



# Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

2021-2022-2023

## Questions on Notice Paper

No 36

Friday, 27 October 2023

---

### *New questions*

*(30 days expires 27 November 2023)*

1444 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) How many trees have been planted in each suburb in Yerrabi.
- (2) Is the planting project for Yerrabi complete.
- (3) Is there a new tree maintenance plan to check on the growth and health of the trees recently planted.
- (4) Is there a plan to water the new trees during the hot summer months.

1445 **MR CAIN:** To ask the Minister for Business and Better Regulation —

- (1) What are the details of the governing regulation that determines (a) when drones are allowed to be used during the day, (b) when drones are allowed to be used during the night, (c) who is eligible for a drone licence and what the requirements are for acquiring permission to fly a drone, (d) whether it is legal to fly drones through suburban, RZ1 neighbourhoods, and if it is legal, what is the licence that permits this activity and (e) whether it is legal to fly drones around district, town or group centres, and if it is legal, what is the licence that permits this activity.
- (2) Are there separate categories of licensing that allow for more privileges when operating a drone than others, i.e., can some users fly a drone under more liberal conditions than others; if so, what are the details of the governing regulation.

- (3) Are drones restricted from being operated in certain zones in the ACT; if so, what are the details of the governing regulation.
- (4) Are there height limits to flying a drone; if so, what are the details of the governing regulation.

1446 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) In relation to trees planted close to the fence line for those living in Nicholls who back onto the golf course, can the Minister advise, if a grant has been given for tree planting, what are the guidelines for the planting process for (a) type of trees, (b) density, (c) maintenance and (d) communication strategy.
- (2) What species of trees can be planted near (a) water mains and (b) sewage lines.
- (3) Is there a planting guide for eucalyptus trees in particular, and how (a) close they can be planted to homes and (b) densely they can be planted in a suburban area.

1447 **MR CAIN:** To ask the Attorney-General —

- (1) Broken down by the financial years of (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20, (c) 2020-21, (d) 2021-22, (e) 2022-23 and (f) 2023-24 to date, (i) on how many separate matters was the ACT Government sued, (ii) how many of these cases were settled out of court, (iii) what was the total dollar value of those settlements and (iv) what was the highest value settlement.
- (2) Broken down by the financial years of (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20, (c) 2020-21, (d) 2021-22, (e) 2022-23 and (f) 2023-24 to date, in relation to matters where the ACT Government was sued, (i) how many went before the courts, (ii) what did the ACT Government pay in external legal fees, (iii) how many of those did the ACT win, (iv) how many did the ACT lose, (v) can the Minister provide any other outcomes that came of these cases and (vi) what was the total dollar value of compensation ordered to be paid by the ACT Government.

1448 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services — Can the Minister advise what traffic calming measures will be implemented in Nicholls, following safety concerns raised by constituents, at (a) Curran Drive between the roundabout at the golf course and the roundabout at Curran and Temperley Street, (b) Curran Drive between the roundabout at Temperley Street and McClelland Avenue and (c) Temperley Street between the Dobbin Circuit roundabout and Steadman place.

1449 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) Was an additional crew funded to support mowing efforts in the 2022-23 budget year; if so, will this crew funding continue.
- (2) If the crew funding is to continue, for how long will it continue, and why is this additional crew needed.
- (3) If the crew funding is not to continue, why not.

1450 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for Health — Can the Minister provide the median wait time for all calls through the Community Health Intake line at Canberra Health Services for every month for the past 12 months.

1451 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

In this current season, how many mowers and Transport Canberra and City Services staff are available to mow in the (a) Belconnen, (b) Tuggeranong, (c) Gungahlin, (d) Inner North, (e) Inner South and (f) Woden/ Weston Creek regions.

1452 **MR CAIN:** To ask the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction —

- (1) What, if at all, is the noise decibel level threshold for residential buildings to be considered defective.
- (2) Are structural noise issues in buildings considered in the building certifier's assessment.
- (3) Do governing regulations exist for structural noise issues in buildings; if so, can the Minister provide the relevant details.
- (4) How many legal cases in the ACT have been brought by owners' corporations or unit-owners against builders, developers or certifiers related to structural noise issues in the past, including cases that went to the (a) Supreme Court and (b) ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- (5) Can the Minister provide examples of cases where a building was deemed defective due to unacceptable noise levels, and what were the outcomes of those cases.
- (6) Can the Minister provide an update on the recommendations made by the Inquiry into Building Quality in the ACT in 2020, and address whether structural building noise issues were considered as part of the scope of the adopted recommendations.

1453 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services — Can the Minister increase the amount of recycling bins provided in Temperely Street, given constituents have raised concerns about the amount of recycling bins provided at the townhouse complex at 21 (Tristania), 23 (Melaleuca), 25 (Sequoia) and 27 (Grevillia) Temperely Street.

1454 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for the Environment —

- (1) In relation to the response to question on notice No 707, can the Minister provide (a) an update on what program the Government is developing to control the increasing rabbit population and (b) a breakdown of specific locations where the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate has identified as a priority to reduce rabbit populations.
- (2) Can the Minister provide an update on the rabbit population across the electorate of Yerrabi in particular the suburb of Nicholls.
- (3) What is the current population of rabbits in each suburb in Yerrabi.
- (4) What is the plan to manage the population of rabbits in Yerrabi.
- (5) Can an assessment be undertaken of the population of rabbits in Nicholls, particularly near Sue Geh Circuit and the area surrounding Temperley Street and the Stedman place playground.

1455 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services — Can the Minister provide, for each individual year since 2013, the (a) base level budget available for mowing operations, including in-house and contracted services, (b) total value of initiative funding provided to “top up” the service, its purpose, and the timing of the availability of the funds, (c) number of mowers and staff available in Transport Canberra and City Services for mowing, funded (i) from that base level and (ii) by the initiative, (d) number of mowers provided by contracted services, indicating the activity they are asked to deliver and (e) total amount of hectares mowed by (i) ACT Government staff and the (ii) contracted service.

1456 **MR CAIN:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) Can the Minister provide an update on William Hovel Drive and the status of the road duplication.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a timeline for when they expect construction to begin and the furnished road to become operational.

1457 **MS LEE:** To ask the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety — Is it a condition of holding a Secure Local Jobs Code Certificate that an entity must enter bargaining negotiations with a union.

1458 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) Is a copy of all fire trails available with the ACT Road Centrelines database.
- (2) Can the Minister provide an electronic copy of the register of all fire trails available within the ACT Road Centrelines database.

1459 **MS LEE:** To ask the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety —

- (1) How many formal, written complaints against certificate holders were made to the Secure Local Jobs Code (SLJC) Registrar, for each financial year since the SLJC was established.
- (2) Of those complaints referred to in part (1), how many (a) were investigated, (b) businesses were audited as a result of a written complaint, (c) complaints were dismissed, (d) complaints resulted in the cancelling of a SLJC certificate, and what grounds was each of those cancellations made, (e) complaints were referred to another government entity (f) resulted in business premises being entered and/or inspected by authorised government officers.
- (3) How many informal (verbal or otherwise) complaints were made to the SLJC Registrar.

1460 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) In relation to fire trail maintenance, what is the budget which has been allocated to rectify, address these impediments, fix the reason for closures/restricted access, as well as the key project delivery milestones, including relevant required environmental approvals.
- (2) What is the individual fire trail “timeframe for completion” in order to meet the required standards, and the mechanism by which the ACT Government will report on these works being fully completed given the predicted fire season confronting the ACT community.

1461 **MS LEE:** To ask the Treasurer — In relation to the downgrading of the Territory’s credit rating to AA+, can the Treasurer advise (a) the interest rate assumptions used to develop the 2023-23 Budget for new bonds struck to refinance current fixed rate bonds on issue as they fall due, with particular reference to those bonds listed in Table 3.8.10, on page 284 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook, prior to S&P Global’s downgrade decision, (b) the revised interest rate assumptions for new bonds struck to refinance current fixed rate bonds on issue as they fall due, with particular reference to those bonds listed in Table 3.8.10, on page 284 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook, subsequent to S&P Global’s downgrade decision, (c) the interest rate assumptions used to develop the 2023-23 Budget for financial years (i) 2023-24, (ii) 2024-25, (iii) 2025-26 and (iv) 2026-27 on new borrowings referenced in Table 3.8.13, on page 285 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook, prior to S&P Global’s downgrade decision, (d) the revised interest rate assumptions for financial years (i) 2023-24, (ii) 2024-25, (iii) 2025-26 and (iv) 2026-27 on new borrowings referenced in Table 3.8.13, on page 285 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook, subsequent to S&P Global’s downgrade decision and (e) any revisions to the figures stated in Table 3.8.13, on page 285 of the 2023-24 Budget Outlook, subsequent to S&P Global’s downgrade decision.

1462 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) Was an Emergency Services Agency audit undertaken of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service Bushfire Operational Plan.
- (2) Did the audit review the Namadgi National Park fire trail maintenance, upgrades, and works.
- (3) What were the findings of the audit with regards to the Namadgi National Park fire trail maintenance, upgrades, and works.
- (4) Will the Minister release this audit to the public.

1463 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) What is the basic standard for a fire trail to access Namadgi National Park to be safe to use in the event of a bushfire.
- (2) What additional standard must be met to enable a float of a light dozer on the back of a suitable transport truck.
- (3) Are the fire trails in Namadgi National Park up to these fire trail roading standards and classifications as prescribed under the ACT Bushfire Management Standards.

- (4) What percentage of fire trails, and distance in kilometers, meet the standards and classifications as prescribed under the ACT Bushfire Management Standards.
- (5) Can the minister provide a comprehensive list of those fire trails across Namadgi National Park as of today, which (a) either do not meet the fire trail roading standards and classifications as prescribed under the ACT Bushfire Management Standards, (b) are closed or (c) are inaccessible to the Emergency Services Agency Rural Fire Service appliances, including operational and logistical support units.

1464 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Business and Better Regulation —

- (1) What support is on offer for small businesses still struggling from the impacts of the Covid-19 lockdowns.
- (2) Are there any grants available to help relieve businesses of ongoing financial pressure.
- (3) What is the Government doing to ensure on-going support for small business in the ACT.

1465 **MS LEE:** To ask the Treasurer — For each of the financial years from 2016-17 to 2022-23 (inclusive), can the Treasurer advise the number of entities (where grouping arrangements count as a single entity) that paid payroll tax, for the brackets of (a) \$2,000,000.00 - \$2,999,999.99, (b) \$3,000,000.00 - \$4,999,999.99, (c) \$5,000,000.00 - \$9,999,999.99, (d) \$10,000,000.00 - \$19,999,999.99, (e) \$20,000,000.00 - \$49,999,999.99, (f) \$50,000,000.00 - \$99,999,999.99 and (g) \$100,000,000.00 and higher.

1466 **MS LEE:** To ask the Minister for Health — Can the Minister advise, for the financial year 2022-23, how many emergency department presentations were made, broken down by the categories of (a) motor vehicle accidents, (b) sports injuries, (c) cycling injuries, (d) e-scooter injuries, (e) heart attacks/cardiac arrests, (f) poisoning, (g) respiratory issues, (h) infectious diseases and (i) no classification.

1467 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management —

- (1) In relation to the proposed development in Casey, and the Government's commitment to build a college in Nicholls, will the Government develop a road and traffic management study to assess the impact these developments will have on residents and traffic congestion.
- (2) Does the Government have plans to duplicate Clarrie Hermes Drive and Gungahlin Drive, the two major roads which would be affected by these developments.

1468 **MS LEE:** To ask the Treasurer — In relation to the downgrading of the Territory's credit rating to AA+, can the Treasurer advise on what date and time (a) was the Treasurer (or his staff) first made aware of S&P Global's decision to downgrade the ACT's credit rating from AAA to AA+, (b) were Treasury officials first made aware of S&P Global's decision to downgrade the ACT's credit rating from AAA to AA+, (c) was the Treasurer (or his staff) first made aware of S&P Global's concerns about the ACT's budget position and the possibility that it might result in a credit rating downgrade and (d) were Treasury officials first made aware of S&P Global's concerns about the ACT's budget position and the possibility that it might result in a credit rating downgrade.

1469 **MR MILLIGAN:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) When will the Minister release the 2023-24 Bushfire Operational Plan to the public.
- (2) Will the Minister make this available on the website.
- (3) What is the budget allocated for this year's Bushfire Operational Plan, for fire trail maintenance, upgrades and enhancements works for fire trails across Namadgi National Park for the 2023-24 season.
- (4) What is the extent and nature of the fire trail maintenance, upgrades and enhancements works for fire trails across Namadgi National Park for the 2023-24 season.
- (5) What is the progress on the implementation of access works against the timeframe of the Bushfire Operational Plan and cumulative, against the longer-term actions identified in Regional Fire Management Plan.

1470 **MS CASTLEY:** To ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) How many submissions has the Consumer Feedback and Engagement team received, each month, over the last 12 months.
- (2) How many people work in the Consumer Feedback and Engagement team.
- (3) What are the service level agreements for this team.
- (4) For each month referred to in part (1), (a) what was the average length of time it took to respond to each submission and (b) how many submissions were responded to late and by what timeframe.
- (5) How are the submissions triaged.
- (6) Do people submitting feedback get an automatic response when the initial feedback is submitted.

1471 **MS LEE:** To ask the Treasurer — In relation to the downgrading of the Territory's credit rating to AA+, can the Treasurer provide any dates that (a) the Treasurer (or his staff) attended meetings with S&P Global in 2023 and (i) the names of any attendees and (ii) any minutes from those meetings and (b) that Treasury officials met with S&P Global in 2023 without the Treasurer or his staff in attendance and (i) the names of any attendees and (ii) any minutes from those meetings.

1472 **MS LEE:** To ask the Treasurer — Can the Treasurer provide the number of rateable dwellings, broken down by suburb, for the financial years 2021-2022 and 2022-23.

1473 **MS LEE:** To ask the Attorney-General — In relation to the Board of Inquiry into the Criminal Justice System in the ACT, can the Attorney-General provide the (a) cost of the inquiry, broken down by detail, amount, and area of expenditure, (b) cost of any subsequent legal proceedings relating to the inquiry and (c) costs attributed to any other ACT Government directorates involved in the proceedings.

1474 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — Can the Minister confirm that there are evacuation and sheltering plans for each suburb in Canberra in case of emergency, without sharing the evacuation plans; if not individual suburbs, what are the evacuation plans for areas of Canberra.

1475 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) Are there any plans to install street lights along the walking track from the northside of Maribyrnong Avenue near the St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church to the easternmost alleyway that intersects with Rubicon Street and beyond.
- (2) Are there any plans to install street lights along the alleyways that intersect with Rubicon Street.
- (3) How many pieces of feedback has the Government received about street lights in this area since 1 January 2021.
- (4) Have there been any studies to implement lights for safety in this area, given this area is popular for foot traffic.

1476 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation —

- (1) What was the total cost of the rehabilitation of the Holt ovals along Moyes Crescent.
- (2) Can the Minister provide an itemised list of the costs referred to in part (1).

1477 **MS CLAY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) How many of the 8,987 path defects identified in the 2021 footpath audit have been repaired.
- (2) For each of the priority codes (a) Very Low Risk, (b) Low to Medium Risk, (c) High Risk and (d) Very High Risk, how many of each of these defects (i) were identified and (ii) have been repaired.
- (3) How many path defects which were not identified in the 2021 audit have since been (a) reported and (b) repaired.

1478 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) What is the estimated daily consumption in the ACT, as of 28 October 2023, of the substances of (a) MDMA, (b) amphetamines, (c) cocaine, (d) methylamphetamine, (e) heroin, (f) lysergic acid, (g) lyergide, (h) psilocybine and (i) cannabis.
- (2) How many illicit drug related presentations were recorded daily at ACT medical facilities, since 1 January 2023.



1479 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — How many hazard reduction burns have been done, since 1 January 2017, in the area around Ginninderry, ie., south of Ginninderra Creek, east of the Murrumbidgee River, west of Spofforth Street and West Macgregor and north of the Molonglo River.

1480 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) What indicators does the ACT Government track to help assess levels of illicit drug usage in the ACT.
- (2) What new indicators will the ACT Government implement, after decriminalisation, to better track illicit drug usage.

1481 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) How many people contacted the Alcohol and Drug Service Intake and Helpline seeking assistance for themselves or someone they knew for assistance dealing with a drug issue, between 1 January 2022 and 28 October 2023.
- (2) Of the contacts referred to in part (1), how many were subsequently referred to (a) the government counselling team/another government organisation and (b) a non-government agency
- (3) How many residential rehabilitation beds existed in the ACT, as of 28 October 2023.
- (4) Of the beds referred to in part (3), how many were (a) owned by the ACT, (b) owned by non-government organisations and (c) vacant and available for new clients.
- (5) What was the waiting time for a client to be offered a bed in a residential rehabilitation facility, as of 28 October 2023, for (a) government facilities and (b) non-government facilities.
- (6) How much was spent on government provided drug rehabilitation services in the (a) 2022-23 and (b) 2021-22 financial years.
- (7) How much was spent by government supported non-government organisations on drug rehabilitation services in the (a) 2022-23 and (b) 2021-22 financial years.
- (8) How much funding is being provided to government provided drug rehabilitation services in the 2023-24 financial year.
- (9) How much funding is being provided to government supported non-government organisations on drug rehabilitation services in the 2023-24 financial year.

1482 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — What risks is the Government aware of that stem from, or are exacerbated by, only having one way in or out of a suburb.

1483 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) How many non-structure related fires occurred, between 1 January 2017 to present, in the area around Ginninderry, ie, south of Ginninderra Creek, east of the Murrumbidgee River, west of Spofforth Street and West Macgregor and north of the Molonglo River.
- (2) In relation to the fires referred to in part (1), (a) how large were those fires, (b) how much did it cost for repair and (c) what was the shortest distance between one of those fires and a home in Ginninderry.
- (3) How many fires were reported at the Canberra Sand and Gravel Green Waste on Parkwood Road, between 1 January 2017 to present.
- (4) In relation to the fires referred to in part (3), (a) what was the cause of those fires and (b) how many of those fires required an emergency response.

1484 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) How many full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are Libraries ACT funded for.
- (2) Are FTE positions funded for Libraries ACT as a whole or is each library given a specific FTE allotment.
- (3) How many FTE positions are currently filled for Libraries ACT and each library.
- (4) How many times, between 1 January 2022 to present, has each library been forced to close early or not open at all due to short staffing.
- (5) How many times did Kippax library close in October 2023, and what was the reason.

1485 **MS CLAY:** To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management —

- (1) For the financial years of (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18, (c) 2018-19, (d) 2019-20, (e) 2020-21, (f) 2021-22 and (g) 2022-23, were each of the suburbs of (i) Gungahlin, (ii) Taylor, (iii) Forde, (iv) Crace, (v) Harrison, (vi) Bonner, (vii) Casey, (viii) Jacka, (ix) Moncrieff, (x) Throsby, (xi) Ngunnawal, (xii) Lawson, (xiii) Strathnairn, (xiv) Wright, (xv) Coombs, (xvi) Denman Prospect and (xvii) Whitlam, considered greenfield suburbs for the purposes of the 70/30 targets.
- (2) Were there any housing completions or approvals in any other suburbs which were considered greenfield within those years. if so, (a) where were these and (b) how many completions occurred in each, and in what years.

1486 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) How many sharps were collected, every month, by government workers between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (2) How many reports were made to the sharps hotline, every month, between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (3) How many other pieces of drug paraphernalia broken down by type, ie, bongs, pipes, spoons, were collected, every month, by government workers between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the top 10 areas in Canberra that collects the most amount of sharps and drug paraphernalia.

1487 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) How many drug related incidents were recorded by ACT Policing, broken down by type of offence and drug(s) involved, between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (2) How many individuals possessing illicit drugs were charged or fined, between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (3) How many individuals possessing a small amount of illicit drugs that is decriminalised in the ACT, were charged or fined, between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (4) How many individuals possessing illicit drugs were not charged or fined and instead directed to rehabilitation services, between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.
- (5) How many individuals possessing a small amount of illicit drugs that is decriminalised in the ACT were not charged or fined, between 1 January 2022 to 28 October 2023.

1488 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — In relation to the response to question on notice No 1425 in which the Minister referred to bushfire risk reduction and mitigation measures such as systems for rapid detection of fire ignitions and infrastructure developed by the Emergency Services Agency, can the Minister provide more detail on these risk reduction and mitigation measures, including the development and utilisation of the asset protection zones around Ginninderry.

1489 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) How is it anticipated that residents will be able to evacuate the Ginninderry area with their vehicles, in the case where Pro Hart Avenue is unusable during an emergency such as a bushfire.
- (2) Are there any requirements in emergency related legislation that new suburb developments must comply with, such as multiple roads in and out of an area to allow for more routes of escape and access in case of emergency; if so, what are those requirements; if not, are there any planning policies on new suburbs to build more than one access to the suburb.

**T Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

---