



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Road maintenance

Hearing: **11/2/2025**

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Answer Due: **20/2/2025**

Minister for City and Government Services took on notice the following question(s):

MR COCKS: Yes. And I will stick with the city services thing that we had been on, but just flag that there are plenty of questions around Access Canberra matters as well I want to get to.

Now, on page 50 of the annual report, the same page that Mr Milligan was referring to under road maintenance, road resurfacing there are three types of resurfacing treatments, bitumen spray seal, micro servicing and asphalt resurfacing. Now, in the second paragraph, it states that during 2023-24, 152 sites with a total area of around 100, and 1.07 million square meters were resealed. Is it possible to get, probably on notice, a list of those 152 sites?

Mr Rampton: Tim Rampton, executive branch manager, Roads ACT. Yes, certainly. We have a list of those. We also have a map that was online during that period as well. We do have a list. I can take that on notice.

MR COCKS: Okay. So you can provide the list on notice?

Mr Rampton: Yes.

MR COCKS: And so going back to the list of 152 sites then, is it possible to also get the last time those roads were resealed for each of those sites?

Mr Rampton: I will take that one on notice.

MR COCKS: Thank you. And what was the selection process for the seven sites that were micro surfaced?

Mr Rampton: Okay. So each year, we work with a research organisation, the National Transport Research Organisation, to develop our road resurfacing program. We do tests on approximately one-

third of our territorial road network—so that is our RTL roads and major collectors—to get updated data on the condition of those roads. So we work with the NTRO to prepare the road surfacing program. Through that commissioning, they will provide us some advice on what type of treatment will be required, and I believe in all those instances of micro surfacing, that would have any advice from NTRO.

MR COCKS: Okay. And is it a similar process for those that are asphalt resurfaced?

Mr Rampton: Yes, it is.

MR COCKS: Okay. Thank you. And how often on average do roads that have been bitumen spray sealed need resurfacing?

Mr Rampton: Well, road resurfacing is one of the tools that we have in our toolbox to prolong the life of our road network, so it is something that we proactively do. So if you think about any section of road we see around Canberra, if we have a piece of road that is starting to deteriorate or you are starting to see some cracking in it, it would be more likely a candidate for bitumen spray seal with the objective to, I guess, waterproof the surface.

It is definitely a preventative measure. We see the potholes forming when we see water penetrating the surface or coming in from the side due to drainage issues, so that particular treatment is certainly a preventative one. As we move along the tree, when we get to asphalt, they are typically a road that may have a lot more damage that we need to strip off some of the pavement and then relay it. And then when we get to the other extreme where we are talking about road rehabilitation, that is where we are looking at sort of practically ripping up the road, redoing some of the base and installing the road again.

Mr Pryce: Mr Cocks, if I could add, our annual road resurfacing programs are all outlined on our website, and you can see the 2020-2024 program with maps there for the community—

MR COCKS: Sorry. I do not think you actually got to the average time frame is that something you can provide or—

Mr Rampton: I will take that on notice.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The list of sites resealed in the 2023-24 financial year is provided at [Attachment A](#). The attachment includes dates of the reseal history of each site.

In response to the question about the average length of time before a road requires resealing a standard 'double seal' (two coats of bitumen and aggregate) is typically used within the ACT road resurfacing program. This type of treatment has an expected life of 8-15 years. However, there are many factors that can impact the actual life of a reseal, including: traffic volumes, underlying pavement conditions, weather/climatic conditions and drainage. For some low traffic, local streets a reseal can last 20–30 years in some circumstances without further intervention.

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It is important to note that resealing is a preventative maintenance technique aimed at extending the ultimate life of a road. The reseal technique is a cost-effective technique that results in less water seepage into the road (a major cause of potholes) and improved skid resistance for motorists.

Roads ACT proactively reseals a road before it deteriorates to a point when only expensive treatments like asphalt resurfacing, rehabilitation or road reconstruction would be necessary.

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

Signature: 

Date: 18/2/25

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA