



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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 ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

Ref: Transport and City Services, Annual Report

In relation to: FOGO Pilot and Waste Facilities

1. Where can residents participating in the FOGO trial provide feedback to the ACT Government on the scheme?
2. How long will the pilot go for? When will the ACT Government look at rolling the program out to other suburbs and which areas are next?
3. Will the ACT Government reverse the garbage collections for FOGO participants back to weekly following residents' concerns?
4. Will the FOGO facility be a zero-emissions facility?
5. How will a centralised government FOGO facility allow for existing small business composting operations and for those in the Canberra community who do their own composting?
6. What will be the location of the North Canberra Resource Management Centre and Material Recycling Facility?
7. Will the North Canberra facility be at the same Mitchell site just made bigger by taking out the adjacent remnant eucalypts?
8. How will the North Canberra facility articulate with the existing privately-run CSG garden organics facility at Mitchell, or will the North Canberra facility be designed to replace CSG and take garden organics for transfer to the Government's proposed central facility?

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

1. Residents participating in the FOGO pilot can provide feedback to FOGO@act.gov.au.

2. The FOGO trial is expected to run until the commencement of a citywide FOGO service, to ensure continuity for residents in the trial suburbs. The FOGO service roll out date is subject to further Government consideration. A key requirement is the delivery of a local waste facility capable of processing the volumes of waste that will be collected through a citywide FOGO service.
3. While recognising that change can be difficult, the experience to date is that the majority of households are adjusting to the changed collection schedule. The model used in the trial is based on experience of local councils across Australia. Community feedback will inform an ongoing evaluation of the FOGO trial as well as any recommended changes for the citywide rollout. Residents should also be aware that they are able to request additional or larger bins through Access Canberra.
4. Potential emissions from the construction and operation of a FOGO processing facility and options to mitigate these will be investigated as part of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the facility.
5. The proposed solution is designed to divert FOGO that is currently going to landfill with the initial focus on FOGO that is currently being placed in household red bins. The ACT Government's Parliamentary and Governing Agreement of the 10th Legislative Assembly includes a commitment to create circular economy legislation, including requiring businesses to have separate collection of organic waste and a food waste reduction plan. Access by business to collection services and processing infrastructures will be considered as part of the development of the circular economy legislation and the ACT FOGO processing facility. Ideally, businesses should have access to options that best suit their needs, including commercial processors and on-site technology. The ACT community will still be able to undertake their own composting.
6. No Government decision has been made to expand or relocate the Mitchell transfer station.
7. See 6.
8. It is expected that household FOGO will be delivered to a central FOGO processing facility.

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

Signature:



Date:

16/3/22

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