Access Canberra has no information on any actions being undertaken to the site.

Access Canberra will commit to investigate the issues raised and commence engagement with the lessee as soon as practicable.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Mr Chris Steel

From: [Holohan, Teleatha](#)
To: [ACDLO](#)
Cc: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: AC QON 283 - CLAY - Use of Crown Lease and Planning Act 2023 to enforce compliance
Date: Monday, 18 August 2025 2:24:05 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.jpg

Hi Jenna,

I am just hoping to seek some advice for [\act.goAC QON 283 - CLAY - Use of Crown Lease and Planning Act 2023 to enforce compliance](#) in regards to the Government policy on the compliance enforcement that AC is using for Richardson shops?

Mainly to explain that we are continuing to take compliance matters in line with the current laws.

Happy to discuss further if needed.

Many thanks,

Tee

[Teleatha Holohan](#)

Adviser

Office of Chris Steel MLA

Labor Member for Murrumbidgee

Treasurer

Minister for Transport

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

ACT Legislative Assembly

www.chrissteel.com.au



From: [Huggett, Jenna](#) on behalf of [ACDLO](#)
To: [Eveille, JamesB](#); [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: RE: For your quick review
Date: Friday, 22 August 2025 3:41:00 PM

Ill do my best

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: Eveille, JamesB

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 3:34 PM

To: ACDLO ; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Subject: RE: For your quick review

Will need to be once'd over in its current form by whoever the relevant AC Exec is within the next hour please

From: Huggett, Jenna <Jenna.Huggett@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** ACDLO

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 3:22 PM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>; Eveille, JamesB <JamesB.Eveille@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: For your quick review

OFFICIAL

Hey James

I have since received advice from AC to address Tee's query

"Access Canberra is engaging with the lessee about their intentions for the block before considering whether regulatory action under the Planning Act 2023 is appropriate. Access Canberra is guided by its Accountability Policies

(<https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/about-us/access-canberra-policies-accountabilities-and-reporting>) in ensuring compliance with statutory requirements."

If you prefer I ask AC to review the QON I can, but I anticipate that may cause a further delay

Jenna Huggett | Director

Access Canberra Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Head of Access Canberra

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: acdlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 3:20 PM

To: Eveille, JamesB <JamesB.Eveille@act.gov.au>; ACDLO <ACDLO@act.gov.au>; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: For your quick review

OFFICIAL

Hi James

Stat Planning in PSD have reviewed and are happy with the response.

Thank you

Liana

Liana Brozic | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Phone: (02) 6207 0804 | Email: ceddlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | act.gov.au

From: Eveille, JamesB <JamesB.Eveille@act.gov.au>

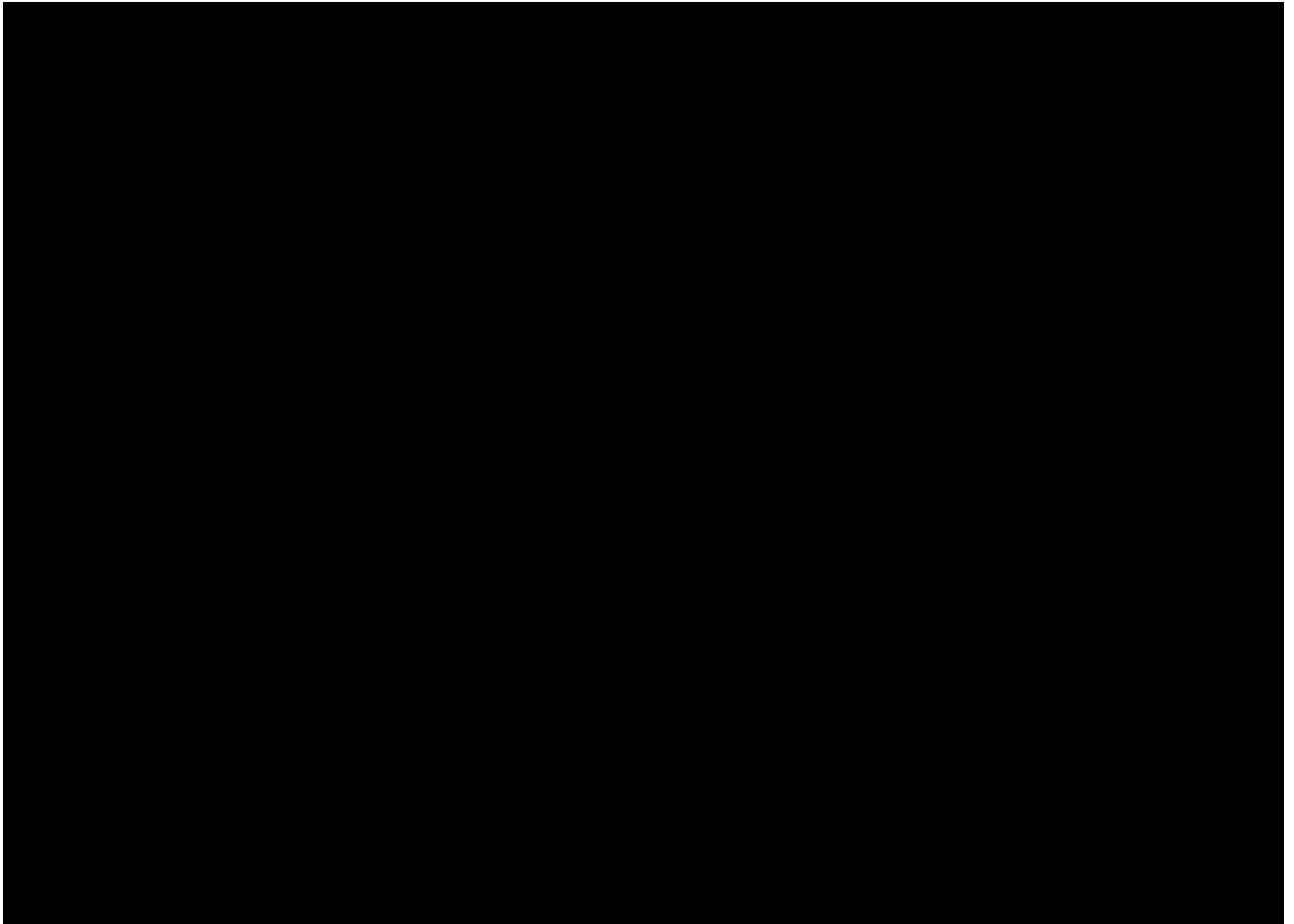
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 1:53 PM

To: ACDLO <ACDLO@act.gov.au>; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: For your quick review

Importance: High

Both – for a very quick once over by your respective areas before I provide to the Minister please.



QON No. 283

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: CED - Planning

Hearing: 1 August 2025

In relation to: Use of Crown Lease and Planning Act 2023 to enforce compliance

Question received: 11 August 2025

Answer Due: 19 August 2025

The condition of the Richardson shops and its derelict nature need to be addressed. The old Hawker Tennis Centre (Block 9 Section 3 Hawker) have been in a derelict state for many years. The site closed in 2010 and has not been run as a tennis centre since that time. After a fire the clubhouse had to be demolished. I understand that the developer has sought to establish a childcare centre there.

1. Has Access Canberra been in contact recently with the Crown lessee about their intentions for the site and if so, what information can you provide?
2. What action is being taken to clean-up the site and make it safe?

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

The ACT Government has been considering next steps relating to the unclean leasehold at the Richardson Shops in line with Territory law. The ACT Government acknowledges the community concerns relating to the Richardson shops, and vacant shop spaces more generally, and has committed to undertake several actions.

These include investigating tougher measures for property owners who leave their shop spaces vacant or unused and undertaking a review of planning controls around local and group centres to encourage more mixed use development and 'shop-top' housing. The Government is also exploring the possible land release of adjacent blocks to the current Richardson shops site.

Access Canberra has not discussed proposed future development options for the Hawker Tennis Centre with the lessee at this time.

Any regulatory action taken on at either the Richardson shops or the Hawker Tennis Centre will be undertaken by Access Canberra as required, which may include controlled activity orders as prescribed under the *Planning Act 2023*.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Mr Chris Steel

QON No. 288



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport

Reference: CED - Public Transport

Hearing: **04 August 2025**

In relation to: **Light rail patronage by day and hour**

Question received: **12 August 2025**

Answer Due: **19 August 2025**

Can you please provide the median/average patronage (number of travellers) on the light rail service to and from Gungahlin, broken down by:

- 1) Hour of the day
- 2) Day of the Week
- 3) Direction of travel
- 4) Pre- and Post-implementation of the MyWay+ ticketing system

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

1-3) The average patronage number on Light Rail services for 2023-24 FY is:

Day/ Hour of the day	2023-24 FY Gungahlin to City-Origin Passengers																						
	00	01	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Monday	0	0	31	238	906	1418	545	302	263	243	220	231	293	251	243	44	89	67	53	21	4	4	
Tuesday	0	0	39	282	1075	1671	693	359	300	270	242	253	312	284	284	62	96	73	55	23	4	4	
Wednesday	0	0	37	274	1044	1652	690	358	306	272	251	251	333	283	293	76	105	77	60	24	5	5	
Thursday	0	0	34	258	966	1564	668	359	297	260	249	259	332	293	297	81	108	12	73	30	6	6	
Friday	0	0	30	235	821	1312	594	347	321	274	264	281	365	333	353	35	151	16	57	43	19	19	
Saturday	5	0	7	63	148	243	274	299	294	273	267	255	251	244	266	101	145	114	53	52	25	25	
Sunday	6	0	0	14	101	189	249	249	244	229	208	203	197	183	159	12	85	19	47	21	4	4	

Day/ Hour of the day	2023-24 FY City to Gungahlin-Origin Passengers																						
	00	01	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Monday	1	0	2	35	113	222	168	141	185	216	264	341	620	866	1160	129	206	131	148	83	22	22	
Tuesday	0	0	2	39	125	264	178	171	209	255	296	395	713	992	1331	125	239	105	166	103	30	30	
Wednesday	0	0	2	38	124	267	174	168	214	253	289	409	712	970	1278	124	248	178	204	121	33	33	
Thursday	0	0	2	39	119	262	173	167	201	243	302	392	689	904	1196	101	253	130	212	132	42	42	
Friday	0	0	2	36	118	245	168	171	213	255	296	401	659	766	378	494	263	231	279	205	84	84	
Saturday	38	0	2	19	51	113	131	163	186	214	235	273	295	297	316	229	154	148	165	163	76	76	
Sunday	48	1	0	6	38	78	106	123	159	183	200	234	260	296	344	76	113	118	135	73	22	22	

- 4) Transport Canberra is currently working with NEC to validate MyWay+ data for reporting. This data will be available once the assurance and validation process is complete.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA

From: [Buckle, Grace](#)
To: [Powter, Luke](#)
Cc: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: FOR ACTION: Response to Budget Hearings QON 288
Date: Tuesday, 19 August 2025 3:39:22 PM
Attachments: QON 288 - BRADDOCK - Light rail patronage by day and hour#3.docx

Hi Luke, thanks for the chat.

Could you please provide a line on the data source used in the attached QON response so it can be referenced as a footnote.

Kind regards

Grace

Grace Buckle

Senior Adviser

Office of Chris Steel MLA

Treasurer

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Transport

Minister for Heritage

ACT Legislative Assembly

GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA, ACT 2601 Australia

Email: grace.buckle@act.gov.au | Phone: [REDACTED]



QON No. 288



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport

Reference: CED - Public Transport

Hearing: **04 August 2025**
In relation to: **Light rail patronage by day and hour**
Question received: **12 August 2025**
Answer Due: **19 August 2025**

Can you please provide the median/average patronage (number of travellers) on the light rail service to and from Gungahlin, broken down by:

- 1) Hour of the day
- 2) Day of the Week
- 3) Direction of travel
- 4) Pre- and Post-implementation of the MyWay+ ticketing system

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

1-3) The average patronage number on Light Rail services for 2023-24 FY is:

Day/ Hour of the day	2023-24 FY Gungahlin to City-Origin Passengers																						
	00	01	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Monday	0	0	31	238	906	1418	545	302	263	243	220	231	293	251	243	44	89	67	53	21	4	4	
Tuesday	0	0	39	282	1075	1671	693	359	300	270	242	253	312	284	284	62	96	73	55	23	4	4	
Wednesday	0	0	37	274	1044	1652	690	358	306	272	251	251	333	283	293	76	105	77	60	24	5	5	
Thursday	0	0	34	258	966	1564	668	359	297	260	249	259	332	293	297	81	108	12	73	30	6	6	
Friday	0	0	30	235	821	1312	594	347	321	274	264	281	365	333	353	35	151	16	57	43	19	19	
Saturday	5	0	7	63	148	243	274	299	294	273	267	255	251	244	266	101	145	114	53	52	25	25	
Sunday	6	0	0	14	101	189	249	249	244	229	208	203	197	183	159	12	85	19	47	21	4	4	

Day/ Hour of the day	2023-24 FY City to Gungahlin-Origin Passengers																						
	00	01	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Monday	1	0	2	35	113	222	168	141	185	216	264	341	620	866	1160	129	206	131	148	83	22	22	
Tuesday	0	0	2	39	125	264	178	171	209	255	296	395	713	992	1331	125	239	105	166	103	30	30	
Wednesday	0	0	2	38	124	267	174	168	214	253	289	409	712	970	1278	124	248	178	204	121	33	33	
Thursday	0	0	2	39	119	262	173	167	201	243	302	392	689	904	1196	101	253	130	212	132	42	42	
Friday	0	0	2	36	118	245	168	171	213	255	296	401	659	766	378	494	263	231	279	205	84	84	
Saturday	38	0	2	19	51	113	131	163	186	214	235	273	295	297	316	229	154	148	165	163	76	76	
Sunday	48	1	0	6	38	78	106	123	159	183	200	234	260	296	344	76	113	108	135	73	22	22	

- 4) Transport Canberra is currently working with NEC to validate MyWay+ data for reporting. This data will be available once the assurance and validation process is complete.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA

QON No. 302

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - Output 5.2 Parks and Conservation

Hearing: 01 August 2025

In relation to: Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts

Question received: 13/08/2025

Answer Due: 20/08/2025

Minister, you announced that you were reversing the decision to proceed with works designed to address the loss of two stockmen's huts (Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields) in the 2020 Orroral Valley bushfire. The decision to undertake the work was made by two Ministers who agreed to a course of action based on advice they received. The media release and YourSay presented a decision being made by the ACT Government:

(1) You advised that a risk analysis was never undertaken and that if the project was to proceed the ACT Government would be exposed to significant costs (including life cycle costs) and risk:

- (a) Did you commission a risk analysis of the works, and if so, can you please provide a copy?
- (b) What are those future costs and can you provide details of the costs?

(2) You indicated that a Request for Quote had been issued for studies which would inform appropriate signage:

- (a) Was that RFQ issued through Tenders ACT as an open tender, or through a select tender?
- (b) Can you provide advice on the works that are specified in the RFQ?

(3) How much has the Territory received from the insurance of the two huts?

- (a) If this money is not being redirected towards the reconstruction of these huts, how can the Minister, given these heritage values, countenance both morally and legally the syphoning of insurance funds for these heritage structures towards other projects – heritage places or not?

(4) What advice did you rely on to determine how long it would take to carry out the works proposed? How long will it take to carry out, and what is the cost, of the works you have supported?

(5) You have advised that the 'huts did not have a huge amount of community engagement and interest in the first place'. In 2022 the Government engaged with the community about its proposal to rebuild the huts - 806 responses were received. Were you aware that there was significant community interest in the huts when you made your decision? Did you consult with interest groups such as the Kosciuszko Huts Association before making your decision?

(6) What is your basis for claiming that the decision to rebuild these huts was not it was not presented as a decision 'for or to Government' when the project was developed by the responsible agency, and then approved and announced by Ministers after extensive consultation that made clear that the rebuilding was for heritage reasons?

(7) The 2022 decision to proceed took into account the aesthetic, historic, social and rarity values of the huts. You said 'it would be inconsistent with heritage advice when something is affected by a natural disaster standard heritage principles are that is left in place and that rebuilding is not consistent'. The Burra Charter has been endorsed by Heritage ACT. Explanatory Note for Article 20 of the Australia ICMOMS Burra Charter (2013) states that "Places with social or spiritual value may warrant reconstruction even though very little may remain (e.g. only building footings following fire, flood or storms)'. Did you receive any advice from Heritage ACT prior to making your decision, and did that advice acknowledge that under the Burra Charter reconstruction of the huts may be appropriate?

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1)(a) The completion of further work and a risk analysis was not considered necessary noting my decision to not rebuild the huts.

(b) The costs associated with the reconstruction of the huts would include site investigation, planning, approvals, development, access, maintenance, staffing, insurance, and bushfire mitigation measures. These costs would vary based on the scale and location of the reconstruction and have not been quantified.

(2)(a) Select tender.

(b) This information remains commercial in confidence until after the completion of the procurement process.

(3) The ACT received an aggregated negotiated settlement for the damages incurred in the 2019/20 bushfires and a subsequent flood event.

(3)(a) The priority for the government is to protect and conserve existing heritage listed huts in Namadgi National Parks pursuant to the requirement of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

(4) The ACT Parks and Conservation Service provided advice.

(5) I am aware that the former Government undertake a YourSay feedback process associated with proposal to reconstruct the huts. Further consultation was not deemed necessary in order to make my decision.

(6) The decision to rebuild the huts was made by Ministers of the former Government and not through a Cabinet process.

(7) ACT Heritage Council provided advice following the 2020 Orroral Valley fire that recommended the huts not be reconstructed.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the [Minister for.....], [name of Minister]

From: [Treloar, Naomi](#)
To: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Subject: CED (PCS) QON 302 - CLAY - Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfield Huts
Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 12:08:57 PM

Hey Ash

Can this one go back for PCS to review please. Comments/track changes already made.

Naomi Treloar

Adviser | Office of Tara Cheyne MLA

(02) 6205 0100

CHEYNE@act.gov.au

OFFICIAL

QON No. 302



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED - Output 5.2 Parks and Conservation

Hearing: 01 August 2025

In relation to: Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields Huts

Question received: 13/08/2025

Answer Due: 20/08/2025

Minister, you announced that you were reversing the decision to proceed with works designed to address the loss of two stockmen's huts (Demanding and Max and Bert Oldfields) in the 2020 Orroral Valley bushfire. The decision to undertake the work was made by two Ministers who agreed to a course of action based on advice they received. The media release and YourSay presented a decision being made by the ACT Government:

(1) You advised that a risk analysis was never undertaken and that if the project was to proceed the ACT Government would be exposed to significant costs (including life cycle costs) and risk:

- (a) Did you commission a risk analysis of the works, and if so, can you please provide a copy?
- (b) What are those future costs and can you provide details of the costs?

(2) You indicated that a Request for Quote had been issued for studies which would inform appropriate signage:

- (a) Was that RFQ issued through Tenders ACT as an open tender, or through a select tender?
- (b) Can you provide advice on the works that are specified in the RFQ?

(3) How much has the Territory received from the insurance of the two huts?

- (a) If this money is not being redirected towards the reconstruction of these huts, how can the Minister, given these heritage values, countenance both morally and legally the syphoning of insurance funds for these heritage structures towards other projects – heritage places or not?

(4) What advice did you rely on to determine how long it would take to carry out the works proposed? How long will it take to carry out, and what is the cost, of the works you have supported?

OFFICIAL

(5) You have advised that the 'huts did not have a huge amount of community engagement and interest in the first place'. In 2022 the Government engaged with the community about its proposal to rebuild the huts - 806 responses were received. Were you aware that there was significant community interest in the huts when you made your decision? Did you consult with interest groups such as the Kosciuszko Huts Association before making your decision?

(6) What is your basis for claiming that the decision to rebuild these huts was not it was not presented as a decision 'for or to Government' when the project was developed by the responsible agency, and then approved and announced by Ministers after extensive consultation that made clear that the rebuilding was for heritage reasons?

(7) The 2022 decision to proceed took into account the aesthetic, historic, social and rarity values of the huts. You said 'it would be inconsistent with heritage advice when something is affected by a natural disaster standard heritage principles are that is left in place and that rebuilding is not consistent'. The Burra Charter has been endorsed by Heritage ACT. Explanatory Note for Article 20 of the Australia ICMOMS Burra Charter (2013) states that "Places with social or spiritual value may warrant reconstruction even though very little may remain (e.g. only building footings following fire, flood or storms)". Did you receive any advice from Heritage ACT prior to making your decision, and did that advice acknowledge that under the Burra Charter reconstruction of the huts may be appropriate?

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

(1)(a) The completion of further work and a risk analysis was not considered necessary noting my the decision to not rebuild the huts.

(b) The costs associated with the reconstruction of the huts would include site investigation, planning, environment, heritage and planning approvals, development design, access, maintenance, staffing, insurance, and bushfire mitigation measures. These costs would vary based on the scale and location of the reconstruction and have not been quantified.

(2)(a) Select tender.

(b) This information remains commercial in confidence until after the completion of the procurement process.

(3) The ACT received an aggregated negotiated settlement for the damages incurred in the 2019/20 bushfires and a subsequent flood event.

(3)(a) The priority for the government is to preserve the ruins of Demanding and Max and Bert's Hut and install on-site heritage interpretation, and protect and conserve existing heritage listed huts in Namadgi National Parks pursuant to the requirement of the Heritage Act 2004.

(4) The Parks and Conservation Service briefed me in July 2025 about the Namadgi National Park Huts Project. The brief discussed issues associated with the proposed rebuilds, including Heritage Act obligations, remoteness, fire risks, financial priorities, and total costs of the proposed rebuild which was estimated at \$220,000 excluding staff time. By comparison, I noted that the costs of repairing

Commented [NT1]: Can we make comment on known risks (remoteness, access ect.)

Commented [CS2R1]: I haven't added anything to this effect noting we are stating that a risk analysis was not conducted

Commented [NT3]: Do we not need to provide a figure?

Commented [ML4R3]: Are we 100% that there wasn't any indication/itemisation of damages relating to the huts?

Commented [CS5R3]: The huts were itemised in the overall fire and storm claim which included multiple other damages. As the final settlement was less than the total amount claimed, allocation of funds against the items claimed were prioritised within a limited availability of funds

Commented [NT6]: Is the insurance money not also going towards the development and delivery of the signage and interps?

Commented [CS7R6]: Good point, added to that effect

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

OFFICIAL

and maintaining the existing heritage sites and huts in Namadgi National Park was almost \$600,000. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service provided advice.

(5) I am aware that the former Government undertook a YourSay feedback process associated with a proposal to reconstruct the huts. Further consultation was not deemed necessary in order to make the my decision.

(6) The announcement of the former Government to rebuild the huts occurred outside of a Cabinet decision making process. This would have been preferred noting the decision engages various Ministerial portfolios and has cost implications.

No advice was sought from Ministers at the time on whether they agreed the huts should be rebuilt or not. Rather, it asked them to note that consultation would occur on a developed proposal for reconstruction of the huts. Between November 2022 and February 2023, the Proposal was available on YourSay for public comment. It described a project to:

- build two new “hut structures” approximately 30m from the heritage listed sites to honour the ruined huts;
- undertake research, conservation, and interpretation of the heritage sites;
- update the Conservation Management Plan for the heritage sites as required by the Heritage Act 2004.

The Proposal did not provide alternatives to building new hut structures. YourSay respondents were asked to agree or disagree with 1. Rebuilding Demanding Hut, 2. Rebuilding Max and Burt Oldfield’s Hut, 3. Conduct a Historic Places Project. The option of “not rebuilding” was not proposed. Following this consultation process, the decision to rebuild the huts was made by Ministers of the former Government and not through a Cabinet process.

(7) ACT Heritage Council provided advice following the 2020 Orroral Valley fire that recommended the huts not be reconstructed. This included an assessment that the condition of each hut did not allow for ‘restoration’ – as defined by the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013) – given the extent of fire damage and the loss of significant fabric.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Acting Minister for City and Government Services, Chris Steel MLA

Commented [NT8]: Can this not be extrapolated

Commented [ML9R8]: Insufficient answer. Please expand

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: Calibri, Font color: Text 1

Formatted: Normal, Space Before: 0 pt

Commented [ML10]: Suggest carefully examining Minister’s comments/annotations on relevant brief/s. I specifically draw attention to the action sought from previous Ministers in the brief (i.e. was it approve, or note, etc.)

Commented [CS11R10]: Further detail provided for clarification on the process

Formatted: Space Before: 8 pt, After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.08 li, No bullets or numbering

Commented [ML12]: Any further advice re the selective use of that specific Article in the charter?

Commented [CS13R12]: I cannot confirm how the Council considered the explanatory note referred to in this question, although its worth noting that the note says “social or spiritual value *may* warrant reconstruction”.

QON No. 303

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Budget

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Environmental Organisation Funding

Question received: 15 August 2025

Answer Due: 22 August 2025

For each of the following organisations, can you set out

- 1) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2024-25 budget;
- 2) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2025-26 budget;
- 3) any forward estimate ACT Government funding you can advise of; and
- 4) how much Commonwealth funding they received in the 2024-25 year?
 - a) Landcare
 - b) Conservation Council
 - c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - g) Water Watch
 - h) Frog Watch

QON No. 303



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

	Funding Received in 2024-25 (exc GST)	Funding to be Received in 2025-26 (exc GST)	Forward Estimate Funding	Cw/ith Funding in 2024-25
a) Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Rivers - \$1,135,000 2024-25 budget support - \$50,000 Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract - \$54,156 Young Farmers - \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Rivers - \$899,000 Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract - \$54,156 ACT Environment Volunteers Conference delivery support - \$14,002 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Rivers \$1,348,000 by 2026/27 Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract - \$54,156 (to 2027/28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Landcare ACT.
b) Conservation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$179,564 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$185,580 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision not made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
c) Canberra Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$135,304 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$139,836 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision not made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
d) Ginninderra Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$150,500 Environmental Grants - \$76,809 Frog Watch – \$94,000 WaterWatch - \$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$155,000 Frog Watch – \$96,820 WaterWatch - \$110,866 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch - \$169,625 (to 2026/27) Frog Watch – \$148,134 (to 2026/27) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 		Government and Ginninderra Catchment Group.
e) Southern ACT Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$150,500 Environmental Grants - \$17,270 WaterWatch - \$107,638 Women in Agriculture - \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$155,000 WaterWatch - \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch - \$169,625 (to 2026/27) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Southern ACT Catchment Group.
f) Molonglo Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$150,500 Environmental Grants - \$44,8874 WaterWatch - \$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$155,000 WaterWatch - \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch - \$169,625 (to 2026/27) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Molonglo Catchment Group.
g) Water Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,280,000 (to 2031/32) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
h) Frog Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$664,000 (to 2031/32) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

i) SEE Change	· \$128,982	· \$133,302	· Unknown	· NA
Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program	· Listed above	· Listed above	· \$3,097,000 (to 2031/32)	· Nil
Enviro grants	· Total \$350,000 between multiple recipients	· Total \$360,000 between multiple recipients	· Approx \$370,000 per year ongoing via competitive grant process	· Nil

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Michael Pettersson MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Budget

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Environmental Organisation Funding

Question received: 15 August 2025

Answer Due: 22 August 2025

For each of the following organisations, can you set out

- 1) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2024-25 budget;
 - 2) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2025-26 budget;
 - 3) any forward estimate ACT Government funding you can advise of; and
 - 4) how much Commonwealth funding they received in the 2024-25 year?
- a) Landcare
 - b) Conservation Council
 - c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - g) Water Watch
 - h) Frog Watch

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Commented [ST1]: James to review

	Funding Received in 2024-25 (exc GST)	Funding to be Received in 2025-26 (exc GST)	Forward Estimate Funding	Cwlth Funding in 2024-25
a) Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Rivers - \$1,135,000 2024-25 budget support - \$50,000 Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract - \$54,156 Young Farmers - \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Rivers - \$899,000 Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract - \$54,156 ACT Environment Volunteers Conference delivery support - \$14,002 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Rivers \$1,348,000 to 2026/27 Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract - \$54,156 to 2027/28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Landcare ACT.
b) Conservation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$179,564 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$185,580 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No allocations decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
c) Canberra Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$135,304 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$139,836 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No allocation decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA
d) Ginninderra Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$150,500 Environmental Grants - \$76,809 Frog Watch - \$94,000 WaterWatch - \$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$155,000 Frog Watch - \$96,820 WaterWatch - \$110,866 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch - \$114,192 per annum to 2026-27 Frog Watch - [REDACTED] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian

OFFICIAL

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 		Government and Ginninderra Catchment Group.
e) Southern ACT Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$150,500 Environmental Grants - \$17,270 WaterWatch - \$107,638 Women in Agriculture - \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$155,000 WaterWatch - \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch - \$114,192 to 2026-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Southern ACT Catchment Group.
f) Molonglo Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$150,500 Environmental Grants - \$44,8874 WaterWatch - \$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program - \$155,000 WaterWatch - \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch - \$114,192 to 2026-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Molonglo Catchment Group.
g) Water Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of \$342,576 available per annum beyond 2026-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

OFFICIAL

h) Frog Watch	· See above in Ginninderra Catchment Group	· See above in Ginninderra Catchment Group	· [REDACTED]	· Nil
---------------	--	--	--------------	-------

Commented [ST2]: James to check as this doesn't feel appropriate.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature: _____ Date: _____
By the A/g Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Michael Petterson MLA

QON No. 303

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Budget

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Environmental Organisation Funding

Question received: 15 August 2025

Answer Due: 22 August 2025

For each of the following organisations, can you set out

- 1) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2024-25 budget;
 - 2) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2025-26 budget;
 - 3) any forward estimate ACT Government funding you can advise of; and
 - 4) how much Commonwealth funding they received in the 2024-25 year?
- a) Landcare
 - b) Conservation Council
 - c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - g) Water Watch
 - h) Frog Watch

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and community environmental organisations.

Regarding forward estimates: provision has been made for funding of community-led environmental initiatives. As these funds will be allocated through a competitive procurement process, they have not been specifically allocated to any of the listed organisations in the forward estimates.

a) Landcare

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$7050,000~~
- ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$14,002
- ~~ACT Government funding forward estimates: Nil.~~
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: \$1,189,156~~ 1,209,156

b) Conservation Council

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$179,564
- ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$185,580
- ~~Forward estimates: Nil~~
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

c) Canberra Environment Centre

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$135,304
- ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$139,836
- ~~Forward estimates: Nil.~~
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not available~~

d) Ginninderra Catchment Group

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$428,947
- ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$362,686 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided)
- Forward estimates: \$213,916 (2026-27)
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

e) Southern ACT Catchment Group

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$295,408
- ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided)
- Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

f) Molonglo Catchment Group

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$303,012
- ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided)
- Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

g) Water Watch

- Water Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government. The budget for 2025-26 is \$332,598 and distributed evenly across the three catchment groups. Forward funding is indexed and contracts are in place with the catchment groups until 2026-27.

h) Frog Watch

- Frog Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government and delivered by the Ginninderra Catchment Group. The budget for 2025-26 is \$96,820. Forward funding is indexed and a contract is in place with the Ginninderra Catchment Group until 2026-27.

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

	Funding Received in 2024-25 (exc GST)	Funding to be Received in 2025-26 (exc GST)	Forward Estimate Funding	Cwith Funding in 2024-25
a) Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers—\$1,135,000 — 2024-25 budget support—\$50,000 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract—\$54,156 — Young Farmers—\$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers—\$899,000 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract—\$54,156 — ACT Environment Volunteers Conference delivery support—\$14,002 — 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers—\$1,348,000 to 2026/27 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract—\$54,156 to 2027/28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Landcare ACT.
b) Conservation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$179,564 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$185,580 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — No allocations decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NA
c) Canberra Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$135,304 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$139,836 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — No allocation decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NA
d) Ginninderra Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$150,500 — Environmental Grants—\$76,809 — Frog Watch—\$94,000 — WaterWatch—\$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$155,000 — Frog Watch—\$96,820 — WaterWatch—\$110,866 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — WaterWatch—\$114,192 per annum to 2026-27 — Frog Watch— [REDACTED] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian

OFFICIAL

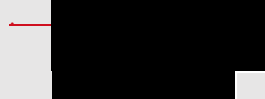
		2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced		Government and Ginninderra Catchment Group.
e) Southern ACT Catchment Group	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$150,500 Environmental Grants—\$17,270 WaterWatch—\$107,638 Women in Agriculture—\$20,000	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$155,000 WaterWatch—\$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced	WaterWatch—\$114,192 to 2026-27	ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Southern ACT Catchment Group.
f) Molonglo Catchment Group	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$150,500 Environmental Grants—\$44,874 WaterWatch—\$107,638	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$155,000 WaterWatch—\$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced	WaterWatch—\$114,192 to 2026-27	ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Molonglo Catchment Group.
g) Water Watch	Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above.	Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above	Funding of \$342,576 available per annum beyond 2026-27	Nil

OFFICIAL

h) Frog Watch

← See above in Ginninderra
Catchment Group

← See above in Ginninderra
Catchment Group



← Nil

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

QON No. 303

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Budget

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Environmental Organisation Funding

Question received: 15 August 2025

Answer Due: 22 August 2025

For each of the following organisations, can you set out

- 1) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2024-25 budget;
- 2) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2025-26 budget;
- 3) any forward estimate ACT Government funding you can advise of; and
- 4) how much Commonwealth funding they received in the 2024-25 year?
 - a) Landcare
 - b) Conservation Council
 - c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - g) Water Watch
 - h) Frog Watch

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements that are directly between Australian Government and community environmental organisations.

Regarding forward estimates: provision has been made for funding of community-led environmental initiatives. As these funds will be allocated through a competitive procurement process, they have not been specifically allocated to any of the listed organisations in the forward estimates.

- a) Landcare
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$106,642
 - ACT Government funding committed in 2025-26: \$0
 - Commonwealth funding administered by the ACT Government for 2024-25: \$1,211,181
- b) Conservation Council
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$179,564
 - ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$185,580
- c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$135,304
 - ACT Government funding received in 2025-26: \$139,836
- d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$466,193
 - ACT Government funding committed in 2025-26: \$362,686 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided)
 - Forward estimates: \$213,916 (2026-27)
- e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$290,408
 - ACT Government funding committed in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided)
 - Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$341,336
 - ACT Government funding committed in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided)
 - Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- g) Water Watch
 - Water Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government. The budget for 2025-26 is \$332,598 and distributed evenly across the three catchment groups. Forward funding is indexed and contracts are in place with the catchment groups until 2026-27.
- h) Frog Watch
 - Frog Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government and delivered by the Ginninderra Catchment Group. The budget for 2025-26 is \$96,820. Forward funding is indexed and a contract is in place with the Ginninderra Catchment Group until 2026-27.

QON No. 303



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Budget

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Environmental Organisation Funding

Question received: 15 August 2025

Answer Due: 22 August 2025

For each of the following organisations, can you set out

- 1) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2024-25 budget;
 - 2) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2025-26 budget;
 - 3) any forward estimate ACT Government funding you can advise of; and
 - 4) how much Commonwealth funding they received in the 2024-25 year?
- a) Landcare
 - b) Conservation Council
 - c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - g) Water Watch
 - h) Frog Watch

OFFICIAL

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements that are made directly by the Australian Government and community environmental organisations.

The ACT Government receives funding from the Australian Government under the Urban Rivers and Catchment Program, which it administers as ACT Government funds to community groups, including Landcare ACT. The ACT Government also receives funding from the Australian Government under the Regional Delivery Partnership Program, some of this funding is administered as ACT Government funds to Landcare ACT to deliver program outcomes.

In answering this question, regarding forward estimates, provision has been made for funding of community-led environmental initiatives. As these funds will be allocated through a competitive procurement process, they have not been specifically assigned to any of the listed organisations in the forward estimates.

All figures below are exclusive of GST.

- a) Landcare ACT
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$701,317,823,000~~
 - ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: ~~\$931,156,14,002~~
 - Forward estimates: ~~\$1,348,000~~
 - ACT Government funding forward estimates: Nil.
 - Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$1,189,156,1,209,156~~
- b) Conservation Council
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$179,564~~
 - ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: ~~\$185,580~~
 - Forward estimates: ~~\$0~~
 - Forward estimates: Nil
 - Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: ~~Not known by the ACT Government~~
- c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$135,304,184,410~~
 - ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: ~~\$139,836~~
 - Forward estimates: ~~\$0~~
 - Forward estimates: Nil.
 - Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: ~~Not available~~
- d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$428,947,468,926~~
 - ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: ~~\$362,686 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be decided/announced)~~
 - Forward estimates: ~~\$213,916 (2026-27)~~
 - Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: ~~Not known by the ACT Government~~
- e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: ~~\$295,408,291,462~~

Commented [KJ1]: Payments included: ... [1]

Commented [KJ2]: Urban Rivers: \$877,000
Regional Delivery Partnership Program: \$54,156

Commented [KJ3]: Urban Rivers: 1,348,000 (to 2026-27)
Regional Delivery Partnership Program: \$54,156 (to 2027-28)

Commented [ST4]: Josh can you fact check this one for me, based on above comment we would either need to specify (26-27) or add in the 54,156?

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Highlight

Commented [FG5]: This is now added into the above figures because, although the source of the funding is the Australian Government, the funds go directly from the ... [2]

Invoice Date	Invoice Num
10-Dec-24	INV-0305
09-Jul-24	INV-0255

Commented [KJ6]:

Commented [KJ7]: Finance numbers = \$184,410

Commented [KJ8]: @ChristineX.Nuttall@act.gov.au / CCE to confirm ... [3]

Commented [CN9]: Includes SFA payments, grant payments for CGG1024 and CZEG809, cost recovery for attendance at event

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST
23-Jun-25	INV-0603	30.0
10-Jun-25	INV-0600	2.2
26-Feb-25	INV-0595	60.2
26-Feb-25	INV-0594	
04-Feb-25	INV-0592	47.0
16-Jan-25	INV-0590	53.8
26-Sep-24	INV-0580	2.5
20-Sep-24	INV-0578	
31-Jul-24	INV-0552	53.8
31-Jul-24	INV-0553	47.0
22-Jul-24	INV-0500	90.3
09-Jul-24	INV-0498	22.6
09-Jul-24	INV-0499	5.0
09-Jul-24	INV-0495	30.6
09-Jul-24	INV-0496	15.5
09-Jul-24	INV-0497	7.9
Total		468.9

Commented [KJ10]:

Commented [KJ11]: Community Stewardship Program: \$155,000
WaterWatch: \$110,866 ... [4]

Commented [KJ12]: WaterWatch: \$114,192 per year to 2026-27
Frog Watch:

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST
20-Jun-25	000241	
08-May-25	INV-0060	5.0
19-Feb-25	INV-0051	60.2
09-Dec-24	INV-0049	53.8
23-Oct-24	INV-0041	
14-Oct-24	INV-0040	17.2
24-Jul-24	INV-0036	5.0
24-Jul-24	INV-0037	5.0
24-Jul-24	INV-0038	90.3
12-Jul-24	INV-0035	
12-Jul-24	INV-0034	53.8
Total		291.4

Commented [KJ13]:

OFFICIAL

- ACT Government funding ~~committed received~~ in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be ~~announced~~decided)
- Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

Commented [KJ14]: Community Stewardship Program: 155,000
WaterWatch: \$110,866

Commented [KJ15]: WaterWatch: \$114,192 per year to 2026-27

f) Molonglo Catchment Group

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$303,012,346,459
- ACT Government funding ~~committed received~~ in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be ~~announced~~decided)
- Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST
27-Jun-25	INV-0251	
23-Jun-25	0249	
15-May-25	INV-0241	
03-Mar-25	INV-0208	
27-Jan-25	INV-0207	
31-Jul-24	INV-0202	
11-Jul-24	INV-0200	
04-Jul-24	INV-0198	
04-Jul-24	INV-0197	
04-Jul-24	INV-0196	
04-Jul-24	INV-0195	
04-Jul-24	INV-0199	
13-Jun-24	INV-0192	
TOTAL		3

Commented [KJ16]:

Commented [KJ17]: Community Stewardship Program: 155,000
WaterWatch: \$110,866

Commented [KJ18]: WaterWatch: \$114,192 per year to 2026-27

Formatted: Font: Calibri

Formatted: Normal, No bullets or numbering

g) Water Watch

- Water Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government. The budget for 2025-26 is \$332,598 and distributed evenly across the three catchment groups. Forward funding is indexed and contracts are in place with the catchment groups until 2026-27.

h) Frog Watch

- Frog Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government and delivered by the Ginninderra Catchment Group. The budget for 2025-26 is \$96,820. Forward funding is indexed and a contract is in place with the Ginninderra Catchment Group until 2026-27.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature: _____

Date: _____

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

	Funding Received in 2024-25 (exc GST)	Funding to be Received in 2025-26 (exc GST)	Forward Estimate Funding	Cwth Funding in 2024-25
a) Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers— \$1,135,000 — 2024-25 budget support— \$50,000 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract— \$54,156 — Young Farmers— \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers— \$899,000 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract— \$54,156 — ACT Environment Volunteers Conference delivery support— \$14,002 — 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers \$1,348,000 to 2026/27 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract— \$54,156 to 2027/28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Landcare ACT.
b) Conservation Council	— \$179,564	— \$185,580	— No allocations decided	— NA
c) Canberra Environment Centre	— \$135,304	— \$139,836	— No allocation decided	— NA
d) Ginninderra Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program— \$150,500 — Environmental Grants— \$76,809 — Frog Watch— \$94,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program— \$155,000 — Frog Watch— \$96,820 — WaterWatch— \$110,866 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — WaterWatch— \$114,192 per annum to 2026-27 — Frog Watch— [REDACTED] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and

OFFICIAL

	WaterWatch \$107,638	2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced		Ginninderra Catchment Group.
e) Southern ACT Catchment Group	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program \$150,500 Environmental Grants \$17,270 WaterWatch \$107,638 Women in Agriculture \$20,000	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program \$155,000 WaterWatch \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced	WaterWatch -\$114,192 to 2026-27	ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Southern ACT Catchment Group.
f) Molonglo Catchment Group	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program \$150,500 Environmental Grants \$44,874 WaterWatch \$107,638	Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program \$155,000 WaterWatch \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced	WaterWatch -\$114,192 to 2026-27	ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Molonglo Catchment Group.
g) Water Watch	Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above.	Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as	Funding of \$342,576 available per annum	Nil

OFFICIAL

	described above	beyond 2026-27
h) Frog Watch	See above in Ginninderra Catchment Group	See above in Ginninderra Catchment Group
		
		Nil

~~Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026~~

~~Signature: _____ Date: _____~~

~~By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA~~

Page 2: [1] Commented [KJ1] Jennings, Kate 15/09/2025 1:28:00 PM

Payments included:

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST	Description
24-Jun-25	INV-0091	8,056.75	PIEP00086 - LandcareACT Community Planting event - 15 June 2025
04-Jun-25	INV-0089	162,000.00	ACT01-01 Urban Rivers - Milestone 3 and 4, partial payment
23-May-25	INV-0088	3,968.25	PIEP0008627 - Community Planting Milestone 1
20-May-25	INV-0087	241,000.00	Urban Rivers Program - Landcare ACT - partial milestone 3 and 4
17-Apr-25	INV-0085	230,000.00	Urban Rivers Program - Landcare Milestone 2
17-Apr-25	INV-0086	14,002.00	VOLUNTEERS CONFERENCE
24-Jan-25	INV-0082	150,000.00	Landcare ACT Urban Rivers Deed part payment milestone 2
24-Jan-25	INV-0081	50,000.00	Supporting Landcare ACT Deed
16-Jan-25	INV-0079	8,140.00	Biodiversity Conservation Forum - Co-Chairing Fee
16-Sep-24	INV-0078	10,000.00	Young Farmers Network payment two. ACT Gov cash contribution FDF - FBR 2024
13-Sep-24	INV-0077	352,000.00	Landcare ACT Urban Rivers - Milestone 1
13-Sep-24	INV-0076	34,500.00	ENV2024_25/00030 Festival Grasslands
13-Sep-24	INV-0075	54,156.00	RDP - Community Engagement - 1st year payment
TOTAL		1,317,823.00	

Page 2: [2] Commented [FG5] Garofalow, Frank 15/09/2025 2:35:00 PM

This is now added into the above figures because, although the source of the funding is the Australian Government, the funds go directly from the ACT to Landcare ACT and does not involve the Australian Government in that process.

Page 2: [3] Commented [KJ8] Jennings, Kate 15/09/2025 2:05:00 PM

@ChristineX.Nuttall@act.gov.au / CCE to confirm

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST	Description
19-May-25	INV-0115	40,000.60	CZEG809 - Grant Funds
21-Jan-25	INV-0109	67,652.00	CEC SFA second instalment 2024_25 FY
04-Nov-24	INV-0105	1,270.00	2024 Sustainable Expo Canberra Environment Centre
27-Aug-24	INV-0098	7,835.76	Community Gardens Grant - CGG1024
02-Jul-24	INV-0096	67,652.00	Canberra Environment Centre SFA 2024-25 instalment 1
TOTAL		184,410.36	

Page 2: [4] Commented [KJ11] Jennings, Kate 15/09/2025 2:20:00 PM

Community Stewardship Program: \$155,000

WaterWatch: \$110,866

FrogWatch: \$96,820

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: CED - Budget

Hearing: 7 August 2025

In relation to: Environmental Organisation Funding

Question received: 15 August 2025

Answer Due: 22 August 2025

For each of the following organisations, can you set out

- 1) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2024-25 budget;
 - 2) how much ACT Government funding they received in the 2025-26 budget;
 - 3) any forward estimate ACT Government funding you can advise of; and
 - 4) how much Commonwealth funding they received in the 2024-25 year?
- a) Landcare
 - b) Conservation Council
 - c) Canberra Environment Centre
 - d) Ginninderra Catchment Group
 - e) Southern ACT Catchment Group
 - f) Molonglo Catchment Group
 - g) Water Watch
 - h) Frog Watch

OFFICIAL

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements that is ~~are~~ made directly by the ~~directly-between~~ Australian Government and community environmental organisations.

The ACT Government receives funding from the Australian Government under the Urban Rivers and Catchment Program, which it administers as ACT Government funds to community groups, including Landcare ACT. The ACT Government also receives funding from the Australian Government under the Regional Delivery Partnership Program, some of this funding is administered as ACT Government funds to Landcare ACT to deliver program outcomes

In answering this question, ~~p~~Regarding forward estimates, ~~;~~ provision has been made for funding of community-led environmental initiatives. As these funds will be allocated through a competitive procurement process, they have not been ~~specifically~~ allocated to any of the listed organisations in the forward estimates.

All figures below are exclusive of GST.

a) Landcare ACT

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$701,317,823,000
- ACT Government funding ~~received~~ committed received in 2025-26: \$931,156,14,002
- Forward estimates: \$849,312 (2026-27 – 2027-28)

~~ACT Government funding forward estimates: Nil.~~
~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: \$1,189,156,1,209,156~~

b) Conservation Council

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$179,564
- ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: \$185,580
- Forward estimates: \$0

~~Forward estimates: Nil~~
~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

c) Canberra Environment Centre

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$135,304,184,410
- ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: \$139,836
- Forward estimates: \$0

~~Forward estimates: Nil.~~
~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not available~~

d) Ginninderra Catchment Group

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$428,947,468,926
- ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: \$362,686 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be ~~decided~~ announced)
- Forward estimates: \$213,916 (2026-27)

~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

e) Southern ACT Catchment Group

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$295,408,291,462
- ACT Government funding committed received in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be ~~announced~~ decided)

Commented [KJ1]: Payments included: ... [1]

Commented [KJ2]: Urban Rivers: \$877,000
Regional Delivery Partnership Program: \$54,156

Commented [KJ3]: Urban Rivers: \$741,000 (in 2026-27)
Regional Delivery Partnership Program: \$108,312 (\$54,156 annually to 2027-28)

Commented [FG4]: This is now added into the above figures because, although the source of the funding is the Australian Government, the funds go directly from the ... [2]

Invoice Date	Invoice Num
10-Dec-24	INV-0305
09-Jul-24	INV-0255

Commented [KJ5]:

Commented [KJ6]: Finance numbers = \$184,410

Commented [KJ7]: @ChristineX.Nuttall@act.gov.au / CCE to confirm ... [3]

Commented [CN8]: Includes SFA payments, grant payments for CGG1024 and CZEG809, cost recovery for attendance at event

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST
23-Jun-25	INV-0603	30,000
10-Jun-25	INV-0600	2,244
26-Feb-25	INV-0595	60,200
26-Feb-25	INV-0594	64
04-Feb-25	INV-0592	47,000
16-Jan-25	INV-0590	53,815
26-Sep-24	INV-0580	2,570
20-Sep-24	INV-0578	9
31-Jul-24	INV-0552	53,815
31-Jul-24	INV-0553	47,000
22-Jul-24	INV-0500	90,300
09-Jul-24	INV-0498	22,660
09-Jul-24	INV-0499	5,000
09-Jul-24	INV-0495	30,670
09-Jul-24	INV-0496	15,560
09-Jul-24	INV-0497	7,910
Total		468,920

Commented [KJ9]:

Commented [KJ10]: Community Stewardship Program: \$155,000
WaterWatch: \$110,866
FrogWatch: \$96,820

Commented [KJ11]: WaterWatch: \$114,192 per year to 2026-27
Frog Watch: [REDACTED]

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST
20-Jun-25	000241	\$
08-May-25	INV-0060	5,000
19-Feb-25	INV-0051	60,200
09-Dec-24	INV-0049	53,815
23-Oct-24	INV-0041	\$
14-Oct-24	INV-0040	17,200
24-Jul-24	INV-0036	5,000
24-Jul-24	INV-0037	5,000
24-Jul-24	INV-0038	90,300
12-Jul-24	INV-0035	4,000
12-Jul-24	INV-0034	53,815
Total		291,400

Commented [KJ12]:

Commented [KJ13]: Community Stewardship Program: \$155,000
WaterWatch: \$110,866

OFFICIAL

- Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
- ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

Commented [KJ14]: WaterWatch: \$114,192 per year to 2026-27

- f) Molonglo Catchment Group
- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$303,012,346,459
 - ACT Government funding ~~committed received~~ in 2025-26: \$265,866 (ex. any Environment Grants which are yet to be ~~announced~~decided)
 - Forward estimates: \$114,192 (2026-27)
 - ~~Commonwealth funding received in 2024-25: Not known by the ACT Government~~

Invoice Dat	Invoice Nur	Excl GST
27-Jun-25	INV-0251	
23-Jun-25	0249	
15-May-25	INV-0241	
03-Mar-25	INV-0208	
27-Jan-25	INV-0207	
31-Jul-24	INV-0202	
11-Jul-24	INV-0200	
04-Jul-24	INV-0198	
04-Jul-24	INV-0197	
04-Jul-24	INV-0196	
04-Jul-24	INV-0195	
04-Jul-24	INV-0199	
13-Jun-24	INV-0192	
TOTAL		3.

Commented [KJ15]:

Commented [KJ16]: Community Stewardship Program: 155,000
 WaterWatch: \$110,866

Commented [KJ17]: WaterWatch: \$114,192 per year to 2026-27

Formatted: Font: Calibri

Formatted: Normal, No bullets or numbering

- g) Water Watch
- Water Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government. The budget for 2025-26 is \$332,598 and distributed evenly across the three catchment groups. Forward funding is indexed and contracts are in place with the catchment groups until 2026-27.

- h) Frog Watch
- Frog Watch is an annual program funded by the ACT Government and delivered by the Ginninderra Catchment Group. The budget for 2025-26 is \$96,820. Forward funding is indexed and a contract is in place with the Ginninderra Catchment Group until 2026-27.

OFFICIAL

QON No. 303



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

	Funding Received in 2024-25 (exc-GST)	Funding to be Received in 2025-26 (exc-GST)	Forward Estimate Funding	Gwlth Funding in 2024-25
a) Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers—\$1,135,000 — 2024-25 budget support—\$50,000 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract—\$54,156 — Young Farmers—\$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers—\$899,000 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract—\$54,156 — ACT Environment Volunteers Conference delivery support—\$14,002 — 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Urban Rivers \$1,348,000 to 2026/27 — Regional Delivery Partnership Program contract—\$54,156 to 2027/28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Landcare ACT.
b) Conservation Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$179,564 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$185,580 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — No allocations decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NA
e) Canberra Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$135,304 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — \$139,836 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — No allocation decided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NA
d) Ginninderra Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$150,500 — Environmental Grants—\$76,809 — Frog Watch—\$94,000 — WaterWatch—\$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program—\$155,000 — Frog Watch—\$96,820 — WaterWatch—\$110,866 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — WaterWatch—\$114,192 per annum to 2026-27 — Frog Watch— [REDACTED] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian

OFFICIAL

		2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced		Government and Ginninderra Catchment Group.
e) Southern ACT Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program – \$150,500 Environmental Grants – \$17,270 WaterWatch – \$107,638 Women in Agriculture – \$20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program – \$155,000 WaterWatch – \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch – \$114,192 to 2026-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Southern ACT Catchment Group.
f) Molonglo Catchment Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program – \$150,500 Environmental Grants – \$44,874 WaterWatch – \$107,638 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Stewardship and Environmental Education Program – \$155,000 WaterWatch – \$110,866 2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WaterWatch – \$114,192 to 2026-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements between Australian Government and Molonglo Catchment Group.
g) Water Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding allocated to three Catchment Groups as described above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of \$342,576 available per annum beyond 2026-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil

OFFICIAL

h) Frog Watch

See above in Ginninderra
Catchment Group

See above in Ginninderra
Catchment Group

[REDACTED]

Nil

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

Page 2: [1] Commented [KJ1] Jennings, Kate 15/09/2025 1:28:00 PM

Payments included:

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST	Description
24-Jun-25	INV-0091	8,056.75	PIEP00086 - LandcareACT Community Planting event - 15 June 2025
04-Jun-25	INV-0089	162,000.00	ACT01-01 Urban Rivers - Milestone 3 and 4, partial payment
23-May-25	INV-0088	3,968.25	PIEP0008627 - Community Planting Milestone 1
20-May-25	INV-0087	241,000.00	Urban Rivers Program - Landcare ACT - partial milestone 3 and 4
17-Apr-25	INV-0085	230,000.00	Urban Rivers Program - Landcare Milestone 2
17-Apr-25	INV-0086	14,002.00	VOLUNTEERS CONFERENCE
24-Jan-25	INV-0082	150,000.00	Landcare ACT Urban Rivers Deed part payment milestone 2
24-Jan-25	INV-0081	50,000.00	Supporting Landcare ACT Deed
16-Jan-25	INV-0079	8,140.00	Biodiversity Conservation Forum - Co-Chairing Fee
16-Sep-24	INV-0078	10,000.00	Young Farmers Network payment two. ACT Gov cash contribution FDF - FBR 2024
13-Sep-24	INV-0077	352,000.00	Landcare ACT Urban Rivers - Milestone 1
13-Sep-24	INV-0076	34,500.00	ENV2024_25/00030 Festival Grasslands
13-Sep-24	INV-0075	54,156.00	RDP - Community Engagement - 1st year payment
TOTAL		1,317,823.00	

Page 2: [2] Commented [FG4] Garofalow, Frank 15/09/2025 2:35:00 PM

This is now added into the above figures because, although the source of the funding is the Australian Government, the funds go directly from the ACT to Landcare ACT and does not involve the Australian Government in that process.

Page 2: [3] Commented [KJ7] Jennings, Kate 15/09/2025 2:05:00 PM

@ChristineX.Nuttall@act.gov.au / CCE to confirm

Invoice Date	Invoice Num	Excl GST	Description
19-May-25	INV-0115	40,000.60	CZEG809 - Grant Funds
21-Jan-25	INV-0109	67,652.00	CEC SFA second instalment 2024_25 FY
04-Nov-24	INV-0105	1,270.00	2024 Sustainable Expo Canberra Environment Centre
27-Aug-24	INV-0098	7,835.76	Community Gardens Grant - CGG1024
02-Jul-24	INV-0096	67,652.00	Canberra Environment Centre SFA 2024-25 instalment 1
TOTAL		184,410.36	

From: [Milthorpe, Josh](#)
To: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Cc: [Taylor Pindo, Sara](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT: 250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental Organisation Funding
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 2:49:49 PM

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

I've pushed this one back to you with comments as I am concerned that information provided regarding Forward Estimate Funding amounts may be incorrect.

Given the sensitivities around funding of community organisations and the potential for causing confusion if this is incorrectly communicated, I would prefer to wait until Minister Orr returns before signing off on this QON (if possible).

Many thanks,

Josh

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 2:25 PM
To: Milthorpe, Josh
Cc: Taylor Pindo, Sara ; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer
Subject: URGENT: 250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental Organisation Funding
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

The final CED Estimates QON is now in your folder for your urgent review please:

[250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental Organisation Funding](#)

As this is already overdue, we have prepared the response for signing by the A/g Minister.

Please let me know if/when I need to progress this to the Pettersson office.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
To: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#); [Milthorpe, Josh](#)
Cc: [Taylor Pindo, Sara](#)
Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303
Date: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 12:27:39 PM

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

There is now a further updated response to QON 303 in your folder.

Our apologies, there was indeed an error in the forward estimates for Landcare ACT. This has been corrected.

Let's discuss further at 1pm.

Thanks

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 3:50 PM

To: Milthorpe, Josh

Cc: Taylor Pindo, Sara ; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

Hi Josh,

As discussed, the updated response to QON 303 is now [in your folder](#).

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 3:38 PM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Regarding the funding for Landcare: I realise these amounts have changed from the 'Superseded 3' to the current version (I did not make that change). Furthermore, the amount for 2025-2026 now shows as zero. What non-ongoing payments made up the amount for 2024-25?

(Previous versions of the brief included "2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced" – was any of the Landcare funding for 2024-25 made up of

Environment Grants?)

Many thanks,

Josh

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 4:59 PM

To: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Please note that QON 303 has been updated as per your edits/comments and saved back in your folder:

[250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental Organisation Funding](#)

Apologies, the updates are not in track. The version with your most recent comment/edits can be found in the "SUPERSEDED_3" folder.

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 9:01 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Sorry, I think the answer still presents a confusing picture of the funding situation. I have made some edits in tracking in the word doc and pushed back to you – could the Directorate please check?

Many thanks,

Josh

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 2:10 PM

To: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Please note that the updated response to QON 303 has been saved to the folder below:

[! - HOLDING ! - Min Pettersson - 250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental](#)

Organisation Funding

Thanks,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
To: [Milthorpe, Josh](#); [Burkevics, Bren](#); [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Cc: [Garofalow, Frank](#); [Taylor Pindo, Sara](#)
Subject: RE: PROPOSED NARRATIVE - QON303 - FOR ACTION: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303
Date: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 3:21:09 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

OFFICIAL

Thanks Josh.

Confirming I have placed the updated version in your folder. I have also changed the layout of the last page, so all pages are now in portrait configuration.

Regards,

Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Milthorpe, Josh

Sent: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 3:00 PM

To: Burkevics, Bren ; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Cc: Garofalow, Frank ; Taylor Pindo, Sara

Subject: RE: PROPOSED NARRATIVE - QON303 - FOR ACTION: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Bren and Andrew,

This looks fine. Please copy this text into a revised version and we'll put it to the Minister.

Many thanks,

Josh

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 1:39 PM

To: Taylor Pindo, Sara <Sara.TaylorPindo@act.gov.au>; Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>; Garofalow, Frank <Frank.Garofalow@act.gov.au>

Subject: PROPOSED NARRATIVE - QON303 - FOR ACTION: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Sara, Josh

Thanks for your patience with this one. See the new paragraph below "In answering this question..."

Finance has reviewed and is comfortable.

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [REDACTED]

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

act.gov.au/environment

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government does not have oversight of any funding arrangements that is made directly by the Australian Government and community environmental organisations.

The ACT Government receives funding from the Australian Government under the Urban Rivers and Catchment Program, which it administers as ACT Government funds to community groups, including Landcare ACT. The ACT Government also receives funding from the Australian Government under the Regional Delivery Partnership Program, some of this funding is administered as ACT Government funds to Landcare ACT to deliver program outcomes.

In answering this question, 2025-26 and forward estimate figures only include funds committed as of 16 September 2025. Additional funding may be allocated in 2025-26 and forward estimates, based on the outcomes of future funding programs.

All figures below are exclusive of GST.

a) Landcare ACT

- ACT Government funding received in 2024-25: \$1,317,823
- ACT Government funding committed in 2025-26: \$931,156
- Forward estimates: \$849,312 (2026-27; 2027-28)

From: Garofalow, Frank <Frank.Garofalow@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 September 2025 12:18 PM

To: Spain, Andrew <Andrew.Spain@act.gov.au>

Cc: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Liston, Tegan <Tegan.Liston@act.gov.au>; Jennings, Kate <Kate.Jennings@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: QON303 - FOR ACTION: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Bren has requested that I forward you the updated version of 303, both the link and as an attachment. First let me apologise, Josh was correct and there was an error in the forward estimates for Landcare ACT. This has been corrected.

We have provided comments on how the figures were reached in the document. Note:

- Figures now include all invoices paid to the respective groups, some smaller amount invoices were missed in the original totals – finance provided the attached invoice lists (see separate tabs)
- The original version of this document listed “ACT Government funding **received** in 2025-26”, so we tallied amounts already paid out this FYI. The question has now been re-written to “ACT Government funding **committed** in 2025-26”, so there will be discrepancy between versions.
- Previous versions of this QON listed Urban Rivers and RDP funding as Commonwealth funding. This version includes these figures as part of ACT Government funding because ACT Government is administering the funds. Those programs are the only funding committed to Landcare ACT for 2025-26 to date, hence why a previous version of this QON showed 2025-26 as \$0.
- MO asked if Landcare ACT received any environment grants last year – the answer is yes, \$34,500.00 for ENV2024_25/00030 Festival Grasslands. Past recipients are listed here: [Funding to help enhance, conserve and promote the local environment - ACT Government](#)

Frank

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 10:02 AM

To: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>

Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>; Sutton, Paula <Paula.Sutton@act.gov.au>; EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Subject: QON303 - FOR ACTION: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh

Apologies that the tracked changes to this QON were not visible to MO.

I have asked that CED restores it to the superseded 3 version, and make changes in track to that. Perhaps to land this efficiently MO/CED could meet online and flash it up on the screen?

For your consideration, thanks.

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [REDACTED]

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

act.gov.au/environment

From: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:16 AM

To: EPSDD Environment <EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>

Cc: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR ACTION: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Good morning

MO has further queries on QON 303 - please see below. No changes have been made to the QON response itself.

Note that the “Superseded 3” version that Josh references below is the previous version that was sent to CED with MO comments. The most recent version we provided to MO (attached) was not provided in track so we can’t see where these most recent changes came from.

Josh Milthorpe comments: Regarding the funding for Landcare: I realise these amounts have changed from the ‘Superseded 3’ to the current version (I did not make that change). Furthermore, the amount for 2025-2026 now shows as zero. What non-ongoing payments made up the amount for 2024-25?

(Previous versions of the brief included “2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced” – was any of the Landcare funding for 2024-25 made up of Environment Grants?)

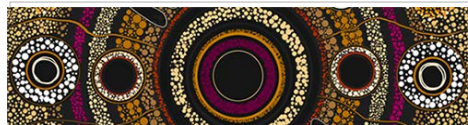
Could the edits please be provided back to **GS, EGM cleared ASAP**

Thanks

Courtney Walsh | A/g Assistant Director, Government Services

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

courtney.walsh@act.gov.au | EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au



I acknowledge the Ngunawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 3:50 PM

To: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>

Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: FURTHER MO QUERIES: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Courtney,

MO has further queries on QON 303 - please see below. No changes have been made to the QON response itself.

Note that the "Superseded 3" version that Josh references below is the previous version that was sent to CED with MO comments. The most recent version we provided to MO (attached) was not provided in track so we can't see where these most recent changes came from.

Thanks,
Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer
Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 3:38 PM
To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Regarding the funding for Landcare: I realise these amounts have changed from the 'Superseded 3' to the current version (I did not make that change). Furthermore, the amount for 2025-2026 now shows as zero. What non-ongoing payments made up the amount for 2024-25? (Previous versions of the brief included "2025-26 Environment Grant recipients have not yet been announced" – was any of the Landcare funding for 2024-25 made up of Environment Grants?)

Many thanks,
Josh

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 4:59 PM
To: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>; CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Please note that QON 303 has been updated as per your edits/comments and saved back in your folder:

[250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental Organisation Funding](#)

Apologies, the updates are not in track. The version with your most recent comment/edits can be found in the "SUPERSEDED_3" folder.

Thanks,
Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer
Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

From: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 9:01 AM
To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303

OFFICIAL

Hi Andrew,

Sorry, I think the answer still presents a confusing picture of the funding situation. I have made some edits in tracking in the word doc and pushed back to you – could the Directorate please check?

Many thanks,
Josh

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 2:10 PM
To: Milthorpe, Josh <Josh.Milthorpe@act.gov.au>
Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: UPDATED RESPONSE TO QON 303
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Josh,

Please note that the updated response to QON 303 has been saved to the folder below:

[! - HOLDING ! - Min Pettersson - 250822 - CED Estimates QON 303 - CLAY - Environmental Organisation Funding](#)

Thanks,
Andrew

Andrew Spain | Directorate Liaison Officer
Office of Minister Suzanne Orr MLA | Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Phone: 02 6205 3712 | Email: CEDDLO@act.gov.au
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
Address: ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

OFFICIAL

QTON No. 126



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ed Cocks

Addressed to: Dr Marissa Paterson

Redirected to: Tara Cheyne

In relation to: Targets for Hazard/Fuel reduction burns

Hearing: 31 July 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript Page 28

Transcript provided: 4 August 2025

Answer Due: 11 August 2025

Michaela Watts took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: So just an introduction to the hectares of hazard reduction or fuel reduction burning completed in each year since 2020 and how it compares to the annual target.

Ms Watts: So without the figures year on year in front of me, I can tell you that for the past year between the Rural Fire Service and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service there have been 17 fuel reduction burns that have been undertaken. That is over 2,067 hectares and there has been seven ecological burns with 60 hectares of ecological burns completed. We will take the remainder of that question on notice.

OFFICIAL

Dr Marisa Paterson, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The following table describes the number, type and size of prescribed burns completed from the 2020-2021 fire season to present. Information about the 2024-25 season was provided during the hearing.

There are no hectare targets for prescribed burning. The annual Strategic Indicator target for Bushfire Residual Risk to be between 35 and 45 per cent. Accordingly, the below table also includes the Residual Risk percentage for the years in question.

Burn year	Burn Type	Activities	Hectares	Residual Risk (%)
23/24	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	9	3197	31
	PCS Cultural Burn	1	4	
	PCS Ecological Burn	11	169	
	RFS Prescribed Burn	3	30	
	Total	24	3400	
22/23	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	9	858	37
	PCS Cultural Burn	1	6	
	PCS Ecological Burn	9	117	
	RFS Prescribed Burn	1	1	
	Total	20	982	
21/22	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	4	214	41.4
	PCS Cultural Burn	2	9	
	PCS Ecological Burn	7	102	
	RFS Prescribed Burn	1	9	
	Total	14	334	
20/21	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	10	1561	38
	PCS Cultural Burn	3	10	
	PCS Ecological Burn	9	136	
	RFS Prescribed Burn	0	0	
	Total	22	1707	

Commented [AS1]: MO have asked for 24-25 to be included please.

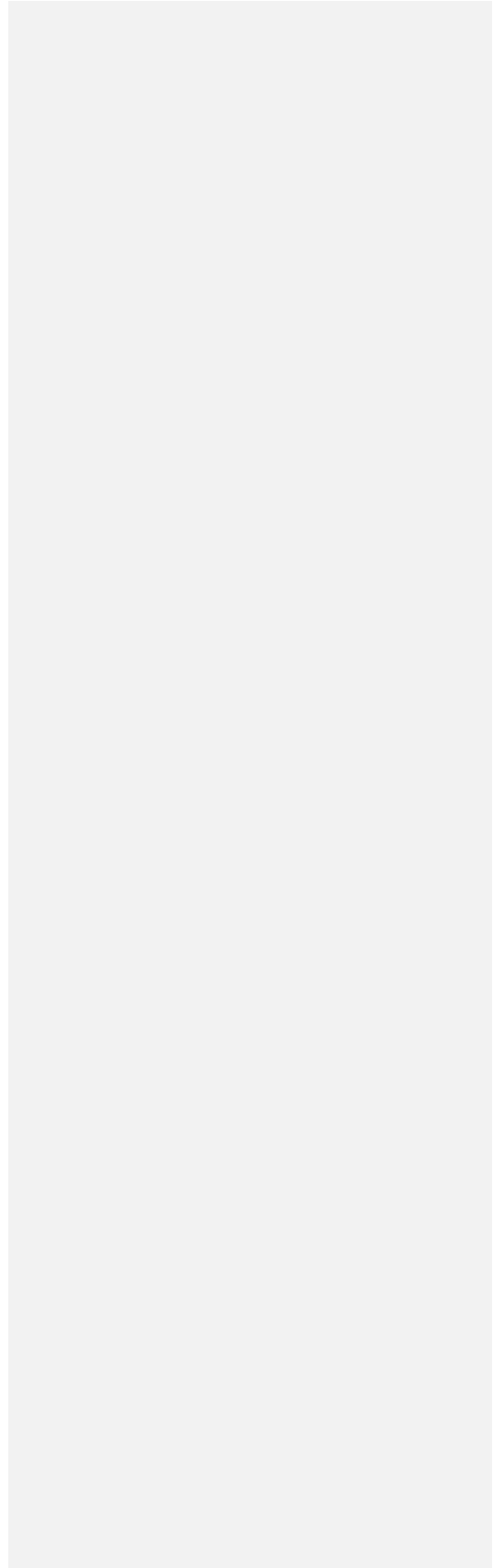
Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

OFFICIAL

Signature:

Date:

By Dr Marisa Paterson, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services



QTON No. 126

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ed Cocks

Addressed to: Dr Marissa Paterson

Redirected to: Tara Cheyne

In relation to: Targets for Hazard/Fuel reduction burns

Hearing: 31 July 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript Page 28

Transcript provided: 4 August 2025

Answer Due: 11 August 2025

Michaela Watts took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: So just an introduction to the hectares of hazard reduction or fuel reduction burning completed in each year since 2020 and how it compares to the annual target.

Ms Watts: So without the figures year on year in front of me, I can tell you that for the past year between the Rural Fire Service and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service there have been 17 fuel reduction burns that have been undertaken. That is over 2,067 hectares and there has been seven ecological burns with 60 hectares of ecological burns completed. We will take the remainder of that question on notice.

Dr Marisa Paterson, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The following table describes the number, type and size of prescribed burns completed from the 2020-2021 fire season to present.

There are no hectare targets for prescribed burning. The annual Strategic Indicator target for Bushfire Residual Risk is to be between 35 and 45 per cent. Accordingly, the below table also includes the Residual Risk percentage for the years in question.

Burn year	Burn Type	Activities	Hectares	Residual Risk (%)
24/25	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	13	1917	34
	PCS Cultural Burn	1	1	
	PCS Ecological Burn	7	60	
	RFS/PCS Prescribed Burn	4	150	
	Total	24	2128	
23/24	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	9	3197	31
	PCS Cultural Burn	1	4	
	PCS Ecological Burn	11	169	
	RFS/PCS Prescribed Burn	3	30	
	Total	24	3400	
22/23	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	9	858	37
	PCS Cultural Burn	1	6	
	PCS Ecological Burn	9	117	
	RFS/PCS Prescribed Burn	1	1	
	Total	20	982	
21/22	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	4	214	41.4
	PCS Cultural Burn	2	9	
	PCS Ecological Burn	7	102	
	RFS/PCS Prescribed Burn	1	9	
	Total	14	334	
20/21	PCS Hazard Reduction Burn	10	1561	38
	PCS Cultural Burn	3	10	
	PCS Ecological Burn	9	136	
	RFS/PCS Prescribed Burn	0	0	
	Total	22	1707	

Signature:

Date:

By Dr Marisa Paterson, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

QTON No. 148

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan MLA

Addressed to: Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Environment

In relation to: Public space amenity and Funding for skateparks and playground upgrades

Hearing: **31 July 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **p 121-122.**

Transcript provided: **05 August 2025**

Answer Due: **12 August 2025**

Tara Cheyne, Minister for City and Environment took on notice the following question(s):

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, thank you, Chair, and I think Mr Braddock will probably appreciate this question, but it is in relation to the government's commitment to increase funding or to provide funding for skate parks and playground upgrades and so forth over the forward estimates. In that election commitment there was 1.5 million for this year in the announcement for the following year and then 2 million in the third year, for a total of \$5 million, but in this budget that is just been handed down by the government, this year it is 2 million and 2.5 million and then 2.7. So it has gone up 2.2 million, right?

Ms Cheyne: Mr Milligan, could you tell us what page? Because I do not even know what you are talking about.

MR MILLIGAN: I thought you memorised your budget. Anyway. Page 62 of Budget Statement E has those figures.

Ms Cheyne: Thank you.

MR MILLIGAN: But then your own party's announcement and costing obviously is a separate document. That additional 2.2 million dollars, what is that to cover and where that additional funding compared to your announcement—what has justified that for that increase?

Ms Cheyne: So now that I know what you are talking about, so skate park upgrades and—

MR MILLIGAN: And playground. Better community infrastructure and playground upgrades and skate parks.

Ms Cheyne: Yes, yes, and we are on the Asset Renewal Program page.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, it is gone up 2.2 million dollars compared to your announcement during the election. I just want to know what has justified that additional funding. Has it been the reports that the government has conducted with the playgrounds and safety audits and the skate park? I just want to know where that funding is to go and what has brought it on. The additional funding compared to the election announcement.

Ms Cheyne: Look, I am just going to take that on notice, Mr Milligan, because I just do not have the election document in front of me and I want to do a comparison over the outyears, especially as it relates to playgrounds and skatepark upgrades and I also need to double-check and I am not the minister, but she is sick, so we will take it on notice and I will provide you with a concrete answer.

MR MILLIGAN: Skatepark upgrades, would that not fall under city services just like sport?

Ms Cheyne: Look, Minister Berry and I have a split of our responsibilities that is agreed between our offices and she has skateparks, so I do know this, so please let me take this on notice so I can compare it with our election document because I wrote the bit about the playgrounds, so let me understand what the thinking was compared to what is in this budget.

THE CHAIR: Can I just check, Mr Milligan, just confirming we are talking about, I think it was LAB085 was the Labor question request?

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, LAB085.

Mr Fitzgerald: I would also point out that the Asset Renewal Program is not solely just a reflection of election commitments. We also had programmed activity works, particularly around skate parks, which had to be undertaken. So it is not necessarily a direct one-to-one reflection. We also have just general maintenance activities to keep the assets and prolong their useful life.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, I guess my question is just more around where has this maintenance occurred—

Ms Cheyne: Yes, what has the money been spent on? Yes, I will come back to you on that.

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

Budget outlook paper item *Better community Infrastructure – Playground Upgrades* which is funded for \$8 million over three years and profiled at 2.0m in 25-26, 2.5m in 26-27 and 2.7m in 27-28 relates to election commitments for playground upgrades in specific suburbs and parks across Canberra. Noting in the first year \$0.8m is funded by the Commonwealth bringing the total funds for 25-26 to \$2.8m.

LAB085 is a separate election commitment which relates to undertaking safety and compliance audits for playgrounds and skate parks, as well delivering associated safety works from the audits. The proposed funding profile includes:

- \$1.5 million for 2025-26;



In the 2025-26 Budget \$1.5 million has been committed under the Asset Renewal Program (ARP) for this initiative. This is titled 'Playgrounds/skateparks' under the City and Environment Directorate's ARP sub-heading of 'Public realm and playgrounds'. [REDACTED]

Funds associated with the initiative titled *Supporting Local Sport – Skate Park Upgrades* will deliver separate commitments including renewal works at Tuggeranong and Charnwood skate parks and planning for further upgrades of Tuggeranong skate park, and an ACT Skate Strategy.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QTON No. 148



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan MLA

Addressed to: Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Public space amenity and Funding for skateparks and playground upgrades

Hearing: 31 July 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: p 121-122.

Transcript provided: 05 August 2025

Answer Due: 12 August 2025

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services took on notice the following question(s):

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, thank you, Chair, and I think Mr Braddock will probably appreciate this question, but it is in relation to the government's commitment to increase funding or to provide funding for skate parks and playground upgrades and so forth over the forward estimates. In that election commitment there was 1.5 million for this year in the announcement for the following year and then 2 million in the third year, for a total of \$5 million, but in this budget that is just been handed down by the government, this year it is 2 million and 2.5 million and then 2.7. So it has gone up 2.2 million, right?

Ms Cheyne: Mr Milligan, could you tell us what page? Because I do not even know what you are talking about.

MR MILLIGAN: I thought you memorised your budget. Anyway. Page 62 of Budget Statement E has those figures.

Ms Cheyne: Thank you.

MR MILLIGAN: But then your own party's announcement and costing obviously is a separate document. That additional 2.2 million dollars, what is that to cover and where that additional funding compared to your announcement—what has justified that for that increase?

Ms Cheyne: So now that I know what you are talking about, so skate park upgrades and—

MR MILLIGAN: And playground. Better community infrastructure and playground upgrades and skate parks.

OFFICIAL

Ms Cheyne: Yes, yes, and we are on the Asset Renewal Program page.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, it is gone up 2.2 million dollars compared to your announcement during the election. I just want to know what has justified that additional funding. Has it been the reports that the government has conducted with the playgrounds and safety audits and the skate park? I just want to know where that funding is to go and what has brought it on. The additional funding compared to the election announcement.

Ms Cheyne: Look, I am just going to take that on notice, Mr Milligan, because I just do not have the election document in front of me and I want to do a comparison over the outyears, especially as it relates to playgrounds and skatepark upgrades and I also need to double-check and I am not the minister, but she is sick, so we will take it on notice and I will provide you with a concrete answer.

MR MILLIGAN: Skatepark upgrades, would that not fall under city services just like sport?

Ms Cheyne: Look, Minister Berry and I have a split of our responsibilities that is agreed between our offices and she has skateparks, so I do know this, so please let me take this on notice so I can compare it with our election document because I wrote the bit about the playgrounds, so let me understand what the thinking was compared to what is in this budget.

THE CHAIR: Can I just check, Mr Milligan, just confirming we are talking about, I think it was LAB085 was the Labor question request?

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, LAB085.

Mr Fitzgerald: I would also point out that the Asset Renewal Program is not solely just a reflection of election commitments. We also had programmed activity works, particularly around skate parks, which had to be undertaken. So it is not necessarily a direct one-to-one reflection. We also have just general maintenance activities to keep the assets and prolong their useful life.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, I guess my question is just more around where has this maintenance occurred—

Ms Cheyne: Yes, what has the money been spent on? Yes, I will come back to you on that.

OFFICIAL

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

~~Budget outlook paper item~~ The initiative *Better community Infrastructure – Playground Upgrades* which is funded for on page 94 of the Budget Outlook provides \$8 million over three years and profiled at \$2.0m in 2025-26, \$2.5m in 2026-27 and \$2.7m in 2027-28 relates to deliver to election commitments for playground upgrades in specific suburbs and parks across Canberra. This initiative is reflected on page 62 of Budget Statement E to show the \$7.2 million in funding through the Asset Renewal Program. Noting in the first year \$0.8m is funded by the Commonwealth bringing the total funds for 2025-26 to \$2.8m.

LAB085 is a separate election commitment which relates to safety and compliance audits for playgrounds and skate parks

The 2025-26 Budget also provides \$1.3 million in funding for the initiative *Supporting local support – Skate park upgrades* found on page 109 of the Budget Outlook.

LAB085 is a separate election commitment which relates to undertaking safety and compliance audits for playgrounds and skate parks, as well delivering associated safety works from the audits.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the 2025-26 Budget \$1.5 million has been committed under the Asset Renewal Program (ARP) for this initiative. This is titled 'Playgrounds/Skateparks' under the City and Environment Directorate's ARP subheading of 'Public realm and playgrounds'. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Funds associated with the initiative titled *Supporting Local Sport – Skate Park Upgrades* will deliver separate commitments including renewal works at Tuggeranong and Charnwood skate parks and planning for further upgrades of Tuggeranong skate park, and an ACT Skate Strategy.

Formatted: Normal, No bullets or numbering

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA

QTON No. 194

**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**Select Committee on Estimates
2025–2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport

In relation to: Public transport and Disability accessible bus stops

Hearing: **4 August 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **p 42.**

Transcript provided: **07 August 2025**

Answer Due: **14 August 2025**

Mr Chris Steel Minister for Transport took on notice the following question(s):

MR BRADDOCK: I will try to keep it quick. Just in terms of bus stops, I am trying to understand what the criteria is in terms of whether they have seating, shelter, wheelchair accessibility and so forth. Is there a criteria in place, or is it more we just live with whatever we have inherited from previous governments?

Mr Smith: Yes, I can briefly talk to that, Mr Braddock. So we do assess the bus stops on a regular basis. So we are working through ensuring that, as a first step, bus stops are accessible under disability standards. So the pathway to bus stops, whether a bus can pull up and it can use its hydraulics to be at level, et cetera. In regards to shelter, what we would do regularly there is review the bus stops, the utilisation of those bus stops, and where appropriate we may wish to invest in shelters. We do not have a standard budget item in the operating budget to do that. If we can and we know there is a shelter at a bus stop which is no longer utilised for a reason, we may look to try within the operational budget to relocate the bus stop, the shelter itself. But moving forward, we may look to, in future, discuss with government in regards to the appropriateness of budget bids for things like that as well. So we do look at it and think about what is there, how they operate, et cetera.

MR BRADDOCK: Yes. Talking about shelters, you utilised a term “where appropriate”. Well, how is that determined as to whether a shelter should be there or not?

Mr Smith: Yes, so I guess in a perfect world, utopia again, every bus stop would have a shelter. In saying that, there are a lot of bus stops around the city. Again, I cannot name exactly how many there are. The utilisation rate would be one of the most important factors in regards to where a shelter would go. So if we have a highly utilised bus stop then ideally that is where we would start

looking in regards to where a shelter could go. If we know we have one that might pick up one or two passengers a day, then obviously and unfortunately that would go further down the priority list.

MR BRADDOCK: Do you know what proportion of stops are accessible or, should I actually say, inaccessible for disabled users?

Mr Smith: I would have to take that on notice in regards to the exact number.

MR BRADDOCK: Okay, thank you.

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

Of the 2,495 active bus stops in Transport Canberra's bus network, 409 are fully compliant with current DDA requirements. A total of 75% of all active bus stops have undergone varying degrees of upgrade work to improve accessibility taking into consideration the challenges of site condition, varying topography and natural access limitations.

Additional funding has been provided through the 2025-2026 budget to continue the upgrade work to improve accessibility across a number of active bus stops.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Transport, Mr Chris Steel MLA

From: [Buckle, Grace](#)
To: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Cc: [Holohan, Teleatha](#)
Subject: RE: DUE THUR 14 AUG: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am
Date: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 4:34:59 PM

Hiya, I've made some eds to QTON 194 in track changes (based on a previous QTB) – could these please be checked off with the relevant team and Minister Cheyne's office before I progress to the Minister.

Thanks!

Grace

Grace Buckle

Senior Adviser (Planning Reform, Development & Transport) | Office of Chris Steel MLA

Email: grace.buckle@act.gov.au | Phone: [REDACTED]

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:05 PM
To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer ; Buckle, Grace
Subject: RE: DUE THUR 14 AUG: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am

OFFICIAL

Hi Grace

The remaining TC QTONs are now in your folder:

- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 190 - CASTLEY - Bus driver incidents](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 191 - RATTENBURY - Transit Enforcement Officers](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 192 - COCKS - Dead running](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 194 - BRADDOCK - Non-accessible Bus Stops](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 203 - CASTLEY - Dennings buses](#)

Thank you

Liana

Liana Brozic | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Phone: (02) 6207 0804 | Email: ceddlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | act.gov.au

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 3:04 PM
To: Buckle, Grace <Grace.Buckle@act.gov.au>
Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: DUE THUR 14 AUG: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am

OFFICIAL

Hi Grace

The below QTONs from the Transport Hearing have been saved to your folder (five more are still pending clearance and will get these to you asap):

- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 186 - CASTLEY - Branding on Scania buses](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimate QTON 187 - CASTLEY - Cost of TCCS Image Guide 2018](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 188 - BRADDOCK - Spending to date on MyWay+](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 189 - COCKS - Lost revenue on MyWay+](#)

These are due back to the Committee by COB Thursday, 14 Aug.

Thank you

Liana

Liana Brozic | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Phone: (02) 6207 0804 | Email: ceddlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | act.gov.au

From: Straker, Nicola <Nicola.Straker@parliament.act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2025 9:50 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Cc: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Please find attached questions taken on notice and the uncorrected proof transcript from the hearing for the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026 on **Monday 4 August**.

Please note that the uncorrected proof transcript is provided to assist in answering questions taken on notice by the Minister for Transport during the hearing, and may not be used for correction, quotation, or publication.

Please return signed responses in the Portal using the template provided.

Please contact me if there are any concerns or difficulties.

Kind regards

Nicola

Nicola Straker

Assistant Committee Secretary | Parliamentary Support Branch

T 02 620 59902 | E nicola.straker@parliament.act.gov.au

Standing Committee on Environment and Planning | E LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au



parliament.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

My workdays are Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

OFFICIAL

QTON No. 194



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport

In relation to: Public transport and Disability accessible bus stops

Hearing: 4 August 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: p 42.

Transcript provided: 07 August 2025

Answer Due: 14 August 2025

Mr Chris Steel Minister for Transport took on notice the following question(s):

MR BRADDOCK: I will try to keep it quick. Just in terms of bus stops, I am trying to understand what the criteria is in terms of whether they have seating, shelter, wheelchair accessibility and so forth. Is there a criteria in place, or is it more we just live with whatever we have inherited from previous governments?

Mr Smith: Yes, I can briefly talk to that, Mr Braddock. So we do assess the bus stops on a regular basis. So we are working through ensuring that, as a first step, bus stops are accessible under disability standards. So the pathway to bus stops, whether a bus can pull up and it can use its hydraulics to be at level, et cetera. In regards to shelter, what we would do regularly there is review the bus stops, the utilisation of those bus stops, and where appropriate we may wish to invest in shelters. We do not have a standard budget item in the operating budget to do that. If we can and we know there is a shelter at a bus stop which is no longer utilised for a reason, we may look to try within the operational budget to relocate the bus stop, the shelter itself. But moving forward, we may look to, in future, discuss with government in regards to the appropriateness of budget bids for things like that as well. So we do look at it and think about what is there, how they operate, et cetera.

MR BRADDOCK: Yes. Talking about shelters, you utilised a term “where appropriate”. Well, how is that determined as to whether a shelter should be there or not?

Mr Smith: Yes, so I guess in a perfect world, utopia again, every bus stop would have a shelter. In saying that, there are a lot of bus stops around the city. Again, I cannot name exactly how many there are. The utilisation rate would be one of the most important factors in regards to where a shelter would go. So if we have a highly utilised bus stop then ideally that is where we would start

OFFICIAL

looking in regards to where a shelter could go. If we know we have one that might pick up one or two passengers a day, then obviously and unfortunately that would go further down the priority list.

MR BRADDOCK: Do you know what proportion of stops are accessible or, should I actually say, inaccessible for disabled users?

Mr Smith: I would have to take that on notice in regards to the exact number.

MR BRADDOCK: Okay, thank you.

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

There are currently ~~Of the~~ 2,495 active bus stops ~~across the~~ Transport Canberra's bus network. The ACT Government has made substantial progress in fully or partly upgrading 1,867 (or approximately 75%) of these stops to improve accessibility. These upgrades include Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSi) for vision impaired users and, where possible, improvements to the boarding point and connection paths.

Of these bus stops, 409 are fully compliant with current *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)* requirements. ~~Due to the topography and the gradients of many road corridors, achieving perfect compliance for bus stops is not always practical. However, upgrades are tested where required to ensure disability access is appropriate for transport users in these instances.~~

A total of 75% of all active bus stops have undergone varying degrees of upgrade work to improve accessibility taking into consideration the challenges of site condition, varying topography and natural access limitations.

Additional funding has been provided through the 2025-2026 Asset Renewal Program initiative *Bus stop accessibility upgrades budget* to continue the upgrade work to improve accessibility across a number of active bus stops.

Formatted: Font: Italic

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Transport, Mr Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QTON No. 203



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport

In relation to: Public transport and Work underway on returned custom Dennings buses

Hearing: 4 August 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: p 3.

Transcript provided: 07 August 2025

Answer Due: 14 August 2025

Mr Chris Steel Minister for Transport took on notice the following question(s):

MS CASTLEY: Thank you Chair. I would like to talk about the bus fleet if I can, minister, on table 19 of page 20, budget statement E. That is titled Reduced Public Transport-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Now, the percentage of electric buses currently in service with Transport Canberra is 23 per cent, if I am correct. Is this inclusive of the four Custom Denning Element 2 electric buses?

Mr Steel: I am going to invite Ms Taylor-Dayus to give some information there.

Ms Taylor-Dayus: Good morning. Sarah Taylor-Dayus, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Delivery within Transport Canberra. I acknowledge the privilege statement and accept it. We currently have an operating fleet of 456. As at 1 August we actually had 466 vehicles, that was with ten pending for retirement. Of those, the four Custom Denning are included in that operable fleet.

MS CASTLEY: The Custom Denning buses we returned to the manufacturer a couple of times, I understand for undisclosed rectification modification work. It was bus 748 and 749, the first two Dennings delivered to Transport Canberra were returned in January of 2025. But 748 bus has been returned to Denning again in May; is that correct?

Ms Taylor-Dayus: That is correct. We have worked very closely with Custom Denning to ensure that those vehicles can deliver full operating services in routes.

MS CASTLEY: So what is the work that is happening? What were they were unable to do?

Ms Taylor-Dayus: There is various technical work that they have been working on. Some of it has been in and around the high voltage, and some it has been more simpler work.

OFFICIAL

MS CASTLEY: Can we get any more details?

Ms Taylor-Dayus: I can take that on notice, if you would like more technical details.

MS CASTLEY: Yes. That would great, thank you.

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

The Custom Denning buses have been returned to Sydney on a number of occasions due to faults that included adherence to *Disability Discrimination Act* legislation and Australian Standards.

Currently, all four vehicles are being upgraded as part of an improvement program from Custom Denning. This includes modifications to the high voltage battery cooling system and replacement of the low voltage battery. Transport Canberra is continuing to work collaboratively with Custom Denning to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

Commented [GB1]: Are we able to get dot points on this? Understanding to date is they were returned due to performance/reliability issues so this seems like no news. Thanks!

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Transport, Mr Chris Steel MLA

From: [Buckle, Grace](#)
To: [CED, Directorate Liaison Officer](#)
Cc: [Holohan, Teleatha](#)
Subject: RE: DUE THUR 14 AUG: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am
Date: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 4:38:40 PM

Hi Ash, question in a comment on QTON 2023 for action please before progressing

Thanks

Grace

Grace Buckle

Senior Adviser (Planning Reform, Development & Transport) | Office of Chris Steel MLA

Email: grace.buckle@act.gov.au | Phone: [REDACTED]

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer

Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:05 PM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer ; Buckle, Grace

Subject: RE: DUE THUR 14 AUG: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am

OFFICIAL

Hi Grace

The remaining TC QTONs are now in your folder:

- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 190 - CASTLEY - Bus driver incidents](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 191 - RATTENBURY - Transit Enforcement Officers](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 192 - COCKS - Dead running](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 194 - BRADDOCK - Non-accessible Bus Stops](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 203 - CASTLEY - Dennings buses](#)

Thank you

Liana

Liana Brozic | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Phone: (02) 6207 0804 | Email: ceddlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | act.gov.au

From: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 3:04 PM

To: Buckle, Grace <Grace.Buckle@act.gov.au>

Cc: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLLO@act.gov.au>

Subject: DUE THUR 14 AUG: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am

OFFICIAL

Hi Grace

The below QTONs from the Transport Hearing have been saved to your folder (five more are still pending clearance and will get these to you asap):

- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 186 - CASTLEY - Branding on Scania buses](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimate QTON 187 - CASTLEY - Cost of TCCS Image Guide 2018](#)

- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 188 - BRADDOCK - Spending to date on MyWay+](#)
- [\[14.08\] TCCS Estimates QTON 189 - COCKS - Lost revenue on MyWay+](#)

These are due back to the Committee by COB Thursday, 14 Aug.

Thank you

Liana

Liana Brozic | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Phone: (02) 6207 0804 | Email: ceddlo@act.gov.au

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government | act.gov.au

From: Straker, Nicola <Nicola.Straker@parliament.act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2025 9:50 AM

To: CED, Directorate Liaison Officer <CEDDLO@act.gov.au>

Cc: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: QTONS (186 -194 & 203) - Minister for Transport - 4 August - 9am-11am

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Please find attached questions taken on notice and the uncorrected proof transcript from the hearing for the Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026 on **Monday 4 August**.

Please note that the uncorrected proof transcript is provided to assist in answering questions taken on notice by the Minister for Transport during the hearing, and may not be used for correction, quotation, or publication.

Please return signed responses in the Portal using the template provided.

Please contact me if there are any concerns or difficulties.

Kind regards

Nicola

Nicola Straker

Assistant Committee Secretary | Parliamentary Support Branch

T 02 620 59902 | E nicola.straker@parliament.act.gov.au

Standing Committee on Environment and Planning | E LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au



parliament.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

My workdays are Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Public space amenity and Safety assessment of playgrounds

Hearing: **31 July 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **31 July 2025, p 122-123.**

Transcript provided: **05 August 2025**

Answer Due: **12 August 2025**

Tara Cheyne MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, and all that good stuff. And probably take it on notice, I guess, that we would just like to know where the audit is at in terms of safety compliance for our playgrounds and skate parks because I do not know—

Ms Cheyne: Well, it is undertaken often.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, yes, just because I want to know how many have been assessed as not being compliant and how many are waiting to be completed to make it compliant, and then how many other playgrounds and skate parks are yet to be assessed?

Ms Cheyne: Yes, we will take that on notice.

MR MILLIGAN: Excellent, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

Each year, Level 3 playground inspections are conducted to assess compliance with the current Australian Standard AS 4685. It is important to note that:

- Compliance with Playground Standards (e.g. AS 1924 and AS 4685) is not mandatory.
- These Standards are not retrospective, meaning older playgrounds are not required to be upgraded to meet newer Standards.
- A non-conformance may still be considered acceptable if a risk assessment determines the risk to be low.

OFFICIAL

The 2024-2025 Level 3 audit report was received by the City and Environment Directorate on 1 August 2025.

This audit assessed all 553 playgrounds and 19 skateparks.

While a detailed review of the report is still pending, an initial scan indicates that high-priority work has been identified at 55 playgrounds to address risks that have been assessed as high.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA

OFFICIAL

QTON No. 149



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2025–
2026

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Public space amenity and Safety assessment of playgrounds

Hearing: **31 July 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **31 July 2025, p 122-123.**

Transcript provided: **05 August 2025**

Answer Due: **12 August 2025**

Tara Cheyne MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, and all that good stuff. And probably take it on notice, I guess, that we would just like to know where the audit is at in terms of safety compliance for our playgrounds and skate parks because I do not know—

Ms Cheyne: Well, it is undertaken often.

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, yes, just because I want to know how many have been assessed as not being compliant and how many are waiting to be completed to make it compliant, and then how many other playgrounds and skate parks are yet to be assessed?

Ms Cheyne: Yes, we will take that on notice.

MR MILLIGAN: Excellent, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

Each year, Level 3 playground inspections are conducted to assess compliance with the current Australian Standard AS 4685. It is important to note that:

- Compliance with Playground Standards (e.g. AS 1924 and AS 4685) is not mandatory.
- These Standards are not retrospective, meaning older playgrounds are not required to be upgraded to meet newer Standards.
- A non-conformance may still be considered acceptable if a risk assessment determines the risk to be low.

OFFICIAL

The 2024-2025 Level 3 audit report was received by the City and Environment Directorate on 1 August 2025.

This audit assessed all 553 playgrounds and 19 skateparks.

While a detailed review of the report is still pending, an initial scan indicates that high-priority work has been identified at 55 playgrounds to address risks that have been assessed as high. |

Commented [ML1]: Suggest remove; duplicative.

Also, does this mean that "high-priority work" has not been identified at any skateparks?

Commented [ML2]: Separately, for our own understanding, how will this high-priority work be progressed/funded (i.e. via ARP)? And do we always complete all high-priority work determined, or is there a backlog?

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the A/g Minister for City and Government Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA