



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
QUESTION ON NOTICE

Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

In relation to the ACT Government's commitment to a zero emissions government:

The ACT Government is committed to leading by example to showcase best practice sustainability in Government operations, by pursuing rapid emission reduction targets of greater than a 33% reduction in emissions from Government operations by 2025 (from 2020 levels), and zero emissions from Government operations from 2040.

- 1) While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?
- 2) What is TCCSD's current % reduction in emissions?
- 3) What measures have you put in place to reduce emissions?
- 4) Can you confirm that this is a reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only?

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

- 1) TCCS has developed a five-year emission reduction plan which contributes to the Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) Framework. TCCS are currently working toward a potential of 15.1% reductions in emissions by 2024-25, calculated from transition of buses, passenger fleet and heavy vehicle fleet to zero emission; relocation to fully electric office in Dickson and efficiency upgrades at Tuggeranong Bus Depot. It is anticipated that emissions savings for transport will be realised in future years.
- 2) In 2020-21, emissions from the public transport sector represented over half of all ACT Government emissions and 86% of TCCSD emission profile. Given the unusual business conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; increase in weekday bus services from July 2020; uplift in weekend bus services commencing in October 2020; and increase in mowing schedules, there was an increase in fuel use for TCCS in 2020-21 compared with 2019-20. Increased provision of public transport supports Canberrans to use this as an alternative to private vehicles. For this reason, TCCS' contribution to emissions reduction in the ACT needs to take account of both ACT Government emissions accounting and broader community wide accounting.

- 3) Efforts are underway to increase efficiency of the Transport Canberra bus network. The Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra was released in September 2020 and outlines the pathway to achieve the ACT Government's ambition of zero-emission public transport system by 2040. The Transition Plan will see the government replace ageing diesel and CNG buses with battery electric buses powered with the ACT's 100% renewable electricity in line with the existing fleet retirement profile. This will be timed with plans for new bus depots with electric charging infrastructure to support the growing fleet of zero-emission buses. Transport Canberra is progressing with the procurement of 35 replacement buses, 12 of which will be zero emissions, and following this, an additional 90 replacement zero emission buses will be procured in line with the fleet replacement profile.

TCCS Fleet are continuing to transition passenger vehicles to zero emission vehicles (ZEV) with 37% of the fleet currently ZEV and with leasing cycles, 100% ZEV will be reached by 2024. TCCS are trialling a fully electric tipper truck within the heavy vehicle fleet, and are progressing further trials in 2022. To support charging ZEV, TCCS has further expanded charging infrastructure in 2021 at Reid, Curtin and Holder depots, making a total of 16 sites and 20 EV charging units available across TCCS sites.

- 4) ACT Government emissions are calculated using Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

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

Signature:



Date: 21/3/22

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