



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015
Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS
ESD- No 11**

Asked by Mr Brendan Smyth on 24 June 2014 : Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript : Hansard Transcript , Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2014, 24 June 2014 page 75.

In relation to: Number of Burn Right Tonight warnings for 2013/14.

Number of exceedences for the current financial year?

What are the number of warnings issued this financial year?

How many inversions have been given?

Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

Number of exceedences for the current financial year?

Ambient air quality is reported on a calendar year. For the 2013 reporting year only 1 exceedence of the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure standards was recorded and that was for particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀). The exceedence was recorded at the Civic monitoring station on 19 October and was the result of a hazard reduction burn in NSW.

During 2013 the 24-hour **advisory** reporting standard for PM_{2.5} was exceeded six times at Monash. Four exceedences occurred between May and July and can be attributed to domestic wood heater emissions. Two exceedences occurred on 19 and 20 October respectively due to smoke coming from a hazard reduction burn in NSW.

What are the number of warnings issued this financial year?

One of the programs the ACT Government uses to reduce winter air pollution is the Don't Burn Tonight campaign.

Wood smoke pollution often becomes a problem in winter as cold stable conditions create an inversion effect which traps smoke near homes.

The Don't Burn Tonight campaign encourages Canberrans to use alternative heating on cold, still nights when smoke is unlikely to clear quickly.

The program, which is entirely voluntary, encourages people to act responsibly and runs from 1 June to 31 August every year.

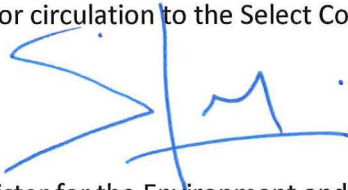
No warnings were issued last year.

How many inversions have been given?

Nil.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



1.7.14

Date:

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, MLA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE (QTON):

1. Answers to QTONs should be lodged in signed hard copy (not emailed) to the Committee Support office within **5 working days of the hearing day when the question was taken on notice**. Day 1 is the first working day after the day of the hearing in which the question is taken on notice. **Example:** *If the question is taken on notice on Monday, the answer should be submitted by close of business the following Monday (even if the hearings for the portfolio stretch across several days).*
2. Where an answer provides a referral to sources of information in published documents, the answer should include the name of the document, the author and / or agency publishing the document, page number/s, and a hyperlink to the document, if applicable.