



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Education and Youth Affairs

In relation to the ACT Government's commitment to a zero emissions government:

The ACT Government is committed to leading by example to showcase best practice sustainability in Government operations, by pursuing rapid emission reduction targets of greater than a 33% reduction in emissions from Government operations by 2025 (from 2020 levels), and zero emissions from Government operations from 2040. Can you answer the following:

- 1) While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Education Directorate (ED) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?
- 2) What is ED's current % reduction in emissions?
- 3) What measures have you put in place to reduce emissions?
- 4) Can you confirm that this is a reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only?

MS BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1) The Education Directorate uses the Whole of Government Enterprise Sustainability Platform to track emission performance at ACT Public School and Education Support Office.
- 2) Between 2016-17 to 2019-20, the Directorate achieved a 10% gross reduction in emissions. For the 2020-21 reporting period, the gross emission reduction was 5.1% across all schools and the Education Support Office.
- 3) The Directorate takes a holistic approach to climate change and climate adaptation which combines emission reduction, thermal comfort and operational cost efficiency to maximise the long-term sustainability of school infrastructure. The following measures have been put in place to reduce emissions:
  - a. Building thermal envelope improvements to increase resilience of buildings to extreme temperatures, reduce operating costs and emissions, improve thermal comfort of staff and students and reduce the load placed on new electric systems.
  - b. Replacement of end-of-life heating systems with low to zero emission heating systems. This includes the trial of new technologies through three Living Laboratories established in collaboration with the Sustainable Building Research Centre at the University of Wollongong and cofounded through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.
  - c. Tuning of existing gas assets to improve their efficiency and deliver emission reductions where assets are not near end-of-life.

- d. Expansion of solar photovoltaic systems on schools to assist in reducing electricity loads and associated upgrades, and to reduce long-term operational costs.
- e. Transition of fleet vehicles to zero emission alternatives

4) Yes.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date: 21/04/22

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Ms Yvette Berry