



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**25 February 2022**

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Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 25 February 2022, Mr Bruce Fitzgerald took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 25 February 2022, PAGE 69

In relation to:

**THE CHAIR:** Great. And with the battery solar, I saw the update on BCycle recently. What is the timeline on product stewardship for our large batteries, for our car batteries and our house batteries and our bus batteries?

**Mr Fitzgerald:** I might have to take that one on notice, unless Mr Trushell has that one on hand.

**THE CHAIR:** Very happy for you to take that on notice. I think probably the thrust of my questions is how long do we wait for National Product Stewardship when we do not have clear timelines?

**Mr Fitzgerald:** We are looking at solutions locally where we can. Certainly when it comes to the NTCRS, we are looking at ways in which we can supplement that. That is obviously a national scheme, but we are actively seeking to engage with the Commonwealth around what can be taken, but certainly acting locally where we can.

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

The industry-led Battery Stewardship Council is consulting on options for including electric vehicle and energy storage batteries in the B-cycle scheme. At the launch of the B-cycle scheme on 15 February 2022, the Council noted the consultation is in the final stages, and the intent is to introduce these batteries, although a timeline was not given. TCCS will continue to monitor and engage with the Council on this work. Hand-held batteries are already included in the scheme.

As noted in the recent response to the Assembly Resolution of 23 June 2021 on e-waste recycling, participating in national product stewardship arrangements is likely to provide the best outcomes for the Territory, encouraging economies of scale and ensuring harmonisation across jurisdictions.

Retailers engaged through the ACT's *Next Generation Energy Storage Program* are required to follow best practice end-of-life processing operations, give priority to onshore recycling facilities and comply with the current Clean Energy Council and Australian Battery Recycling Industry guidance on the responsible packaging, recycling, and transport of energy storage systems.

In addition, through the government's procurement process for large, grid-connected batteries under the Big Canberra Battery project, potential service providers must have a social and environmental sustainability plan that includes an end-of-life battery recycling plan.

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

Signature: 

Date: 8/3/22

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