

Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services
Annual and Financial Reports 2015-2016
Supplementary Questions (Questions on Notice) – 6 March 2017

Type of Questions	No	Hearing Date	Asked By	Directorate / Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
QoN	1	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	Kangaroo Fertility Program	6 April 2017
QoN	2	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume - Facility	30 March 2017
QoN	3	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – Legislative Obligations and Consultation	30 March 2017
QoN	4	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – Carbon footprint implications	30 March 2017
QoN	5	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – Comparisons with Berkley Vale	30 March 2017
QoN	6	6 March 2017	Lee	EPA	Water Resources - Bores	28 March 2017
QoN	7	6 March 2017	Lee	EPA	Complaints to EPA	28 March 2017
QoN	8	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	ACTSmart Home Energy Advice and Assessment Services	29 March 2017
QoN	9	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	Staffing Levels – Sustainability and Climate Change Division	29 March 2017

Type of Questions	No	Hearing Date	Asked By	Directorate / Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
QoN	10	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	Commercial Pine Plantation Estate	30 March 2017
QoN	11	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	Fraud Prevention – Review and Action Items	30 March 2017
QoN	12	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	Engagement of External Consultants	
QoN	13	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – regulatory powers to ensure fuel not stored on site if project goes ahead	30 March 2017
QoN	14	6 March 2017	Lee	EPSDD	FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – Strategic Indicators p 41 Annual Report	30 March 2017
QoN	15	6 March 2017	Le Couteur	EPSDD	Funding for Local Catchment Groups	30 March 2017
QoN	16	6 March 2017	Le Couteur	EPSDD	Pest Animals Declaration – Indian Myna	30 March 2017
QoN	17	6 March 2017	Le Couteur	EPSDD	ACT Noise Zone Standards – Aircraft and Flight Paths	30 March 2017



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), STEVE DOSZPOT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), TARA CHEYNE MLA,
MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 01
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: Kangaroo fertility program
[Kangaroo Management Plan] Annual Report p20

1. Can you confirm the amount spent to date on the kangaroo fertility trial?
2. Can you advise how many kangaroos have been administered contraceptive over the period of the trial?
3. Was there an agreed time period for this project? If so what was it?
4. Were there an agreed number of kangaroos to be treated under the trial? Number?
5. Has the trial met those target numbers?
6. Who initiated the trial?
7. What role did/does CSIRO play in the trial?
8. What cost: benefit analysis has been made to assess the trial's effectiveness?
9. What impact was the trial intended to have on controlling kangaroo numbers?
10. Over what period of time was the trial meant to have an impact?
11. What are the milestones for this research project?
12. Who is the project manager for this trial?
13. What evidence is there the contraceptive works?
14. Is any tracking done on kangaroos involved in the contraceptive program post vaccination? If so how?
15. Is any investigation made as to whether any kangaroos involved in road kill incidents are part of the fertility control research project?
16. What contribution does the CSIRO make to this project in both dollar terms and human resources?
17. What research benefits has CSIRO identified from this project?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The budget for the current fertility control project is \$612 000, plus some in-kind support, over three years (2014/15 to 2016/17).
2. 81 kangaroos have been administered GonaCon Immunocontraceptive Vaccine by hand-injection, 10 have been hand-injected with a placebo (as experimental controls) and 54 have been administered GonaCon via dart delivery.
3. Funding was provided for a research project to:
 - a. trial dart delivery of GonaCon to eastern grey kangaroos,
 - b. compare the effect of hand injection vs. dart delivery, and
 - c. investigate the effect of GonaCon at the population level in small populations.

An initial two years of funding was provided, followed by a third year. Funding for future years is being considered.

4. The initial project plan and animal ethics application included an approximate number of kangaroos to be treated. The aim at some of the research sites was to treat all of the adult females with GonaCon, so it was impossible to know exactly how many animals this would be until the time of treatment.
5. The actual number of kangaroos treated is very close to the number estimated at the beginning of the project.
6. The trial was initiated by the Conservation Research unit of EPSDD, in consultation with CSIRO. These two groups collaborated on the first trial of GonaCon in a small number of eastern grey kangaroos in 2008.
7. CSIRO is a collaborator on the project. The role of the two CSIRO staff members is to provide technical expertise to the project, to participate in fieldwork activities, participate in data analysis and reporting, source and import of GonaCon from the US and analyse blood and tissue samples. The expertise and equipment to carry out some of these tasks are not available within ACT Government.
8. If dart delivery of GonaCon is effective at controlling the growth of kangaroo populations it will provide a useful management tool that could result in cost savings in the future by reducing the amount of culling required in some areas. The results of early trials of GonaCon are promising, but it is not known yet if GonaCon will be an effective management tool. The aim of this research is to determine if the method works (including how long the effect lasts for, what proportion of treated animals it works in, what level of control can be achieved, etc). Once these factors are determined through the research, a cost: benefit analysis can be undertaken to assess the method as a possible management tool.
9. The trial intended to determine if dart delivery of GonaCon was possible and whether it could cause infertility in a high proportion of treated kangaroos over multiple years and to also evaluate whether GonaCon could be used to limit the growth rate of small kangaroo populations.
10. The trial was set up to evaluate the effect of GonaCon, so there was no expectation of the time period that the trial was meant to have an impact. Instead, the time period of the effect is being investigated. It is expected that for GonaCon to be an effective management tool for free-ranging kangaroos the effect must last for multiple years in a high proportion of treated individuals.
11. The milestones of the project are:
 - Completion of a laboratory trial assessing GonaCon expulsion from a dart
 - Completion of a trial assessing the fate of dart-delivered GonaCon in the target muscle block
 - The remote dart-delivery of GonaCon to tagged free-ranging kangaroos
 - The capture and hand injection of GonaCon to free-ranging kangaroos
 - Monitoring of contraceptive efficacy and any welfare implications

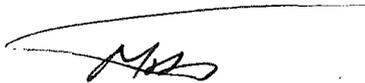
The first four milestones have been completed. The last milestone is ongoing. Preparation of a report on the results of the project so far is underway.

12. The project is being managed by the Conservation Research unit of EPSDD.
13. GonaCon Immunocontraceptive Vaccine has been shown to cause infertility in several species overseas including white-tailed deer, bison and boar. In 2008, the ACT Government, CSIRO and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre undertook the first trial of GonaCon in kangaroos. Sixteen sub-adult female kangaroos were hand injected with GonaCon. The vaccine was 100% effective for 3 years, after which time one treated female began breeding. A second female produced a young last year (year 8 of the trial), but all other animals are still infertile. The vaccine has also been shown to be highly effective in Tammar Wallabies. In the current trial, in the year following treatment, hand injection of GonaCon prevented subsequent birth in 87% of the treated kangaroos. Deployment of dart delivered GonaCon began in mid 2016, so the first results from this method will be available later in 2017.

14. The research kangaroos are fitted with identification collars and eartags so that they can be individually monitored over multiple years. The kangaroos are observed using binoculars every 6-8 weeks to check for the presence of pouch young. To assess the population level effects of GonaCon, treated and untreated populations are counted and the proportion of females with pouch young is recorded annually.
15. Rangers contact the research team immediately if a research kangaroo is involved in a motor vehicle collision.
16. \$135 000 from the project budget has been provided to CSIRO for the two staff members and operating costs associated with the project. One of the CSIRO staff members is contributing some in-kind time to the project as well.
17. Like the ACT Government, CSIRO see that GonaCon has the potential to provide a useful tool for managing populations of eastern grey kangaroos and possibly other species in Australia and overseas. This collaboration allows the diverse expertise of both parties to be utilised to investigate an innovative solution for managing wildlife populations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

6/4/17

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 02
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume - facility
[ref Waste Policy Initiatives page 54]

1. FOY asserts they will use end of life recyclable plastics at a rate of 200 tonnes/per day by January 2018, the overwhelming majority of which will be sourced from interstate. Have the environmental costs of transporting material from interstate, as well as the noise pollution issues for residents with the frequent 24/7 truck movements, been a factor in ACT Government considerations?
2. Do you agree with resident groups' contentions that 'end of life' plastics will not be the only materials used and that there are insufficient sources of genuine end of life recyclable plastics to make this a viable feedstock source?
3. How do you respond to residents' claims that the ACT is being treated as a dumping ground for other states?
4. Why have other states not allowed this type of facility to be built?
5. One of the claimed benefits to the ACT of this facility is the availability of locally produced diesel fuel for ACTION buses. Given ACTION buses use (a high proportion of) natural gas, is this not a retrograde step?

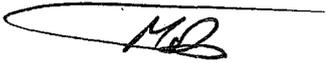
MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Waste policy was a consideration during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and is required to be considered by the Inquiry Panel that was established to review the proposal. The panel has held discussions with the Waste Policy Section and will consider this as part of the inquiry.
2. The FOY Group through its EIS indicated that end of life plastics would be the target for the proposal. The panel is aware of the possibility that the operator may source other plastics and will provide recommendations in their findings.
3. New innovative technologies are encouraged in the ACT however these facilities are subject to an assessment to consider all environmental impacts. The considerations include the cumulative effects on the ACT.

4. The Terms of Reference require the panel to review the policies within other jurisdictions, and any decisions of other jurisdictions on similar facilities, as part of its considerations.
5. The EIS process considers relevant environmental impacts in the ACT. Any purported benefits identified by the proponent will be closely examined during the review process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 20/3/17

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



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Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 03
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – legislative obligations and consultation [ref Waste Policy Initiatives page 54]

1. Does the FOY proposal fit within the guidelines of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Bill 2016 and the ACT Waste Feasibility Study and if so how?
2. When did officers from the Environment Directorate first consult with representatives from the FOY Group of companies?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Section 12(g) of the Terms of Reference requires the Inquiry Panel to consider the proposal against the ACT waste policy.
2. The FOY Group contacted the Directorate in March 2016 seeking advice on planning approval processes.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 29/3/17

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 04
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – carbon footprint obligations
[ref: Waste Policy Initiatives page 54]

Combustion of the fuels and gases produced at this proposed facility is claimed to add 221 kilotonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere per year - which is 11.7% of the anticipated 2020 carbon footprint. Additionally it will negate the total CO₂ savings of all ACT's solar farms.

1. Does the Environment Directorate and/or the Expert Health panel agree with this assessment?
2. Has this been taken into consideration by the Expert Panel or has it been refuted?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The assessment is not yet complete. Terms of Reference (TOR) were prepared to provide the panel with a scope for their review. Section 12(h) of the TOR requires the panel to review climate change and greenhouse implications in relation to the proposal.
2. It will be taken into consideration as per section 12(h) of the TORs.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 29/3/17

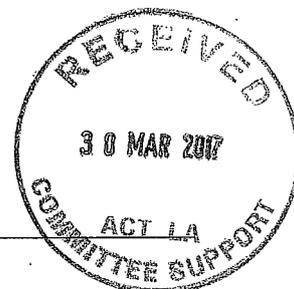
By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



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Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 05
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – comparisons with Berkley Vale
[ref Waste Policy Initiatives page 54]

On FOY's website, FOY claims that they operate a facility at Berkeley Vale NSW "using the same equipment as proposed for the Hume site." Given that at the Berkeley Vale site they are not undertaking a pyrolytic activity, is this not misleading?

Do you agree with their claims that it is the same equipment?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Terms of Reference (TOR) were prepared to provide the panel with a scope for their review. Section 12(d) of the TOR requires the panel to review the technology for the proposed facility in comparison to other facilities within Australia and overseas.

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Signature:

Date: 29/3/17

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Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
6 March 2017



Asked by MS LEE:

In relation to:

1. There were 7 applications for bores in the 2013-2014 year and 3 in the 2015-2016 year.
 - a. Were these applications from government agencies or private citizens?
2. Are ACT rural leaseholders able to apply for bore licences on their holdings?
 - a. If so, how many have?

MINISTER RAMSAY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) In 2013-2014 there were seven Bore Work Licences issued:
 - six applications were received from private citizens; and
 - one application was from Environment and Planning Directorate (Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways).

In 2015-2016 three Bore Work Licences were issued to private citizens.

- 2) An ACT rural leaseholder is able to apply for a bore work licence where they hold a Water Access Entitlement or Surviving Allocation for the Water Management Area in which they are located.

Since the introduction of the *Water Resource Act 2007*, there have been 53 Bore Work Licences issued. Of these, 19 Bore Work Licences have been issued to rural leaseholders. Four of these have been to the ACT Government.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 27/3/17

By the Minister for Regulatory Services, Gordon Ramsay MLA



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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
6 March 2017



Asked by MS LEE:

In relation to:

1. Can you detail the complaints received by the EPA in respect of:
 - a. Solid fuel heaters
 - b. Water
 - c. Dirt on roads
 - d. Air conditioners.
2. How were these complaints resolved?

MINISTER RAMSAY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1.
 - a. There were 82 complaints received by the EPA during the reporting period. The complaints related to smoke and odour being emitted by indoor wood heaters.
 - b. There were 70 complaints received by the EPA during the reporting period. The complaints related to pollution in waterways, sediment laden water pumped from construction sites and off site impacts from a water stand pipe.
 - c. There were 23 complaints received by the EPA during the reporting period. The complaints related to sediment on the road from construction sites.
 - d. There were 229 complaints received for noise from air conditioning systems. The complaints related to reverse cycle air conditioning systems and evaporative coolers installed on private and business premises.
2. With regard to solid fuel heaters and air conditioners, EPA officers contacted the complainant to discuss the complaint in detail – the objective being to assist the person to resolve the matter without Government intervention. Where this was unsuccessful, the EPA sent letters to the address being complained about. Typically, the letters advised a complaint was received and detailed what was permitted in order to comply with the law. Where further complaints were made to the EPA, officers attended and investigated the matter. As a result of those investigations, two (2) warning letters were served for solid fuel heaters, excessive smoke and eight (8) warning letters issued for noise from air conditioners.

Water pollution reports were investigated by EPA officers. A high number of the reports were received after the fact and, due to the transient nature of water, officers were not able to gather appropriate evidence. As a result of the investigations, one (1) warning letter was served.

Dirt on the road complaints were investigated by EPA officers. Officers spoke to developers and builders about their responsibility to manage pollution from their sites. As a result of site visits and investigations, four (4) warning letters were served.

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Signature:



Date: 27/3/17

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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 08
06 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: ACTSmart Home Energy Advice and Assessment Services

1. the ACTSmart Home Energy Advice Services
 - (i) total number of enquiries (phone or email) per week and in total to date;
 - (ii) number of events attended;
 - (iii) number of workshops conducted; and
 - (iv) customer satisfaction with Services provided;
2. the Home Energy Assessment Service:
 - (i) quality of advice and recommendations provided by assessor;
 - (ii) quality of the written report; and
 - (iii) customer satisfaction with the assessments.

MINISTER RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. After formal evaluation in 2016, Actsmart Home Energy Advice Service (HEAS) changed delivery mechanism from an outsourced contractor to an in-house delivery model. As the delivery format has changed some figures are not directly comparable.

- (i) total number of enquires (phone or email) per week and in total to date;
2015-16: 5.4 per week (281 in total)
2016-17 (to 22 March 2017): 4.8 per week (177 in total)
2016-17 (total): 250 anticipated.

Since the change in delivery the type of customer engagement has changed significantly. Complex enquiries have increased by over 300% while simple enquiries have decreased by 35%. This indicates the quality of the advice has increased significantly as the responses to customers provide more detail.

- (ii) number of events attended;
2015-16: 44 events
2016-17 (to 22 March 2017): 10 events. This reflects the decision to optimise events that the program attends.

(iii) number of workshops conducted;

2015-16: 34 workshops with 226 attendees (6.6 attendees per workshop)

2016-17 (to 22 March 2017): 19 workshops with 226 attendees (11.9 attendees per workshop)

2016-17 (total): 24 anticipated (285 attendees anticipated).

In 2015-16, a large number of workshops were held with low attendance. In 2016-17, the number of workshops has been streamlined and as such a higher attendance rate has been observed. Targeted workshops have been provided (eg Understanding Solar) based on public interest.

(iv) customer satisfaction with Services provided;

90% of workshop feedback responses have been rated as very high. Formal feedback is not received for email and phone enquiries.

2. The Home Energy Assessment Service:

(i) quality of advice and recommendations provided by assessor; and (ii) quality of the written report;

Evaluation of the contracted HEAS program identified the quality of the advice and reports as being variable. As noted in 1)(i) the quality of the report and advice provided by the service has improved since moving to an in-house delivery model.

(iii) customer satisfaction with the assessments.

The evaluation of the contracted HEAS program identified the quality of the advice and reports were variable. An assessment of the in-house service model is intended to be carried out mid 2017.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

28/3/17

By the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Shane Rattenbury



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 09
06 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: Sustainability and Climate Change division staffing

1. I note the Sustainability and Climate Change division has five branches. Can you advise the staffing numbers, by classification, of each of the branches?

MINISTER RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The pay report of 22 March 2017 allocated the full time equivalent staff across the Division as follows:

	Executive	Carbon Neutral Government Program	Climate Change	Energy Markets and Renewables*	Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme	Sustainability Programs	Division
Executive Director	1						1
Director				1			1
SOGA						1	1
SOGB	1	1	1.81	2			5.81
SOGC		2	4	5	2.8	7.9	21.7
ASO6		1	2	2	2	6	13
ASO5	2	2		1		4.44	9.44
ASO4						1	1
ASO3		1				1	2
Total	4	7	7.81	11	4.8	21.34	55.95

* Waste Policy was transferred to TCCS on 1 November 2016. 1 FTE was transferred at that date.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date:

28/3/17

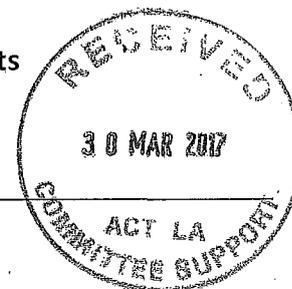
By the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Shane Rattenbury



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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 10
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: Management of the commercial pine plantation estate

1. How much of the 10,500 ha of pine plantation lost in the 2003 fires has been returned to native vegetation?
2. How much has been replanted with pines?
3. What contracts are in place and with whom for the sale of pine?
4. Who manages these contracts?
5. I understand harvesting is carried out by a full time contract crew. How are they selected? Is it by tender and if so for how long is the tender?
6. What is the return on the pine forest investment?
7. Is it intended that the ACT Government will continue this activity for the foreseeable future or will this land over time be used to meet housing needs?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Approximately five thousand hectares (5000 ha) has been returned to native vegetation.
2. Two thousand seven hundred and ninety five hectares (2795 ha) has been replanted with pines.
3. The Territory has a services agreement with the Forestry Corporation of New South Wales to provide forest yield scheduling, harvesting, haulage and marketing services. The Forestry Corporation of New South Wales engages the harvesting and haulage subcontractors who cut, sort and deliver the Territory's logs to mills. The Territory has a timber sale agreement with five sawmills, one pulp mill and one log exporter. These companies are:
 - Auswest Timbers (ACT) Pty Ltd – sawmill
 - Penrose Pine Products Pty Ltd – sawmill
 - Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts (Northern and Central Regions) Pty Ltd – sawmill
 - L M Hayter & Sons – sawmill
 - Dongwha Timbers Pty Ltd – sawmill
 - Visy Pulp and Paper Pty Ltd – pulp mill
 - International Primary Products (Aust) Pty Ltd – log exporter

4. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is the custodian of the pine plantation estate and manages all of these contracts.
5. The Forestry Corporation of New South Wales select harvesting and haulage contractors by open tender. These contracts are for up to four years duration.
6. The pine plantation investment currently provides sustainable independent revenue to the ACT Government of about \$5.5 million per annum. In addition, the pine plantation attracts thousands of event participants and visitors to the ACT each year for high impact recreational activities that are not permissible on other land tenures in the ACT. The Territory's ability to stage the upcoming National Capital Rally as a round of the Asia Pacific Rally Series at very short notice and exclusively in pine forests is one example. The additional visitors to the Territory generate significant economic returns to the ACT Government.
7. Yes the ACT Government will continue commercial forestry for the foreseeable future. Some former Stromlo pine plantation land is already used for housing needs in the suburbs of Wright, Coombs and Denman Prospect. Most other pine forest areas, outside of Stromlo, are unsuitable for housing needs at present but continuation of forestry now does not preclude development in the future.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 29/3/17

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 11
Monday 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: Fraud Prevention
p.100: Fraud Prevention: Plans, Strategies and Actions.

"The ACTPS Integrity Policy requires agencies to review their fraud and corruption prevention plans every two years. The revised Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan 2014-16 (the Plan) was approved by the Director-General during the last reporting period (30 September 2014)."

1. Noting that the last review was in 2014, when will the next review take place?

p.100: "This review found that nearly all 11 action items have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. One gap identified was the requirement to include discussion of the Plan on the agenda at the Executive Management Board at least twice yearly; the Plan had not been considered by the Executive since its finalisation a year earlier."

2. How is the requirement to include the discussion of the Plan on the agenda of the Executive Management Board at least twice yearly being implemented?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Following the 2014 review, a mid-term review of the Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan 2014-16 (the Plan) was undertaken in September 2015, with the outcomes of this review approved by the Director-General on 13 November 2015.

An end-of-term review of the Plan was undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2016, with the outcomes of this review approved by the Director-General on 6 February 2017. The outcomes of the 2016 review are reflected in the Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan 2017-19 which also includes provision for a review at least every two years.

The next review is scheduled to be undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2018.

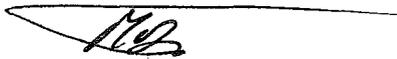
2. The requirement to include discussion of the Plan on the agenda of the Executive Management Board at least twice yearly is undertaken by the Office of the Director General.

In addition the Executive Management Board considers quarterly risk review updates, involving all Divisions and Branches, which includes Fraud and Corruption as a Risk to be considered, prevented and treated.

The Executive Management Board also has "Emerging Risks" as a standing agenda item. This enables senior management the opportunity to raise any number of issues, including fraud and corruption and the role of the Plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 29/3/17

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), STEVE DOSZPOT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), TARA CHEYNE MLA,
MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 13
Monday 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

In relation to: FOY Proposal for a plastics to fuel plant at Hume – regulatory powers to ensure fuel not stored on site if project goes ahead
[ref Waste Policy Initiatives page 54]

1. If the FOY proposal is approved; what regulatory powers does the ACT have to ensure that the maximum 1.89 million litres of fuel produced is not stored on site?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Considerations of the fuel storage on site are undertaken during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and capacities would be finalised at the development approval stage. Any fuel storage outside the approved parameters would require further approval.

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Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 14
Monday 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Lee:

[Ref: Environment & Planning Directorate Annual Report Strategic indicators 4.1 p41]

1. What policy will be considered and what criteria will be applied in assessing FOY's proposal for a plastic to fuel facility in the absence of the ACT having an "Energy from Waste" policy" such as the NSW EPA has?
2. Who will be conducting the climate change, green house gas emission and triple bottom line (TBL) sustainability assessment for the FOY proposal?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

1. The Inquiry Panel will consider the proposal against relevant government policy and also compare the ACT policy to other jurisdictions.
2. Terms of Reference (TOR) were prepared to provide the panel with a scope for their review. Section 12(h) of the TOR requires the panel to review climate change and greenhouse implications and TBL assessment in relation to the proposal. The panel is an independent expert body and therefore will select experts, where necessary, at its own discretion.

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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 15
Monday 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Le Couteur:

In relation to: Funding for Local Catchment Groups

REF: Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report 2015/2016

In relation to funding for local catchment groups on page 35 of the Report, I understand that local catchment groups are funded via the ACT Environment Grants and via the Caring for Country Programs, and that there has been some concern from these groups about certainty of funding beyond the end of this financial year, therefore:

1. Has funding been allocated for local catchment groups for the next financial year?
2. If so, which ones?
3. Under what programs has that funding been allocated?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. All three ACT Catchment Groups have funding allocated in 2017/18 financial year.
2. Ginninderra Catchment Group, Molonglo Catchment Group, and Southern ACT Catchment Group.
3. \$127,778 has been allocated to each Group through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (2014-18) - ACT Regional Delivery component to deliver specific hectare based targets such as weed control, revegetation and invasive species control. It should be noted that the Australian Government is currently considering program design and funding for the next phase of this program post 2017/18.

The three Groups also received \$73,500 each for 2016/17 to implement the Waterwatch Program with funding from ACT Healthy Waterways. Waterwatch is funded in the budget estimate through to June 2019 and discussions around contracts with the Catchment Groups will commence shortly. The Ginninderra Catchment Group has also been allocated \$20,000 in 2017-18 to conduct the Frogwatch annual survey.

The ACT Environment Grants is an annual competitive grants program open to all community groups in the ACT, including Catchment Groups. The 2017/18 Environment Grants round has yet to be allocated. The Groups also apply for funding through other government competitive grants programs, such as ACT Government Heritage Grants, and NSW and Australian Government programs.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MG', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 29/3/17

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
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MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 16
Monday 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Le Couteur:

In relation to: Pest Animals Declaration – Indian Myna
REF: Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report 2015/2016

In relation to the Pest Animals Declaration on page 28 of the Report, I understand a number of new species were declared prohibited pest animals in the ACT in January this year, therefore:

1. Did the Directorate give consideration to the case for declaring the Indian Myna a pest species?
2. If so, on what grounds was the decision to not include the Indian Myna made?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No.
2. Pest animal declarations are being effected in two phases, with phase one completed in December 2016. The purpose of the phase one amendments was to make straightforward changes to address intergovernmental commitments, particularly the declaration of exotic fish species on the National Noxious Fish List as pest animals prohibited from supply or keeping.

Proposed phase two amendments, which will be circulated for public consultation in 2017, will include a comprehensive review of the declaration criteria and of exotic mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and invertebrate species that represent a significant risk of incursion into the ACT, or a significant risk of social, environmental and/or economic impact for species already in the ACT. The case for the inclusion of the Indian Myna will be considered during this process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 29/3/17

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Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 17
Monday, 6 March 2017



Asked by Ms Le Couteur:

In relation to: ACT Noise Zone Standards – Aircraft and Flight Paths
REF: Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report 2015/2016

In relation to the ACT Noise Zone Standards on page 26 of the Report:

1. Will the review of the ACT Noise Zone Standards include consideration of noise pollution from aircraft?
2. Will the review make any recommendations in relation to planning and development of residential properties underneath regular flight paths?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No the review does not include consideration of noise pollution from aircraft, the Environment Protection Act 1997 does not regulate Aircraft noise this is monitored by the Commonwealth Government.
2. Due to the Commonwealth Government having responsibility for aircraft noise, the review will not be considering residential properties underneath flight paths. Requirements relating to land use and development within Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) contours are contained in Australian Standard AS2021-2015: Acoustics – Aircraft Noise Intrusion – Building Siting and Construction.

The ANEF is a unit used to measure aircraft noise exposure. It provides a composite noise level, usually averaged over a year, and is the key tool on which land use planning decisions related to aircraft noise are made. ACTmapi, the ACT Government's on-line interactive mapping service, now includes Canberra Airport's Commonwealth endorsed ANEF contour information (at practical ultimate capacity) for the ACT.

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By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA