



**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**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **JO CLAY MLA**

[Ref: Families and Community Services, Annual Report page number #]

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 Community Services Directorate (CSD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?
- 2) What is CSD'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?

**RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Community Services Directorate (CSD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?**

CSD uses the ACT Government's Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP) to track and calculate its emissions. The ESP is a database that collates utility data such as natural gas consumption and transport fuel consumption and calculates the emissions profile for the Directorate.

CSD has undertaken energy audits of its major sites, including Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (BYJC) and the Child Development Service (CDS) site at Holder, and has factored in emissions reduction projects that are either underway or can be reasonably anticipated within the reporting period.

In consultation with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, CSD has identified several projects that can be implemented from 2019-20 to 2024-25 to reach the predicted emissions target. The details can be found in CSD's Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) 2019-20 to 2024-25. The projects would be funded from the Building Infrastructure Fund annually.

**2) What is CSD's current % reduction in emissions?**

In 2020-21 CSD reduced its emissions from 598 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e to 512 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e which is 14 per cent on the baseline equating to 86 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.

**3) What measures have you put in place to reduce emissions?**

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (BYJC)

The Directorate's five-year plan provides for a new efficient electric system factored into the forward schedule as the primary source of heating. The current gas heating systems in the BYJC are not due to be replaced in the next few years as they are within their life cycle and there would be significant cost to decommission early. It is anticipated the existing gas systems will only be used in extreme cold for heating. In addition, a pool blanket and upgrade to electric heat pump is planned to be installed and will provide substantial benefit to reducing emissions.

Child Development Service

The CDS at Holder is currently going through a review of the ongoing viability of the site. If a decision is made for long-term accommodation at the Holder site, the CDS will move to an electric heating system at the primary source, reducing the reliance of the gas heating system by up to 80 per cent.

Other Measures

In addition to planned projects, CSD expects to make some incidental savings due to the relocation to 220 London Circuit, as well as the progressive replacement of petrol-powered pool vehicles with electric vehicles.

**4) Can you confirm that this is a reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only?**

Scope 2 emissions are recorded as zero as the ACT has 100% renewable energy since 2020. The Government targets are for reducing Scope 1 emissions only.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

14/4/22

By the Minister for Families and Community Services, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA