



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
21 October 2021

Asked by Ms Castley on 21 October 2021: Mr Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Proof Transcript 21 October 2021 Page 56]

In relation to:

MS CASTLEY: Thank you, chair. Minister, in budget paper E you have added a target to reach 6,510 households to improve their sustainability through government initiatives. I am interested in how many households last year participated in the schemes by changing one gas appliance as opposed to completely getting off gas? Do you have those figures?

Minister Rattenbury: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- Several programs were available in 2020-21 to support households to upgrade from gas to electric:
 - A trial continued with Housing ACT properties which replaced 45 gas cooking appliances with electric alternatives in 2020/21. This resulted in removing each property's final gas appliance. The trial is being extended in 2021/22 to support a further 100 households, taking the total participating properties to 211.
 - In 2020 under the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) 2,157 households transitioned from gas to electric heating/cooling systems and water heater systems.
- The accountability indicator referenced in *Budget Paper E - Output 3.1(a)* of 6,510 households in 2021-22 was updated to capture the broad range of initiatives supporting ACT households to improve sustainability. This includes, but is not limited to, the replacement of gas appliances and includes items such as solar and battery installations under the Sustainable Households Scheme. Previously, this indicator only captured assistance provided through the Household Low Income Program.
- In 2020-21 other initiatives supported ACT households to improve sustainability and energy efficiency, including advice and information to switch from gas to electric. Initiatives included:
 - online workshops, a dedicated phone and email line, home energy assessments and online tools/resources via the Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice service reaching over 2,600 Canberra households.
 - home energy assessments, solar installations, No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) subsidies and workshops or education sessions reaching 1,214 low income Canberra households.
- The EEIS is an electricity retailer obligation scheme that aims to encourage the efficient use of energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use in the Territory, reduce households and business energy use and costs, and increase opportunities for priority households to reduce energy use and cost.

- Activities delivered under the EEIS support ACT households to transition from natural gas to electricity, with upgrades currently offered under the scheme to transition households from gas to energy-efficient electric space heating and cooling and hot water systems.
- The EEIS collects data on specific activities delivered and does not capture information regarding a household's complete transition off gas, as this is not within the scope of the scheme's mandate.
- Under legislation, the EEIS reports data on a calendar year with the above figures reflecting January to December 2020.

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

Signature:



Date:

1/11/21

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