QTON No. 15

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
13 November 2018

Asked by SUZANNE ORR MLA:

In relation to: The climate scenario that the Fenner School report on tree species was working towards

THE CHAIR: Okay. I just wanted to ask about the ANU Fenner School review into current tree species for Canberra. Can you—

Mr Rattenbury: I think that one sits over with TCCS.

THE CHAIR: That one does? It is in the sustainability section of the report, but—

Mr Rattenbury: Is it?

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Rattenbury: Okay. It is not one that I am familiar with.

THE CHAIR: That is all right. We can ask TCCS.

Mr Rattenbury: I am pretty sure you will find City Services—

Mr Rutledge: Sorry, Ms Orr. It was a report that we commissioned in part of our thinking for the Living Infrastructure discussion paper.

Mr Rattenbury: Yes. Sorry.

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Rutledge: And the report is really looking for what tree species and what habitation will be in a climate changed environment. So that has provided us some background work. And you can see in our Living Infrastructure discussion paper and also in what will be future Living Infrastructure strategy and action plan is really—what we are seeing is that in a drier, more extreme climate, we will need to plant different trees.

We have shared that information across government and we are just working—so we know what trees to do when we start replanting. And that expertise comes from the Fenner School. But there is a lot of expertise both within our own directorate but particularly in TCCS and at the arboretum. So yes.

THE CHAIR: And Mr Rutledge, within that study, is there much consideration given to, say, natives versus deciduous?

Mr Rutledge: There is. There is discussion and, if you will, it is species neutral in that it is not an anti-exotic or pro-native, as many foresters in the city are. It just talks about what species would hold up under our changing and more extreme climate.

THE CHAIR: Okay. And sorry, what is the climate scenario that the report was working towards?

Mr Rutledge: I will look at the report and get back to you on that because, yeah, I do not have it to mind. Mr McGlynn, do you want to add anything?

Mr McGlynn: So, yes, two things. Basically that the climate—

Mr Rattenbury: Just introduce yourself.

Mr McGlynn: Sorry. Gene McGlynn, Executive Director of Climate Change and Sustainability. There was some previous work done in looking at very detailed scientific data about what the likely impact of climate change will be in this region down to, you know, reasonably small areas. And so that was ...(indistinct)... [12.18.33] do that sort of study. And as Mr Rutledge was saying, there is a lot of analysis of that in terms of how that is going to affect what trees can grow and how they can deal with changing climate.

But it is also about the issue of which trees are best suited to deal with things like increased risk of bushfire, so there are some trees which are particularly prone to light on fire and there are others which are actually quite robust against fire and therefore provide firebreaks. And so it is trying to look at both sides of the equation., as to what can grow, but also what can protect us against the likely effects.

THE CHAIR: All right. Thank you. I will look forward to the answer on those.

Mr Rutledge: Yes.

MINISTER RATTENBURY: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The research in 2018 for EPSDD's Climate Change and Sustainability Division by the ANU's Fenner School was undertaken to inform adaptation measures for Canberra in the new *Climate Change Strategy to 2025* and the *Living Infrastructure Plan*.

The climate scenarios used were the projections from the:

1. New South Wales and ACT Regional Climate Model (NARCliM), plus
2. CSIRO's Representation Concentration (of greenhouse gasses) Pathways (RCP) 4.5 and also 8.5.

	2030		2050		2070		2090	
	Temp Change	*Rainfall Change*	*Temp Change*	*Rainfall Change*	*Temp Change*	*Rainfall Change*	*Temp Change*	*Rainfall Change*
NARCLiM	0.9°C	0%			2°C	0%		
CSIRO Climate Analogues – RCP 4.5 Maximum consensus	0.9°C	0%	1.2°C	1%			2°C	-4%
CSIRO Climate Analogues – RCP 8.5 Maximum Consensus	1.0°C	0%	2.0°C	-5%			4.2°C	-12%

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

Signature:

Date: 25/11/18

By the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Shane Rattenbury MLA