



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Kikkert MLA:

Ref: Budget Statement H, Table 16: Changes to appropriation – Controlled Recurrent Payments, subheading “2020-21 Budget Policy Decisions”, line item “Upgrading an intersection on Owen Dixon Drive”, p29

In relation to: Lawn mowing and maintenance

1. How much is being spent on the mowing of public spaces this financial year?
2. Does TCCS employ private contractors for the mowing of public spaces?
 - a. If so, how much is spent on employing these private contractors?
 - b. If so, how many subcontractors were hired in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 period.
 - i. What was the FTE equivalent of the hired subcontractors?
 - c. Were any of these subcontractors hired for managerial roles?
3. Are TCCS employees expected to mow grass against fences, streetlights or other obstacles that may be difficult for their ride on mowers to manoeuvre around?
 - a. Are TCCS employees equipped with whipper snippers and edger’s to mow every part of their assigned area?
4. Are TCCS employees expected to collect and take with them the cut vegetation after mowing?
5. Do TCCS employees receive training for using whipper snipper, edger’s and other lawn care tools?
 - a. If so, what other tools do they receive training in?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. At the commencement of the 2020/21 financial year, mowing costs of urban open spaces, parks and sportsgrounds by Place Management staff and their contractors were estimated at \$8.6m. Increased rainfall this season required additional investment of \$2.1m from the fast track stimulus program for additional mowing and weed control, bringing the estimated cost of the mowing program in 2020-21 (at March 2021) to around \$10.2m.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 103

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2. Yes
 - a. \$0.887m GST inclusive, no further contract mowing is anticipated beyond March 2021.
 - b. Nine contract companies were engaged in 2020/21 collectively employing 21 operators.
 - i. An FTE equivalent is unable to be determined.
 - c. No.
3. Mower operators are expected to stay 30cm away from any obstacle including fences, signs, and streetlights to avoid damage to the obstacles and to the mowing equipment.
 - a. Yes, TCCS staff are equipped with whipper snippers and edgers. During peak mowing times, priority needs to be given to maximising the area mown to ensure safety issues such as fire fuel management, line of sight and access are addressed. Follow up work with whipper snippers and the like is then undertaken as priorities allow.
4. No, except the removal of clippings from irrigated ovals and prunings from tree/shrub removal or maintenance.
5. Yes
 - a. Formal training is provided for the following:
 - Chainsaws.
 - Chemical application.
 - Ride on mowers.
 - Tractors.
 - Chipper operation and use.
 - Elevated work platforms.

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

Signature:

Date:

22/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA