



# 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 ON NOTICE**

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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: Southern Memorial Park

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Southern Memorial Park.
2. Please provide an update on the closure or fullness of the cemetery at Woden.
3. When might Southern Memorial Park first be operational?
4. Is Southern Memorial Park going to include natural burials? When was this decision made?
5. Is a crematorium going to be included in Southern Memorial Park (in either Phase 1 or 2?)
6. If yes, will it be electric or gas powered?
7. If gas, how does this fit with ACT climate change and environment policy?
8. Will the "mobile" crematorium currently in Gungahlin be relocated to SMP for provide more convenience for southside residents?
9. What consideration has been made regarding the inversion layer in the Tuggeranong Valley and how that may affect any discharge of smoke or gases into the air and the resultant effect on Tuggeranong residents?
10. What consideration has been made of the occasional odour from the vicinity of the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre, and how that may impact on people gathered at Southern Memorial Park?
11. What block and section will Southern Memorial Park be located on?
12. When was the large sign saying words to the effect of "we are building a new cemetery here" removed from Mugga Lane/Long Gully Road?

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

1. Tenders to prepare detailed design in preparation for Southern Memorial Park (SMP) Stage 1 construction closed on 24 February 2022 and are currently being evaluated with a preferred tenderer expected to be identified by the end of March 2022.
2. The Woden Cemetery has effectively reached its capacity. Currently around 1% of its 15,000-allotment capacity still remains, however this means that for the majority of popular denominations, allotments in the Woden Cemetery are no available. For example, the lawn sections in the popular Catholic and General areas are fully subscribed along with the Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, and Islamic areas as well as the premium Oak Boulevard area. Of the remaining allotments, these are spread across the cemetery in isolated single allotments which are not an attractive option for most people and families. Operational and maintenance functions of the Cemetery will continue in perpetuity to ensure the presentation of the facility meets the expectations of the community.
3. SMP is expected to be operational when Stage 1 construction is completed.
4. Yes. Please see the link to the Government's announcement on 12 December 2021 - [Southern Memorial Park moves forward following community feedback - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate \(act.gov.au\)](#)
5. A crematorium will be considered in Stage 2 of SMP.
6. All options will be considered at the time the cremator is to be procured with reference to potential changes in technology and environmental considerations.
7. If gas is still the most efficient means of cremation, an exemption may need to be applied under the ACT Climate Change Policy.
8. An assessment for cremator relocation will be made at the appropriate time in the SMP development and will include consideration of the age of the cremator and ongoing service needs for northside residents.
9. Consideration has been given to the discharge of smoke or gases in the air quality study prepared for the SMP Masterplan and the outcomes reflected in the cemetery design. More detailed investigations into air quality and dispersion will be undertaken at Stage 2 design that includes the crematorium. Qualitative air dispersion modelling, compliance with the necessary standards and EPA approval will support the Stage 2 Development Application.
10. Consideration has been given to minimising possible impacts of occasional odours in SMP Masterplan and Stage 1 design. The potential for odours will continue to be investigated during Stage 1 detailed design development. An air quality assessment and report will be prepared to identify potential impacts of air emissions from the site, as well as adjoining uses and mitigation measures proposed as identified.

11. SMP will be located on Tuggeranong District Blocks 1695, 1676, 1521, 1673 and includes Block 1520 – a power cable easement.
12. The large sign was removed on 19 April 2021.

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

Signature:



Date:

18/3/22

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