



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Clay: To the Minister for Transport and City Services

In relation to: Community Engagement

The Directorate has a number of community engagement mechanisms that it uses for consultations like the Animal Advisory Committee. How were community consultations conducted during COVID? How many consultations were conducted and is this more or less than the previous financial year? If they weren't conducted, when will they be re-engaged?

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

A hold was put on community-wide engagement activities across the ACT Government in March 2020. This was to allow communication and engagement efforts to focus on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the delivery of essential services. As a result, less community-wide engagements were undertaken in 2020 compared to 2019.

Targeted engagement at a suburb and street level was still undertaken during this time to support business as usual projects and essential services that continued to be delivered such as the ACT Government's fast-track infrastructure program. These engagement activities focussed on informing local residents and key stakeholders of works and potential impacts, rather than seeking their feedback or input on a project.

When the hold on community engagement activities was lifted in mid-2020 the Directorate:

- held community engagement activities on-site at our waste facilities to seek feedback from members of the public on wayfinding signage in June 2020;
- undertook consultation on the draft Urban Forest Strategy for the ACT from July to September 2020;
- released the final ACT Transport Strategy in August 2020 following community engagement in 2019;
- conducted a survey along Carnegie Crescent in Narrabundah/Griffith on a proposed new path in August 2020; and
- participated in community outreach activities for events such as Women's Health Week and university open days.

Community-wide engagement activities were also restricted in late 2020 due to the ACT Government's Caretaker period which concluded just before the festive season when engagement activities are avoided due to low participation rates.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 49

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Any community-wide engagement activities that were postponed will be undertaken in 2021. The Directorate will consult on a range of topics this year including, but not limited to:

- shopping centre upgrades in Duffy, Kaleen and Campbell;
- targeted engagement with selected streets in the suburbs of Florey, Ngunnawal, Kambah, Bonython, Scullin and Mawson around new tree plantings as part of a Street Forestry program;
- the design and planning for Southern Memorial Park;
- priority improvements around Yerrabi Pond;
- a Play Space Strategy for the ACT; and
- a new playground for the inner north.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Steel", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Date:

19/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA