



**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**25 February 2022**

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Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson on 25 February 2022: Dr Sophie Lewis took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

**THE CHAIR:** My question is on recommendation 16 of your *Implementation Status Report on ACT Government's Climate Change Policy*. I note that you include cycling amongst women and girls as an issue in the report. I was interested and encouraged to see that, because research shows that cycling participation really drops off for girls. Women have much lower cycling rates than men. What is being done to encourage cycling for teenage girls, to have that cohort continue to stay on their bikes?

**Dr Lewis:** Can you reiterate what recommendation number that was?

**THE CHAIR:** It was recommendation 16, that the transport sector is a contributor to climate change—

**Dr Lewis:** Yes, I am familiar with that. I will have to take that question on notice because I do not have a comprehensive understanding right now of what has been done from government. I am aware that there are still big gaps in how we specifically address the needs of women in embracing active transport, but I do not have an answer for you right now.

**Dr Sophie Lewis:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Recommendation 16 of the 2019 State of the Environment Report (SoER) is as follows:

“explore incentives to increase the uptake of public transport, car and ride sharing options, and active travel, including cycling amongst women and girls”

This Recommendation was 'Agreed' in the Government response to the SoER. Information provided by lead agency Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate on progress towards this recommendation for the 2020-21 Annual Report included details of:

- A new Transport Strategy delivered in 2020 that supports the long-term shift of transport modes towards walking, cycling and public transport.
- A number of projects to encourage walking and cycling as a choice including in Tuggeranong Town Centre, Belconnen Bikeway and the Woden Cycle Loop were completed in 2020-21.
- Minimum passing distance signage in high cycling traffic.

However, the actions taken to address the recommendation do not specifically target women and girls and their unique barriers to uptake of active transport (e.g. from childcare and household labour leading to 'trip-chaining'). Further progress is required to increase uptake for this demographic.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 7 March 2022

By the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Sophie Lewis