



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Planning,
Transport, and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Approved for publication

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About the Committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services on 2 December 2020.

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- City Renewal Authority
- Suburban Land Agency
- Planning and Land Management (excluding parks and conservation)
- Transport
- City Services including waste and recycling
- Housing (excluding service provision)
- Building and construction

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

Committee members

Ms Jo Clay MLA, Chair

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Deputy Chair

Mr Mark Parton MLA

Secretariat

James Bunce, Committee Secretary (from 6 November 2023)

Miona Ikeda, Assistant Secretary (Acting Committee Secretary until 3 November 2023)

Adam Walker, Assistant Secretary

Nicola Straker, Assistant Secretary (from 26 February 2024)

Justice-Noah Malfitano (from 12 February 2024)

Lydia Chung, Administrative Officer

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About this inquiry

The 2022–2023 Annual Reports were presented in the Assembly on 24 October 2023. Clause 3 of the establishing resolution refers all calendar and financial year annual and financial reports to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 9 April of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

Contents

About the Committee	i
Establishing resolution	i
Committee members	i
Secretariat	i
Contact us	i
About this inquiry	ii
Acronyms & Abbreviations	v
Recommendations	vi
1. Introduction	1
Presentation of 2022–2023 Annual and Financial Reports	1
Public hearings	1
Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice	1
2. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	2
Minister for Planning and Land Management – Administrative arrangements	2
Matters considered – Session 1	3
Key Issues	3
Matters considered – Session 2	4
Key Issues	4
Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction—Administrative arrangements	5
Matters considered	6
Chief Minister – Administrative arrangements	6
Matters considered	7
Key Issues	7
Minister for Housing and Suburban Development—Administrative arrangements	9
Matters considered	9
Key Issues	10
3. Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	14
Minister for Transport and City Services—Administrative arrangements	14
Matters considered	15
Key Issues	17
Minister for Sport and Recreation—Administrative arrangements	21
Matters considered	22
Key Issues	22

4. Conclusion	24
Appendix A: Witnesses	25
Tuesday, 14 November 2023	25
Thursday, 16 November 2023	25
Friday, 17 November 2023	25
Monday, 20 November 2023	25
Wednesday, 22 November 2023	26
Friday, 24 November 2023	27
Appendix B: Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice	28
Questions on Notice	28
Questions Taken on Notice	29
Appendix C: Gender distribution of witnesses	31
Appendix D: Additional Comments by Ms Jo Clay MLA	32
Emissions from waste and transport	32

Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Long form
ACAT	ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
CRA	City Renewal Authority
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DA	Development Application
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreements
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
EV	Electric Vehicle
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
FY	Financial Year
HV	High voltage
ILRP	Indicative Land Release Program
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
NCA	National Capital Authority
Panel	National Capital Design Review Panel
QON	Question on Notice
QTON	Question Taken on Notice
RAP	Remedial Action Plan
SLA	Suburban Land Agency
TC	Transport Canberra
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
TPA	Territory Planning Authority

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear update on whether there will be a demonstration housing project in Kingston, and if not, explain why.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide funding to be made available to reduce the time that it takes to bring projects to the National Capital Design Review Panel for its consideration, in order to reduce the time that it takes to get projects through the planning system.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate consider making public the monitoring and evaluation framework which will be used to compare built form outcomes.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate should be consistent in its areas which have potential for change and show all potential urban regeneration areas.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate review the integrity arrangements for making decisions on Development Applications so they are up to date with the Territory Plan.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear update for the Acton waterfront development on what the target is for its number of public housing, number of community housing, and number of affordable housing, and report outcomes against these targets.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report against delivery on the 15 percent Indicative Land Release Program target and separately report how much of the supply are affordable, public, and community housing in its Annual Reports.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT transport emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT waste emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress towards the establishment of a textile recycling/recovery hub.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an update as soon as possible about when it will deliver hourly weekend bus services.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult with Mr Steve Doszpot's family to have a line-marking machine named in his honour.

1. Introduction

Presentation of 2022–2023 Annual and Financial Reports

- 1.1. All annual and financial reports for the Territory were tabled on 24 October 2023 in the ACT Legislative Assembly.¹ A collated list of annual and financial reports is available [online](#).²
- 1.2. During its inquiry, the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2022–2023:
 - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate; and
 - Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
- 1.3. The Committee’s inquiry was undertaken prior to the most recent administrative arrangements (Administrative Arrangements 2023 (No 1)) being issued on 12 December 2023. As such, the report and references to Ministerial titles and responsibilities reflect those in the Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2).

Public hearings

- 1.4. The Committee held public hearings on 14 November 2023, 16 November 2023, 17 November 2023, 20 November 2023, 22 November 2023, and 24 November 2024. At the hearings, the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers, Directorate officials, and statutory office holders.
- 1.5. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at **Appendix A**. Transcripts from the public hearings are available on the ACT Legislative Assembly [website](#). Footage of the public hearings are available on the ACT Legislative Assembly [Video on Demand website](#).

Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice

- 1.6. A total of 61 questions were lodged during the inquiry. There were 36 Questions on Notice (QONs) following the hearings, and 25 Questions Taken on Notice (QTONs) during the hearings.
- 1.7. The list of questions lodged during the inquiry are available at **Appendix B**, and all answers have been published on the inquiry [website](#).

¹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 101, 24 October 2023, p 1466.

² CMTEDD, *Annual Reports*, 24 October 2023, https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/annual-reports (accessed 1 December 2023).

2. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- 2.1. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is responsible for a wide range of policies and programs including climate change policy, energy policy, nature conservation, environment protection policy, water, heritage, strategic and statutory planning, development approvals, building policy, land policy, and urban design.³
- 2.2. The EPSDD also manages nature reserves, national parks, plantation forests, and rural lands through the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), and provides support to the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) and the City Renewal Authority (CRA).⁴

Minister for Planning and Land Management – Administrative arrangements

- 2.3. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Planning and Land Management with the EPSDD are:
- Government Architect;
 - Land release policy (including the land release program);
 - Parks and conservation;
 - Planning and development;
 - Planning and development enforcement policy;
 - Site identification and facilitation for major land and property projects;
 - Strategic land use; and
 - Survey and leasing.⁵
- 2.4. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Planning and Land Management with the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) are:
- Access Canberra (only in relation to planning, development, land and lease regulation); and
 - Planning, development, land and lease regulation.⁶

³ EPSDD, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 19.

⁴ EPSDD, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 19.

⁵ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

⁶ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

Matters considered – Session 1

2.5. During the Minister for Planning and Land Management’s appearance before the Committee on 14 November 2023 (Session 1), the following matters were considered:

- Demonstration Housing Project;⁷
- National Capital Design Review Panel;⁸
- New planning system’s outcomes approach;⁹
- Dispute resolution under the new planning system;¹⁰
- Management of EPSDD employee relationships with property developers;¹¹
- Training for staff to implement the new planning system;¹²
- Directorate response to increased development applications;¹³
- Dual occupancy zoning RZ1 policy changes;¹⁴
- Potential urban regeneration areas under District Strategies;¹⁵
- Update on the City Plan;¹⁶
- Engagement of a consultancy for the Planning System Governance Review;¹⁷
- Section 7 of the *Planning Act 2023*;¹⁸
- Consultation with community councils regarding Territory Plan changes;¹⁹ and
- Gungahlin Community Centre.²⁰

Key Issues

Demonstration Housing Project – Kingston

2.6. During the public hearing on 14 November 2023, the Committee asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management for an update on the ACT Government’s demonstration housing project proposal for a site in the suburb of Kingston.²¹

⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 2–4.

⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 4–6.

⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 6–7.

¹⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 7–8.

¹¹ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 8–11.

¹² *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 11–13.

¹³ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 13–14.

¹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 14–21.

¹⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 22.

¹⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 23.

¹⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 23–25.

¹⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 25–28.

¹⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 29–30.

²⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 30–31.

²¹ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 2.

- 2.7. Whilst acknowledging that the particular project ‘...was one of the projects without a site initially and it then had a site allocated in Kingston,’²² the government told the Committee that they had since discovered aspects of the site which require further assessment. Specifically the government identified a need to ensure that the switching station site in Kingston is feasible for such a project:

[...] Since allocating that site and working with that site, we have discovered some other aspects of the site that will mean that it takes a bit longer, in terms of contamination and undergrounding of powerlines. That has impacted the site.²³

- 2.8. A QON lodged by the Chair, Ms Jo Clay MLA, asked the government when the EPSDD became aware of the ‘other aspects of the site’ that would cause delays. In its response, the government explained that the responsibility for the decommissioning of the switching station site sits with Evoenergy:²⁴

The responsibility for these works sit with Evoenergy. Due to the forward program of works related to the energy network, Evoenergy has only recently submitted a development application (DA) for these works. Subject to satisfying any DA conditions, Evoenergy does not anticipate completing the undergrounding of electrical lines and decommissioning of the switching station until 2026-27.

Once the electrical infrastructure is removed from the site in three to four years’ time, a second process of site investigation to prepare a contamination Remedial Action Plan (RAP) needs to occur. The RAP will then need to be implemented before the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are able to endorse that the site is suitable for development.²⁵

- 2.9. When the Committee asked whether this meant that the original site will not be proceeding, the Minister stated that the government ‘...will look to alleviate that situation and try and provide another site.’²⁶

Committee comment

- 2.10. The Committee seeks clarification on whether the original proposal for the switching station site in Kingston is proceeding, or whether another site has been identified in place of the original proposed site.

²² Dr Erin Brady, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 2.

²³ Dr Erin Brady, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 2.

²⁴ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Response to QON 3: Demonstration Housing Project – Kingston*, 15 November 2023 (received 20 November 2023), p 1.

²⁵ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Response to QON 3: Demonstration Housing Project – Kingston*, 15 November 2023 (received 20 November 2023), p 1.

²⁶ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 2.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear update on whether there will be a demonstration housing project in Kingston, and if not, explain why.

National Capital Design Review Panel

- 2.11. The National Capital Design Review Panel (the Panel) is a joint initiative between the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority, providing advice on design quality for prescribed major development proposals across Canberra.²⁷
- 2.12. During the public hearing on 14 November 2023, the Committee asked the government about the Panel and its operations in recent years.²⁸
- 2.13. Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, told the Committee that the Panel has been ‘evolving’ over the last few years since its inception in 2017-18:²⁹

[...] We have been building its capability over that period of time. The government in the last budget also provided additional resources for the design review panel, which has been able to assist us to get ready for the new planning system in particular, because we see that is where there will be significant demand, and we can draw on the skills of the design review panel.³⁰

- 2.14. Mr Ponton elaborated on the increasing workload of the Panel:

In terms of the numbers, we have been seeing the number of projects, since its inception, going through the design review panel increasing. That is in part because the parameters have been broadened in terms of what is triggered to go to the design review panel. We expect that that will continue, given that the triggers for matters to be considered by the design review panel tend to be those projects that are urban infill; and, of course, we are seeing more and more of that, particularly with the government’s policy of accommodating 70 per cent of growth within the existing urban footprint.³¹

- 2.15. Mr Ben Green, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning at EPSDD, noted that since 2017-18, the Panel had reviewed 134 projects across approximately 220 design sessions.³² Mr Green elaborated on the focus of the Panel:

[...] in terms of the work of the panel, the important elements that the panel are focusing on are around that human-centric design and the importance that design plays in a changing environment. As we move forward with the new planning system, with the design guides, and in particular the urban design guide, we have

²⁷ EPSDD, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 45.

²⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 4–6.

²⁹ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 4.

³⁰ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 4–5.

³¹ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 4–5.

³² Mr Ben Green, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 5.

the opportunity now for the design review panel—not that they have not been doing this—to further expand their consideration to not just the building footprint but how that interacts more broadly in its context, in its setting where it is, and maybe further into the precinct, depending on the development.³³

2.16. Mr Green emphasised the value added by the Panel’s review process:

We have seen several developers and architects come through the process on multiple occasions for different proposals. I think the feedback is valued by that industry. It does set a reasonably high bar and high expectation. Of course, the important element of design review is that it informs the development assessment process. That advice goes through to our planners that are making decisions on DAs to get better outcomes.³⁴

Committee comment

- 2.17. While understanding the role played by the Panel in terms of design, the Committee holds concerns about how long it takes for industry stakeholders to facilitate meetings with the Panel. In the Committee’s view, it would be beneficial for the government to ensure that there are no unreasonable bottleneck situations occurring, as project sign-off delays can lead to missed deadlines, budget imbalances, and impacts on stakeholder relationships.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide funding to be made available to reduce the time that it takes to bring projects to the National Capital Design Review Panel for its consideration, in order to reduce the time that it takes to get projects through the planning system.

Built form outcomes

- 2.18. The Committee asked the government how the public will notice the outcomes-focused approach of the new planning system.³⁵
- 2.19. Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, told the Committee that the public will see different outcomes on the ground:³⁶

I have used in the past the example of the New Acton site and the Nishi building. These are outcomes that you would not normally see under the current, older planning system. Those proponents were allowed to go outside, if you like, the normal planning system because it was covered under the National Capital Authority planning system. You saw from that outcome the change, and the way they were able to provide better accommodation and better outcomes—better

³³ Mr Ben Green, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 5.

³⁴ Mr Ben Green, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 5.

³⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 4–6.

³⁶ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 6.

environmental outcomes as well—for those people that want to live in and visit that particular precinct. You will see more of this as we move forward.³⁷

- 2.20. Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General of EPSDD, additionally told the Committee that the EPSDD will be looking at its systems and structures in the Territory Planning Authority (TPA) along with monitoring and evaluation:³⁸

I have been working with the Environment and Planning Forum, who provided some really good feedback in relation to how that monitoring and evaluation framework ought to be public. We have given a commitment to come back to the next Environment and Planning Forum, which, of course, consists of community councils, professional associations and other community groups, and work with them so that they have a clear understanding of how we will be monitoring, evaluating and comparing built form outcomes as it works its way through the system.³⁹

Committee comment

- 2.21. The Committee is of the view that making the monitoring and evaluation framework public will benefit public accountability, learning in the community, and improved decision-making for stakeholders.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate consider making public the monitoring and evaluation framework which will be used to compare built form outcomes.

Potential urban regeneration areas

- 2.22. District Strategies are a new element of the ACT's planning system. There are nine districts across Canberra, with each of these districts assigned a District Strategy which captures the special character of its corresponding district. The nine districts are:

- [Belconnen](#);
- [East Canberra](#);
- [Gungahlin](#);
- [Inner North and City](#);
- [Inner South](#);
- [Molonglo Valley](#);
- [Tuggeranong](#);
- [Weston Creek](#); and
- [Woden](#).⁴⁰

- 2.23. The Committee asked the government whether potential urban regeneration areas were identified in the District Strategies, to which the government responded that potential

³⁷ Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, pp 6–7.

³⁸ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 7.

³⁹ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 7.

⁴⁰ ACT Government, [Planning – District Strategies](#), (accessed 18 January 2024).

urban regeneration areas were not ‘spatially represented’ in the District Strategies in order to address feedback from consultation:⁴¹

When we went out for consultation we had areas in the documents that were called future investigation areas. They are not in the final document. I think the feedback we got was that people were concerned that those areas were definitely going to change and what would that change look like. That was not really the message that we were trying to send; it was more that some of those areas have potential and could change in the future. So the future investigation areas we took off the maps and took away, but we did feel it was important to still communicate that there are areas where there is potential for change and urban regeneration, where they meet certain criteria. That was where we landed.⁴²

2.24. In each of the nine District Strategies, ‘potential urban regeneration areas’ has been included as part of the documents in an overview:

New land releases and the redevelopment of large brownfield sites will not provide enough housing to cater for the projected growth in the population to 2050. Housing density in existing suburbs will need to increase over time through potential urban regeneration areas. This will involve more housing options in accessible locations such as around centres and along key transit routes, as well as more low-rise ‘missing middle’ type houses such as town houses, dual occupancies, duplexes and triplexes, co-housing, and terrace houses within existing suburbs.

Initial investigations have been undertaken to identify the potential suitability of different parts of Canberra for future increased housing density and diversity. A desktop analysis assessed all parts of the ACT against proximity to retail centres, public amenities and public transport nodes, the three important elements of medium-density areas to ensure continued liveability in these areas. The results of this work are detailed in Volume 4 – Background Material.

In the future, there will be need to undertake further investigations into potential urban regeneration areas that may be suited to redevelopment for housing. Investigations would include consideration of a range of matters such as existing character, heritage and environmental values, natural hazards, the practicalities of redevelopment and available infrastructure. Any areas being considered for rezoning to a higher density would involve community engagement.⁴³

⁴¹ Dr Erin Brady, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 22.

⁴² Dr Erin Brady, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 14 November 2023, p 22.

⁴³ See, for example: ACT Government, [Part One: Belconnen District Strategy](#), p 21; ACT Government, [Part Two: East Canberra District Strategy](#), p 19, ACT Government, [Part Three: Gungahlin District Strategy](#), p 20; ACT Government, [Part Four: Inner North and City District Strategy](#), p 20; ACT Government, [Part Five: Inner South District Strategy](#), p 20; ACT Government, [Part Six: Molonglo Valley District Strategy](#), p 20; ACT Government, [Part Seven: Tuggeranong District Strategy](#), p 20; ACT Government, [Part Eight: Weston Creek District Strategy](#), p 19; ACT Government, [Part Nine: Woden District Strategy](#), p 19.

- 2.25. East Canberra is the only district to be specifically identified as not having any areas that will be investigated for potential urban regeneration.⁴⁴
- 2.26. In all the other eight districts of Belconnen, Gungahlin, Inner North and City, Inner South, Molonglo Valley, Tuggeranong, Weston Creek, and Woden, it is stated that potential urban regeneration areas will contribute towards meeting future residential and non-residential demand (including consideration of education, health, and recreation facilities).⁴⁵
- 2.27. Each of the nine District Strategies also contain details on ‘change areas’ that may be suitable to help accommodate future housing needs, and provide more housing choice in areas that are well-located to current or future possible transport and where local amenities may be further enhanced by development.⁴⁶
- 2.28. There are three categories of change areas:
- Category 1 – Change areas where detailed planning can be done, consultation needs to occur, and change could happen within 0–5 years. These areas have been confirmed for future development or have well-progressed proposals.
 - Category 2 – Change areas where detailed planning can be done, consultation needs to occur, and change could happen within 0–10 years. These areas include sites that may be subject to current conceptual proposals and/or require further investigation.
 - Category 3 – Change areas where detailed planning can be done, consultation needs to occur, and change could happen within 0–15 years. These areas may be considered for future development in the long term, but require further investigation, analysis, and feedback.⁴⁷
- 2.29. District maps that clearly outline these change areas are contained in each of the District Strategies.

Committee comment

- 2.30. While the Committee is pleased to see the government addressing feedback from the community, the Committee sees benefit in including figures which visually represent potential urban regeneration areas in the District Strategies, so that there is clarity on where these potential urban regeneration areas are located within each district, to inform stakeholders of future investigation and development areas.

⁴⁴ ACT Government, [Part Two East Canberra District Strategy](#), p 19.

⁴⁵ See, for example: ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023 Volume One: Metropolitan context and big drivers](#), p 16; ACT Government, [Part One: Belconnen District Strategy](#), p 31; ACT Government, [Part Three: Gungahlin District Strategy](#), p 30; ACT Government, [Part Four: Inner North and City District Strategy](#), p 30; ACT Government, [Part Five: Inner South District Strategy](#), p 30; ACT Government, [Part Six: Molonglo Valley District Strategy](#), p 29; ACT Government, [Part Seven: Tuggeranong District Strategy](#), p 30; ACT Government, [Part Eight: Weston Creek District Strategy](#), p 29; ACT Government, [Part Nine: Woden District Strategy](#), p 29.

⁴⁶ ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023 Volume One: Metropolitan context and big drivers](#), p 16.

⁴⁷ ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023 Volume One: Metropolitan context and big drivers](#), p 16.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate should be consistent in its areas which have potential for change and show all potential urban regeneration areas.

Matters considered – Session 2

- 2.31. During the Minister for Planning and Land Management’s appearance before the Committee on 22 November 2023 (Session 2), the following matters were considered:
- New enforcement staff under the *Planning Act 2003* and Territory Plan;⁴⁸
 - Integrity during development assessment processes;⁴⁹
 - Internal audit and risk committee;⁵⁰
 - ACAT decision of the Brindabella Christian College car park;⁵¹
 - New District Strategies and Territory Plan;⁵² and
 - Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP).⁵³

Key Issues

Integrity framework

- 2.32. During the second session with the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Committee asked the government what arrangements are in place during the development assessment process to ensure integrity in decision-making..⁵⁴
- 2.33. Mr Ben Ponton told the Committee that the new *Planning Act 2023* itself has inbuilt mechanisms at the higher level to manage and respond to integrity matters:⁵⁵

[...] Some of those include things such as my role, as Chief Planner, needing to advise the executive of any potential conflicts; so, that is a new provision that was not in the previous legislation.

We have also maintained in the new system, as was in the old system, that the planning authority in its functions is responsible for making decisions; so, that is separate from the political arm, and that is an important integrity measure. That is a continuation of what has existed in the past, so that provides that independence, if you will, of government in that sense.

⁴⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 107–109.

⁴⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 109–111.

⁵⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 111–114.

⁵¹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 114–116.

⁵² *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 117–118.

⁵³ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 118–120.

⁵⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 109.

⁵⁵ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 110.

In addition to that, there are additional transparency measures built into the statutory planning process, particularly in relation to pre-decision advice. [...] And then, separate to what is inbuilt into the legislation itself, we have got our own internal governance arrangements...⁵⁶

- 2.34. The government also provided further information on its ‘bespoke’ integrity framework for the Statutory Planning Division at the EPSDD, which includes: a staged assessment model, where no single officer can take on an assessment, and determinations are made after assessment by at least three officers;⁵⁷ a meetings policy, which outline the requirements for staff to adhere to when attending meetings with external developers and proponents on matters related to their statutory functions;⁵⁸ and multiple conflict of interest checks.⁵⁹

Committee comment

- 2.35. The Committee understands that the EPSDD has a well-established integrity framework; however, the integrity framework was established in the context of the old Territory Plan. A new, outcomes-based planning system should necessitate a reconsideration of the existing integrity framework so that outcomes are maximised without compromising the integrity of the planning system.
- 2.36. Therefore, the Committee is of the view that, in light of the introduction of an outcomes-based planning system that relies on subjectivity in the making of decisions on development, the integrity arrangements for making decisions on Development Applications should be reviewed.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate review the integrity arrangements for making decisions on Development Applications so they are up to date with the Territory Plan.

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction— Administrative arrangements

- 2.37. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction with the EPSDD are:
- Asbestos Response Taskforce;
 - Building and construction industry liaison;

⁵⁶ Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 110.

⁵⁷ Mr George Cilliers, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 110.

⁵⁸ Mr George Cilliers, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 110–111.

⁵⁹ Mr George Cilliers, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSDD, *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 111.

- Building Code of Australia ACT appendix;
- Building policy;
- Building quality;
- Living infrastructure projects; and
- Universal design standards.⁶⁰

Matters considered

2.38. During the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction's appearance before the Committee on 24 November 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Living infrastructure;⁶¹
- Ten-year pathway to sustainable buildings;⁶²
- Construction and building quality;⁶³
- Public certification services;⁶⁴
- Residential Building Dispute Administrator and building disputes;⁶⁵
- *National Construction Code 2022*;⁶⁶
- Accessibility requirements and standards;⁶⁷
- Rectification for building defects;⁶⁸
- Loose Fill Asbestos Coordination team and Mr Fluffy properties;⁶⁹
- Medical gas fittings;⁷⁰ and
- Swimming pool barrier reforms.⁷¹

Chief Minister – Administrative arrangements

2.39. The areas of responsibility covered by the Chief Minister with the EPSDD are:

- City Renewal Authority; and

⁶⁰ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

⁶¹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 122–123.

⁶² *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 123.

⁶³ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 123–124.

⁶⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 124–128.

⁶⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 128–131.

⁶⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 131.

⁶⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 132.

⁶⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 132–134.

⁶⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 134–136.

⁷⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 136.

⁷¹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 136–138.

- Suburban Land Agency (as it relates to declared urban renewal sites).⁷²

Matters considered

2.40. During the Chief Minister’s appearance before the Committee on 20 November 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Affordable, public, and community housing;⁷³
- Build-to-rent projects;⁷⁴
- Acton waterfront development;⁷⁵
- Land block beside Canberra Theatre;⁷⁶
- Commercial and industrial sales in the CRA precinct;⁷⁷
- City Walk upgrades;⁷⁸ and
- Braddon streetscape upgrades.⁷⁹

Key Issues

Acton waterfront development

2.41. According to the City Renewal Authority (CRA) Annual Report 2022–2023, the CRA undertook public consultation on the estate plan from October to December 2022, and will begin working on detailed designs for the site for residential, cultural, and entertainment purposes:⁸⁰

Consistent with the vision embodied in the National Capital Plan the intention is to create a new city neighbourhood with a mix of shops, businesses, accommodation, cafes, recreation and tourist activities. The work over the next few years will involve detailed site investigations, engineering and architectural designs, development of an Estate Development Plan for submission of Works Approval with the NCA, and ultimately leading to the sale of land and development of the estate.⁸¹

2.42. During the public hearing on 20 November 2023, the Committee asked the government whether there will be an allocation of public, community, and affordable housing at the Acton waterfront site.⁸²

⁷² ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

⁷³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 97–99.

⁷⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 99–100.

⁷⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 101.

⁷⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 101–102.

⁷⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 102–104.

⁷⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 104–105.

⁷⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 105.

⁸⁰ CRA, *Annual Report 2022-23*, p 33.

⁸¹ CRA, *Annual Report 2022-23*, p 33.

⁸² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 98.

- 2.43. Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer of the CRA, noted that while the estate development plan is still in preparation, the Acton waterfront site will be ‘a new urban neighbourhood’:⁸³

What will be important about the success of that project is the diversity across not only uses and activities but also product types. We do not want it to be just residential, either. We do want it to be a mixed-use precinct.⁸⁴

- 2.44. Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, also emphasised that there would be ‘a spectrum of options’ at the Acton waterfront site:⁸⁵

[...] There will definitely be rental and long-term rental as part of that precinct. I suspect that the affordable model is likely to be long-term build-to-rent with a community housing provider as a tenancy manager.⁸⁶

- 2.45. In correspondence with the Committee, Mr Snow referred to Block 1, Section 121 noting that the land release for this discrete site within the Acton waterfront development ‘requires a minimum of 70 dwellings or 15 percent of the development yield – whichever is greater’, to be a mixture of affordable or community housing or equivalent.⁸⁷

- 2.46. When questioned on the basis for determining affordable community housing at 15 percent, rather than 30 percent, and why no public housing was to be included in the development, Mr Snow responded that the CRA took advice from Housing ACT, which confirmed:

...that the inclusion of these dwellings at Section 121 was not consistent with their current policy settings. Housing ACT considered the location of the dwellings unsuitable for public housing due to the purchase price and proposed density being higher than Housing ACT would typically prefer, as well as the increased burden and ongoing cost of body corporate fees and levies. The development was also deemed unsuitable for community housing, due to the same factors. Consequentially, all references to the public and community housing requirements were removed from the sales documents.⁸⁸

- 2.47. Nonetheless, Mr Snow told that Committee that ‘the total number of housing targets for Section 121 is still consistent with the original housing targets’ from 2019, and that government ‘is committed to delivering the same number of housing targets’ albeit in ‘a different, more innovative way’.⁸⁹

⁸³ Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer, CRA, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 98–99.

⁸⁴ Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer, CRA, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 98–99.

⁸⁵ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 99.

⁸⁶ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 99.

⁸⁷ Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer, CRA, *Exhibit 1*, p 1.

⁸⁸ Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer, CRA, *Exhibit 3*, p 1.

⁸⁹ Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer, CRA, *Exhibit 3*, p 2.

Committee comment

- 2.48. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should set separate targets for public, community, and affordable housing at the Acton waterfront development, especially for accountability and transparency.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear update for the Acton waterfront development on what the target is for its number of public housing, number of community housing, and number of affordable housing, and report outcomes against these targets.

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development— Administrative arrangements

- 2.49. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development with EPSDD are:
- Suburban land development; and
 - Suburban Land Agency (with the exception of those matters assigned to the Chief Minister).⁹⁰

Matters considered

- 2.50. During the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development’s appearance before the Committee on 17 November 2023, the following matters were considered:
- CSIRO Ginninderra site;⁹¹
 - Indicative Land Release Program;⁹²
 - ACT Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan;⁹³
 - Ginninderry Joint Venture;⁹⁴
 - Affordable, public, and community housing;⁹⁵
 - Housing Australia Future Fund;⁹⁶
 - ACT Government’s 70/30 commitment;⁹⁷

⁹⁰ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

⁹¹ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 42–43.

⁹² *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 44–46.

⁹³ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 46–47.

⁹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 47–49.

⁹⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 49–50.

⁹⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 50–51.

⁹⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 51–52.

- Categorisation of brownfields and greenfields;⁹⁸
- SLA reportable incidents from 2021-2022;⁹⁹
- Tender evaluation processes;¹⁰⁰ and
- Short-term residential accommodation and supply issues.¹⁰¹

Key Issues

Affordable, public, and community housing

- 2.51. During the public hearing on 17 November 2023, the Committee asked questions in relation to data monitoring on the government’s commitment to dedicate 15 percent of its annual Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP) to growing the supply of affordable, public, and community housing, as part of its [ACT Housing Strategy 2018–2028](#).
- 2.52. The government took the questions on notice and Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, provided a breakdown of affordable, public, and community housing numbers since the 2017–18 financial year.¹⁰²
- 2.53. The data included in the below tables covers targets from 2017–18 to 2022–23, with data current as of October 2023 (the QTON response was received 28 November 2023).

Affordable housing

Notifiable Instrument FY	Target dwellings	Sub-type (if relevant)	Number released to market (including released in subsequent FY, but not including re-releases)	Number sold (to developer of individual household as relevant)	Number where DA submitted (including if the DA has been rejected)	Number where DA approved
2017-18	353	Affordable Purchase	336	237	80	167
		Land Rent	32	32	*	
		Flexi-living series	23	23	**	
		Total	391	292	80	167
2018-19	512	Affordable Purchase	458	435	50	311
		Land Rent	0	0	*	
		Flexi-living series	33	33	**	
		Total	491	468	50	311

⁹⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 52–53.

⁹⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 53–54.

¹⁰⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, pp 55–56.

¹⁰¹ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2023, p 56.

¹⁰² Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *Response to QTON 5: Housing – Affordable, Public, and Community Housing Targets*, 17 November 2023 (received 28 November 2023), pp 5–8.

Notifiable Instrument FY	Target dwellings	Sub-type (if relevant)	Number released to market (including released in subsequent FY, but not including re-releases)	Number sold (to developer of individual household as relevant)	Number where DA submitted (including if the DA has been rejected)	Number where DA approved
2019-20	488	Affordable Purchase	450	450	109	275
		Land Rent	68	68	*	
		Flexi-living series	14	14	**	
		Total	532	532	109	275
2020-21	239	Affordable Purchase	214	88	31	57
		Land Rent	82	82	*	
		Flexi-living series	0	0	**	
		Total	296	170	31	57
2021-22	122	Affordable Purchase	191	15	0	0
		Land Rent	0	0	*	
		Flexi-living series	37	37	**	
		Total	228	52	0	0
2022-23	208	Affordable Purchase	115	95	15	0
		Land Rent	0	0	*	
		Flexi-living series	0	0	**	
		Total	115	95	15	0
TOTAL	1922		2053	1609	285	810

* Not monitored as these are single residential blocks.

** Not monitored as construction is managed through the Ginninderry Joint Venture.

Community housing

Notifiable Instrument FY	Target dwellings	Number released to market (including released in subsequent FY, but not including re-releases)	Number sold (to developer or community housing provider as relevant)	Number where DA submitted (including if the DA has been rejected)	Number where DA approved
2017-18	34	52	15	10	22
2018-19	20	69	10	0	10
2019-20	80	66	71	5	53

Notifiable Instrument FY	Target dwellings	Number released to market (including released in subsequent FY, but not including re-releases)	Number sold (to developer or community housing provider as relevant)	Number where DA submitted (including if the DA has been rejected)	Number where DA approved
2020-21	10	0	0	0	0
2021-22	20	36	0	0	0
2022-23	30	20	10	0	0
TOTAL	204	243	106	15	85

Public housing

Notifiable Instrument FY	Target dwellings	Number released to Housing ACT (including released in subsequent FY, but not including re-releases)	Number accepted by Housing ACT (including sites which are not yet ready for construction)
2017-18	143	146	122
2018-19	60	69	69
2019-20	60	96	96
2020-21	53	43	14
2021-22	155	99	13
2022-23	76	68	0
TOTAL	547	521	314

Committee comment

- 2.54. The Committee notes there is a big gap between ACT Government targets and delivery for community and public housing. In the last six years, the ACT Government set a target of 204 community housing dwellings but DAs were only approved on 85. Similarly, in the last six years, ACT Government set a target of 547 public housing dwellings but only 314 were accepted by ACT Housing (including sites not yet ready for construction).
- 2.55. While the Committee appreciates the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development providing a comprehensive breakdown of affordable, public, and community housing numbers since the 2017–18 financial year, the Committee sees benefit in these being published in Annual Reports against targets. Effective communication and reporting of targets builds trust, credibility, and legitimacy among stakeholders and shows clearly where the ACT Government is failing to meet those targets.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report against delivery on the 15 percent Indicative Land Release Program target and separately report how much of the supply are affordable, public, and community housing in its Annual Reports.

3. Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

- 3.1. The Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) provides essential services and infrastructure to the ACT.¹⁰³
- 3.2. Transport Canberra manages Canberra’s public transport system. It ensures that buses and light rail services are integrated and coordinated with other forms of transport including taxis and active travel elements, such as cycling and walking.¹⁰⁴
- 3.3. City Services delivers a range of services including public libraries, recycling and waste collection, graffiti removal, shop and playground upgrades, and grass mowing. It is responsible for the management of urban trees, public open spaces, and city places, including maintenance of shops, domestic animal services, animal welfare, and other licensing and compliance services, including ranger services and permits for public land use. City Services also manages and builds roads, footpaths, streetlights, and cycle paths.¹⁰⁵

Minister for Transport and City Services—Administrative arrangements

- 3.4. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Transport and City Services with TCCS are:
 - Active travel (including road crossing supervision);
 - Autonomous vehicle policy;
 - Community transport;
 - Footpaths;
 - Mowing and verge maintenance;
 - Municipal services;
 - Parking policy;
 - Policy relating to transport regulation and safety;
 - Public space amenity;
 - Recycling and waste policy (including clinical waste policy);
 - Roads and bridges;
 - Stormwater;
 - Transport Canberra; and

¹⁰³ TCCS, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 14.

¹⁰⁴ TCCS, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 14.

¹⁰⁵ TCCS, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 14.

- Transport planning and reform.¹⁰⁶

3.5. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Transport and City Services with Major Projects Canberra are:

- Delivery of the City to Woden light rail project and finalisation of the Gungahlin to City light rail project.¹⁰⁷

Matters considered

3.6. During the Minister for Transport and City Services' appearance before the Committee on 20 November 2023, the following matters were considered:

- ACT's transport emissions;¹⁰⁸
- Decarbonisation of the transport fleet;¹⁰⁹
- Additional EV chargers across the Woden and Tuggeranong depots;¹¹⁰
- Lease and ownership of electric buses;¹¹¹
- Total network operating costs;¹¹²
- Light Rail Stage 2A;¹¹³
- *Transport Canberra Future Light Rail – Network Plan Refresh and City Future Proofing* contract;¹¹⁴
- Light Rail Stage 2B;¹¹⁵
- School Active Travel Programs;¹¹⁶
- Pothole compensation claims;¹¹⁷
- Contracts for electric bus chargers;¹¹⁸
- Tree Planting Program and the new *Urban Forest Act 2023*;¹¹⁹
- Sleeper weeds;¹²⁰

¹⁰⁶ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

¹⁰⁷ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

¹⁰⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 58–59.

¹⁰⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 59–60.

¹¹⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 60–61.

¹¹¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 61.

¹¹² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 61.

¹¹³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 61–63.

¹¹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 63.

¹¹⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 64.

¹¹⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 64–66.

¹¹⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 66–67.

¹¹⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 67–68.

¹¹⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 68–70.

¹²⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 70–71.

- Biodiversity Conservation Forum;¹²¹
- Damage and vandalism to trees;¹²²
- Special needs transportation fleet;¹²³
- Buses without bike racks;¹²⁴
- *TCCS Emissions Reduction Plan 2019-2020 to 2024-2025*;¹²⁵
- MyWay+ ticketing system;¹²⁶
- Gungahlin Transport Plan;¹²⁷
- Usage of asphalt for roads;¹²⁸
- Potholes;¹²⁹
- Emissions from waste and FOGO;¹³⁰
- Circular Economy Strategy;¹³¹
- Increased infrastructure funding from the Commonwealth Government;¹³²
- Molonglo River bridge;¹³³
- Monaro Highway upgrade;¹³⁴
- Infrastructure projects in partnership with the Commonwealth Government;¹³⁵
- Public transport patronage;¹³⁶
- MyWay validation system outages;¹³⁷
- Transport Canberra Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA);¹³⁸
- Waste contracts and tender processes;¹³⁹
- Hume Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) fire and its effects;¹⁴⁰

¹²¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 71.

¹²² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 71–72.

¹²³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 72–73.

¹²⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 73.

¹²⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 73–75.

¹²⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 75–77.

¹²⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 73–75.

¹²⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 78–79.

¹²⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 79–80.

¹³⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 81–82.

¹³¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 82–83.

¹³² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 83–84.

¹³³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 84–85.

¹³⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 85.

¹³⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 85–87.

¹³⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 87–88.

¹³⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 88–89.

¹³⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 89.

¹³⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 89–91.

¹⁴⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 91–92.

- Green waste facility relocation;¹⁴¹
- Road safety and road transport penalty reforms;¹⁴²
- Local shop upgrades;¹⁴³ and
- Household waste to landfill and household commingled recycling.¹⁴⁴

Key Issues

ACT transport emissions

- 3.7. According to the TCCS Annual Report 2022-2023, TCCS are continuing to implement the [Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra](#) to achieve the ACT Government’s ambition of a zero-emission public transport system by 2040.¹⁴⁵
- 3.8. During the public hearing on 20 November 2023, the Committee put to the government that, while there are a number of accountability indicators in the TCCS Annual Report 2022-2023, there appears to be no specific accountability indicator which relates directly to ACT transport emissions.¹⁴⁶
- 3.9. Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, told the Committee that the government is currently updating the Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra, which it expects to release next year in 2024, and will be looking at monitoring activities as part of the process.¹⁴⁷
- 3.10. A QON lodged by Chair, Ms Jo Clay MLA, further asked the government how the TCCS is measuring and reducing transport emissions. The Minister’s responded that it reports on the ‘percentage of in-service fleet Euro 5 or better’, along with the Sustainable Development Performance, which monitors electricity and fuel use as found in Table 25 of the TCCS Annual Report 2022-2023 (see below). This only measures TCCS in-house transport. It is not a measure of the ACT’s transport emissions overall.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 92.

¹⁴² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 92–94.

¹⁴³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 94–95.

¹⁴⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 95–96.

¹⁴⁵ TCCS, [Annual Report 2022–2023](#), p 24.

¹⁴⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 58.

¹⁴⁷ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 58.

¹⁴⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Response to QON 34: Transport Emissions*, 27 November 2023 (received 4 December 2023), p 1.

Table 25: Sustainable Development Performance: 2022-23 and previous financial year

Indicator as of 30 June	Unit	Current FY (2022-23)	Previous FY (2021-22)	Percentage change (%)
Stationary energy usage				
Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	34,138,153	32,970,612	3.5%
Natural gas use (non-transport)	Megajoules	52,034,137	45,162,108	15.2%
Diesel use (non-transport)	Kilolitres	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transport fuel usage - TCCS Fleet				
Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)	Number	10	7	42.9%
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV)	Number	9	7	28.6%
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV)	Number	2	2	0.0%
Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)	Number	7	4	75.0%
Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles	Number	449	413	8.7%
Total number of vehicles	Number	477	433	10.2%
Fuel use – Petrol	Kilolitres	30	35	-15.8%
Fuel use – Diesel	Kilolitres	1,289	1,313	-1.9%
Fuel use – Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Kilolitres	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fuel use – Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	Gigajoules	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transport fuel usage - Transport Canberra Bus Fleet/ACTION				
Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)	Number	12	0	1200.0%
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV)	Number	0	0	0.0%
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV)	Number	0	0	0.0%
Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)	Number	0	0	0.0%
Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles	Number	443	454	-2.4%
Total number of vehicles	Number	455	454	0.2%
Fuel use – Petrol	Kilolitres	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fuel use – Diesel	Kilolitres	10,927	10,871	0.5%
Fuel use – Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Kilolitres	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fuel use – Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	Gigajoules	74,190	82,008	-9.5%
Water usage				
Water use	Kilolitres	865,969	651,660	32.9%
Resource efficiency and waste				
Reams of paper purchased	Reams	2,171	2,704	-19.7%
Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	80%	43%	86.3%
Waste to landfill	Litres	10,561,556	9,132,211	15.7%
Co-mingled material recycled	Litres	672100	591,551	13.6%
Paper & Cardboard recycled (incl. secure paper)	Litres	551331	390,661	41.1%
Organic material recycled	Litres	36670	24,910	47.2%
Greenhouse gas emissions				
Emissions from natural gas use (non-transport)	Tonnes CO2-e	2742	2,352	16.6%
Emissions from diesel use (non-transport)	Tonnes CO2-e	-	-	0.0%
Emissions from transport fuel use	Tonnes CO2-e	37,310	37,664	-0.9%
Emissions from refrigerants	Tonnes CO2-e	92	92	0.0%
Total emissions	Tonnes CO2-e	40,144	40,107	0.1%

[Table 1: Sustainable Development Performance: 2022-23 and previous financial year, *TCCS Annual Report 2022-2023*, p 108.]

Committee comment

- 3.11. Some members of the Committee are of the view that accountability indicators are a vital tool for the government to track and assess its performance, ensuring transparency and responsibility to the residents of the ACT. Therefore, ACT transport emissions and waste emissions should be reported on annually, along with reduction targets.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT transport emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate consider setting an accountability indicator against whole of ACT waste emissions and their reduction, and report against this annually.

FOGO household services

- 3.12. According to the TCCS Annual Report 2022-2023, the procurement for a contractor to deliver and operate a large-scale Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) facility is progressing:

The facility will divert food and garden organics from landfill and reduce greenhouse gases by turning food scraps and garden waste into valuable compost. It will therefore help to achieve both resource recovery and emission reduction targets.¹⁴⁹

- 3.13. The Committee asked the Minister whether the TCCS has undertaken any modelling of the emissions impact as a result of the delayed rollout of the FOGO household services.¹⁵⁰ The government responded:

We would look at the change in profile of emissions through our next iteration of the waste strategy. Now that we have released the Circular Economy Strategy and action plan, the next point for us is to revisit the waste strategy, which is now effectively end of life and does not really embrace the circular economy principles. We would look at emissions and the impact on emissions as part of that process.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁹ TCCS, *Annual Report 2022-2023*, p 107.

¹⁵⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 82.

¹⁵¹ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 82.

Textile Recycling/Recovery Hub

- 3.14. The *National Waste Report 2022* estimated that 860,000 tonnes of textiles, leather and rubber (excluding tyres) waste was generated nationally in 2021-21, up from 780,000 tonnes in 2018-19. The Report also estimated that 812,000 tonnes of waste from textiles, leather and rubber (excluding tyres) was sent to landfill across Australia in 2020-21. Of those 812,000 tonnes, 14,000 was generated from the ACT.¹⁵²
- 3.15. The most recent ACT No-Waste Audit found that across all audited ACT sites, textiles made up 14% of waste by volume, and 10.84% of waste by weight.¹⁵³
- 3.16. During the public hearing on 20 November 2023, the Committee noted that while textile waste is not a large-volume waste stream in the ACT, it is a high-value waste stream as textile waste does not get recovered. The Committee asked the government whether textile recycling and recovery should be considered in future waste strategies as part of the Circular Economy Strategy.¹⁵⁴
- 3.17. Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, agreed and provided evidence that the government is looking at available opportunities, particularly through a pilot program undertaken with Koomarri. This program is based at resource management centres, and looks to identify opportunities to co-locate business and research functions to identify ways to deal with discarded textiles.¹⁵⁵ According to Mr Steel:
- Recognising that we are not home to the big fashion houses, we do have some local designers here that might be able to use some of those materials. Trying to look for those linkages and connections is a real opportunity. That idea of actually having a physical hub—like a textiles hub, for example—is something we are really excited to talk with industry about.¹⁵⁶
- 3.18. The government also told the Committee that nationally, several of the big fashion houses are leading an emerging products stewardship process, to look at options for the recovery of textile materials.¹⁵⁷

Committee comment

- 3.19. Textile waste is a waste stream the ACT is not doing enough to respond to. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should be actively seeking to further address textile waste minimisation.

¹⁵² Blue Environment Pty Ltd, *National Waste Report 2022*, 10 February 2023, pp 53, 125.

¹⁵³ APC Waste Consultants, *ACT NoWaste Report – Audit of Incoming waste at transfer stations and landfill*, February 2023, pp 6, 19, 20.

¹⁵⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 83.

¹⁵⁵ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 83.

¹⁵⁶ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 83.

¹⁵⁷ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS, *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 83.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to progress towards the establishment of a textile recycling/recovery hub.

Bus services under the new EBA

3.20. The Transport Canberra Operations (ACTION) Agreement enterprise bargaining for the 2021-2024 agreement recommenced in 2022-23 with the Transport Workers Union and Australian Machinery Workers Union, following a period during COVID-19 when negotiations were put on hold. The focus for the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) was around weekend bus service reliability and transition to battery electric buses.¹⁵⁸

3.21. The Committee asked the government when Canberrans can expect to get more frequent weekend services. The government stated that the EBA negotiations are not finalised, but are reaching the end of the process with a vote expected early in 2024:

We are very close to putting the Transport Canberra EBA to a vote. Following that vote, we expect to provide government with advice on what opportunities that might provide in terms of augmenting service in the new year.¹⁵⁹

3.22. The TCCS Annual Report 2022–2023 lists concluding the EBA negotiations with ‘an aim to provide more certainty and reliability for weekend services and recognise the transition to a battery electric fleet of buses’, as one of its priorities for 2023-2024.¹⁶⁰

Committee comment

3.23. The Committee sees value in the government providing an update on weekend bus services following the finalisation of the EBA negotiations as soon as possible, as the Committee believes that this would benefit the wider ACT community.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an update as soon as possible about when it will deliver hourly weekend bus services.

Minister for Sport and Recreation—Administrative arrangements

3.24. The areas of responsibility covered by the Minister for Sport and Recreation with TCCS are:

¹⁵⁸ TCCS, *Annual Report 2022-2023*, p 29.

¹⁵⁹ Mr Ben McHugh, Deputy Director-General, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p. 89.

¹⁶⁰ TCCS, *Annual Report 2022-2023*, pp 29–30.

- Sports ground management.¹⁶¹

Matters considered

During the Minister for Sport and Recreation's appearance before the Committee on 16 November 2023, the following matters were considered:

- Decarbonisation of sportsground maintenance;¹⁶²
- Line-marking machines;¹⁶³
- Female-friendly upgrades to pavilions;¹⁶⁴
- Hosting of international sporting teams;¹⁶⁵
- Booking arrangements at pavilions;¹⁶⁶
- Dryland ovals;¹⁶⁷ and
- Topsoil program.¹⁶⁸

Key Issues

Line-marking machines

3.25. TCCS is responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the Territory's community sportsgrounds and associated facilities and the delivery of new sporting infrastructure.¹⁶⁹

3.26. During the public hearing on 16 November 2023, the government informed the Committee that it is transitioning to electric alternatives to decarbonise its sportsground maintenance operations:

We are looking at everything electric, whether it is fertiliser spreaders or even the trucks that we are using. [...] Our latest effort was to replace the old way of marking ovals. It was done with a diesel marker. They dropped some diesel to mark the line. We got rid of that and we have an electric powered machine. You type in the coordinates and off it goes, all on its own, and it marks it up.¹⁷⁰

3.27. Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, told the Committee that the Directorate was planning to hold a naming competition for the new line-marking machines:

¹⁶¹ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/> (accessed 23 January 2024).

¹⁶² *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 32–33.

¹⁶³ *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 33–34.

¹⁶⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 34–35.

¹⁶⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 35–37.

¹⁶⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 37–38.

¹⁶⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 38–39.

¹⁶⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, pp 40–41.

¹⁶⁹ TCCS, *Annual Report 2022-2023*, p 59.

¹⁷⁰ Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS, *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, p 32.

We were thinking about holding a naming competition for the line-marking robots. We thought it might be something that the Canberra Liberals would be interested in, because I remember Steve Doszpot, at every annual report hearing, would ask about the diesel line markings, and it might be that one of those robots could be named after him, in his memory.¹⁷¹

- 3.28. Steve Doszpot OAM (1948–2017) was an MLA of the ACT Legislative Assembly from 2008 to 2017, and the Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation from December 2008 to November 2016.¹⁷²

Committee comment

- 3.29. The Committee understands that during his time as an MLA, Mr Doszpot campaigned for the discontinuation of diesel line-markings on sportsgrounds due to its environmental and safety concerns. The Committee believes that it would be fitting for the new electric line-marking machines to be named in his honour to recognise his contribution to the cause.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult with Mr Steve Doszpot’s family to have a line-marking machine named in his honour.

¹⁷¹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, *Committee Hansard*, 16 November 2023, p 33.

¹⁷² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Former Members of the Assembly*, <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/members/members-of-the-assembly> (accessed 13 December 2023).

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted, this inquiry. This includes the ACT Government Ministers, Directorate officials, and statutory office holders. The Committee wishes to extend its appreciation to the Hansard and broadcasting staff of the ACT Legislative Assembly.
- 4.2. The Committee makes 12 recommendations.

Ms Jo Clay MLA
Chair
04 April 2024

Appendix A: Witnesses

Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Dr Erin Brady**, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development
- **Mr Jeremy Smith**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Development and Implementation
- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
- **Mr George Cilliers**, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning
- **Ms Freya O'Brien**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Planning and Territory Plan, Planning and Urban Policy

Thursday, 16 November 2023

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

- **Mr Daniel Iglesias**, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation

Friday, 17 November 2023

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr John Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Nicholas Holt**, Executive Group Manager, Built Form and Divestment
- **Mr Tom Gordon**, Executive Group Manager, Development Delivery

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Stephen Miners**, Deputy Under Treasurer, Economic, Revenue and Insurance and Coordinator-General for Housing

Monday, 20 November 2023

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

- **Mr Ben McHugh**, Deputy Director-General, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Mr Jim Corrigan**, Deputy Director-General, City Services
- **Ms Cherie Hughes**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Mr Geoffrey Davidson**, Executive Branch Manager, Development Coordination
- **Ms Sophie Clement**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
- **Mr Tim Rampton**, Executive Branch Manager, Roads ACT
- **Mr Daniel Iglesias**, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation
- **Ms Judith Sturman**, Executive Group Manager, Transport Canberra
- **Mr Bruce Fitzgerald**, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste
- **Ms Kirra Cox**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy and Programs

Major Projects Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Mr Ashley Cahif**, Project Director, Light Rail to Woden

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

City Renewal Authority

- **Mr Malcolm Snow**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Jennifer Ramsay**, Executive Branch Manager, Place Experience and Communications

Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr John Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection, Access Canberra; Construction Occupations Registrar; and Architects Registrar

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Dr Erin Brady**, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development
- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
- **Mr George Cilliers**, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning

Friday, 24 November 2023

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
- **Mr James Bennett**, Executive Branch Manager, Building, Design and Projects, Planning and Urban Policy
- **Ms Lynette Marsh**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Development and Implementation

Major Projects Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Chief Projects Officer

Appendix B: Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice

Questions on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	14/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Staffing	21/11/2023
2	14/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Procurement	20/11/2023
3	15/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Demonstration Housing Project – Kingston	20/11/2023
4	15/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Study Assistance	20/11/2023
5	15/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	National Capital Design Review Panel	21/11/2023
6	15/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Demonstration Housing Project – Belconnen and Lyneham	21/11/2023
7	15/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Gungahlin Community Centre	23/11/2023
8	16/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project	23/11/2023
9	17/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Potential Urban Regeneration Areas	23/11/2023
10	17/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Housing preferences	23/11/2023
11	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Canberra to Eden Railway Proposal	30/11/2023
12	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Procurement	28/11/2023
13	15/11/2023	Minister Steel	Storm Water improvements Hall	28/11/2023
14	21/11/2023	Minister Berry	Ginninderra Falls	28/11/2023
15	21/11/2023	Minister Steel	Advertising	04/12/2023
16	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	Bus Network and Woden Bus Depot	30/11/2023
17	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	TC and MyWay Card	30/11/2023
18	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	TC and MyWay+ App	30/11/2023
19	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	TC and assets	30/11/2023
20	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	TC and contracts	30/11/2023
21	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	TC and MyWay	30/11/2023
22	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	Mobility impaired passengers	30/11/2023

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
23	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	TC and bus fleet	30/11/2023
24	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	Community Path Satisfaction	30/11/2023
25	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	Tree Removal	30/11/2023
26	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	Public Toilet in Florey	30/11/2023
27	22/11/2023	Minister Steel	Community Paths	30/11/2023
28	23/11/2023	Minister Berry	Ginninderra Falls – purchase of land for conservation corridor	30/11/2023
29	23/11/2023	Minister Barr	Housing Australia Future Fund – community housing	06/12/2023
30	23/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Conflicts of interest – EPSDD Audit and Risk Committee	30/11/2023
31	23/11/2023	Minister Steel	Molonglo River Bridge	30/11/2023
32	27/11/2023	Minister Steel	Waste accountability indicators emissions	30/11/2023
33	27/11/2023	Minister Steel	Waste methane capture	30/11/2023
34	27/11/2023	Minister Steel	Transport Emissions	04/12/2023
35	29/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Signs General Code	04/12/2023
36	29/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Integrity Framework and Integrity Plan	06/12/2023

Questions Taken on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	14/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Demonstration housing proposals	22/11/2023
2	16/11/2023	Minister Berry	Female-friendly pavilions	27/11/2023
3	16/11/2023	Minister Berry	Sports club access	24/11/2023
4	16/11/2023	Minister Berry	Dryland ovals	23/11/2023
5	17/11/2023	Minister Berry	Affordable, public, and community housing targets	28/11/2023
6	17/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	70/30 Target	27/11/2023
7	17/11/2023	Minister Berry	Reportable incidents	28/11/2023
8	17/11/2023	Minister Berry	Tender process	28/11/2023

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
9	16/11/2023	Minister Berry	Top soil program	23/11/2023
10	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Reporting against Climate Change Strategy	28/11/2023
11	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Bus cost	28/11/2023
12	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Bus network operating cost	28/11/2023
13	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Length and cost to resolve pothole claims	28/11/2023
14	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Pothole insurance claims	28/11/2023
15	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Insurance claim staff breakdown	28/11/2023
16	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Battery electric bus charger contract	28/11/2023
17	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Special Needs Transport Buses	28/11/2023
18	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Bus bike racks	28/11/2023
19	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	MyWay upgrade cost	28/11/2023
20	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Gungahlin transport links	28/11/2023
21	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	MyWay outages	28/11/2023
22	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Traffic infringements notices	01/12/2023
23	20/11/2023	Minister Steel	Accountability indicators	28/11/2023
24	22/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Audit and Risk Committee	27/11/2023
25	22/11/2023	Minister Gentleman	Controlled activity order applications	01/12/2023

Appendix C: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	11
Male	21
Non-binary	0
Gender neutral	0
No data	0

Appendix D: Additional Comments by Ms Jo Clay MLA

Emissions from waste and transport

- 1.1. We are in a climate emergency. We are reducing emissions in some areas, like electricity and fossil fuel gas. But in other areas our emissions are increasing, like transport and waste. What we are doing is not working. We need a different approach.
- 1.2. At the time of the Annual Report hearings, emissions from waste and wastewater sat at about 9.3 % of Canberra's tracked climate emissions and around 153 kilotonnes. The latest inventory shows these have risen to 11.1 % and around 180 kilotonnes.
- 1.3. Similarly, at the time of the hearings transport emissions sat at around 63.6 % and around 1,047 kilotonnes. They have since risen to 1,170 kilotonnes and around 68.8 %.
- 1.4. Meanwhile, other emissions have dropped in recent years. For instance, a decade ago ACT emissions from fossil fuel gas, stationary energy and electricity were 2,734 kilotonnes and around 68.4 % of our emissions. Now these are only 374 kilotonnes and around 30% of our emissions. That is very effective action.
- 1.5. We have only recently announced policy and programs to phase out fossil fuel gas. Emissions from fossil fuel gas dropped over the past year. Again, this is effective action.
- 1.6. But the climate action we are taking for transport and waste is not working. Our transport and waste emissions are going up, not down.
- 1.7. Emissions from waste in landfill primarily come from organic material like food and wood waste. ACT Government committed to reducing food waste and emissions by delivering a Canberra-wide food waste service by 2023. This was going to be delivered via a large composting facility. It has been delayed to 2026 at the earliest.
- 1.8. Because of these delays, we will still be sending food waste to landfill in 2026. That waste will still be generating emissions in 2046. How does this match up with the ACT's goal of net zero emissions by 2045? Why are we comfortable to delay action on something that affects over 10% of our climate emissions? How is this an appropriate response to a declared emergency?
- 1.9. The ACT has a thriving local compost sector. We have solid results from the ACT Government's collection and processing food waste pilot in Belconnen. We could reduce food waste going to landfill earlier if we looked at interim options that don't rely on building a large composter in an environment where capital works are constantly being delayed. The City of Sydney is exploring innovative solutions to prevent FOGO going to landfill via insect farming. But here in the ACT, Government continues to procure contracts that will see no action until late this decade. It is not a crisis response. It is business as usual.
- 1.10. We could take real climate action now by expanding the Belconnen pilot. We could also use our existing composting and insect-farm sector or new services to recycle food

waste. We could do both of these things right now, before 2026. They would mean less food waste going to landfill and less emissions locked in for the next two decades. They would also create more jobs. We might even find we don't need the industrial composter and we might save Canberrans the cost of it. But ACT Government is not taking these steps.

- 1.11. Similarly, ACT Government has not taken any effective steps in the overall transport policy to reduce transport emissions. Light Rail stage one is effective public transport. It has high uptake and people like using it. But we are not seeing other stages of Light Rail delivered quickly enough in the face of a climate emergency, and we are not seeing enough action to improve our buses, footpaths and cycle paths. If what we were doing was working, our emissions would be going down. But transport emissions are rising.
- 1.12. One of the issues with the current approach is that there is no KPI or measure for the Minister in charge of the emissions. The City Services Minister and Transport Minister are not held responsible for ACT's overall waste emissions and transport emissions, despite the fact that they are responsible for delivering the policy, programs and services that address these. They report against internal emissions from their directorate activities, but not against ACT-wide emissions. These Ministers are also failing to model or report on the impact of delays on major projects and how these affect our climate emissions.
- 1.13. Our committee has made some recommendations on these issues but in the face of a climate emergency, I do not think they go far enough. I make these additional recommendations.

Recommendation 1

That the ACT Government model the emissions impact of the delayed rollout of the Canberra-wide FOGO household services and report on this by the end of the 10th Assembly.

Recommendation 2

That the ACT Government consider ways to deliver food waste services to Canberra ahead of 2026, including an extension of the Belconnen pilot, delivery of food waste recovery via the existing sector and delivery of food waste recovery via a service model rather than only looking at delivery via a large capital project that has been delayed.

Recommendation 3

That ACT Government reduce the emissions from the waste and transport sectors and do so with urgency, commensurate with the declared climate emergency.

Recommendation 4

That ACT Government set reduction targets for waste and transport emissions and report against them annually, with responsibility for reporting against targets and explaining why policies and programs have delivered or failed to deliver falling clearly with the responsible Minister (Minister for Transport and Minister for City Services).

Ms Jo Clay MLA

8 April 2024