



Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Ed Cocks MLA on 13 November 2023: Ms Fiona Wright took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 13 November 2023 [PAGE 31]

In relation to: Electrification of ACT Government assets

MR COCKS: Was there any money spent in 22-23 to electrify government assets?

Mr Rattenbury: Not under this specific program, Mr Cocks. This is a new program that is being set up. There will have been works in the previous years, and I think that is where Ms Wright is going to help me out.

Ms Wright: Yes. I do not have the figures, but for many years each directorate is responsible for their own ongoing maintenance upkeep of their assets, and so what this program that Mr Piani was starting to talk about was seeking to bring that together to look at the most efficient way to bring together the replacement of those, looking at government as an entire fleet.

But certainly, over the last few years there would have been money expended on replacing government gas assets with electric assets. We have also had for quite a few years a Zero Emissions Government Fund, which is a repayable loan fund for directorates, as well as a Social Cost of Carbon Fund.

MR COCKS: In developing this new program, though, it sounds like there has not been some analysis of the total spend over previous years?

Ms Wright: That would have occurred as part of the development of this program, but I do not—

MR COCKS: It is not a number you can give us?

Ms Wright: I do not have that number today. We can take that on notice.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government is continuing to take steps to transition its own operations to zero emissions. Building on previous work, the Electrification of Government Gas Assets (EoGGA) Program was established in 2023. It is a whole of government program of works which will systematically replace all government gas assets with electric equivalents by 2040. It is being implemented by Major Projects Canberra. The development of the new program took stock of existing gas assets in all Directorates at a point in time.

EPSDD is not responsible for the maintenance or replacement of gas assets in other Directorates and is therefore unable to provide a total figure for gas asset replacements in previous years. In 2021-22 approximately \$1.4 million and in 2022-23 approximately \$3.2 million was expended on six electrification projects under the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) Fund administered by EPSDD. The SCC Fund which was designed to support Government agencies to undertake emissions reduction projects, such as the replacement of gas heating systems.

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

Signature:



Date: 21/11/23

By the Minister for Water, Energy, and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA.