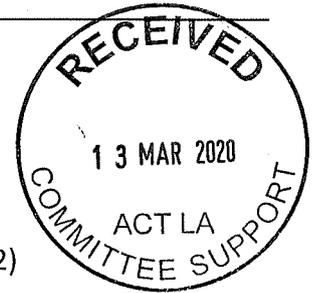




LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA



Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

Answer to Question Taken on Notice

The Committee asks ministers to provide Answers to Questions Taken on Notice within 5 working days of receipt of the Uncorrected Proof Transcript, where Day One is the first working day after the hearing.

Question taken on notice by Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services on 4 March 2020:

In relation to Bushfire Preparedness funding:

1. Is the mask trial part of that? What does this trial involve and when did it start? How many masks and what type, and how many different usages does each one have?

The Answer to Question Taken on Notice is as follows:

1. The mask trial is not part of the Bushfire Preparedness funding.

The trial was initiated by the Chief Officer of the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) within existing resources, as part of his commitment to innovation and improvement in the safety of volunteers. Masks are used for respiratory protection.

The trial, conducted through the Brigades, involves seven (7) different types of P2 and P3 masks. Each mask has extended usage as exposure to smoke is variable and filters are interchangeable, which ensures respiratory protection.

Volunteer members are using the masks and providing feedback directly to the ACTRFS. Once a volunteer has trialed a mask, it is returned to the ACTRFS where it is cleaned and given back to the Brigades. The mask can then be trialed by another member who goes through the same process.

The trial was initiated in August 2019, prior to the 2019-20 bushfire season. It will conclude at the end of the bushfire season, scheduled to be 31 March 2020 unless conditions closer to this date result in an extension. Following the trial, the ACTRFS will work with Brigades to make a determination.

Signed,

Gordon Ramsay MLA
A/g Minister for Police and Emergency Services

12 MAR 2020