



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Pages 22-23]

In relation to: Cost and frequency of LiDAR monitoring

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

QTON lodgement date: 05/08/2024

Answer Due Date: 08/08/2024

MS CLAY: Thank you, Chair.

The content of the Biodiversity Sensitive Design Guide is great. It got a good airing during the various inquiries into this. I am often asked how do we know it is actually going to deliver what we are after? What sort of on the ground monitoring are we doing of canopy coverage, our lighter data, so that we can actually see that site limitation protections and the Biodiversity Sensitive Design Guide are in actual fact giving us the greenspaces that we want them to give us?

Mr Engle: There is definitely lighter surveys that are done on a regular basis. I would have to check. I believe there is one coming in the next 12 months—

MS CLAY: Yes.

Mr Engle: And yes, that is used as part of the government's monitoring of those various targets. So some of that will be captured as part of just normal reporting in annual reports, and in other publicly available information. Some of that goes into the baseline information as part of the evaluation framework.

MS CLAY: Mr Ingall, can you take on notice when the last LiDAR was—

Mr Engle: Of course.

MS CLAY: When the next one is, and what the usual—

Mr Engle: The cadence, of course. Yes, happy to take that on notice.

MS CLAY: Yes. It is a complicated area. It is a high area of concern. And I think it would be reassuring for people to see when the regular monitoring will come.

Mr Engele: My team has actually just sent me a message that says, LiDAR is being flown in January 2025. I will try and find out when the last survey is scheduled.

MS CLAY: And then maybe the next one after January 2025, because January 2025 might have to act as our baseline, I guess.

Mr Engele: They have also sent me some information that says, 2020 was the previous one—

MS CLAY: Yes.

Mr Engele: —and it is taken every five years.

MS CLAY: Can I ask why they are only every five years? Because that is quite a big period. Like, if we are not moving in the right direction and we have let it go for five years, why would we not do that every year or every two years? It is pretty key data.

Mr Engele: I think it is quite a significant cost to undertake the survey. It is usually done with low flying aeroplanes. But I would have to take on notice about what the—

MS CLAY: Can you take on notice what the reason is and what the cost of the last one is?

Mr Engele: Yes.

MS CLAY: Like any handy cost information that you can provide.

Mr Engele: Of course.

MS CLAY: Thank you, Chair.

MINISTER STEEL: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The ACT Government has captured LiDAR in 2004, 2015, 2020. This information is gathered using low flying aircraft and EPSDD is undertaking this again in early 2025. Costs in relation to this service vary and are determined through a procurement process. Previous costs for 2015 and 2020 are outlined below:

	2015	2020
LIDAR Capture, Processing and Quality Assurance	\$227,894	\$355,531
Near Infrared Imagery Capture and Processing	\$38,200	\$79,112
Derivative Products (i.e. Elevation model, contours, building footprints, canopy cover, permeability)	\$102,336	\$43,560
Total cost	\$368,430	\$478,203

It should be noted that these costs include GST but do not include ACT Government staffing or data retention costs.

The LiDAR data capture process is undertaken every 5 years to allow time to:

- Secure funding
- Prepare LiDAR specification and survey information
- Undertake the procurement process
- Complete the actual aerial survey
- Undertake post survey quality assurance and
- Undertake an analysis and processing of the data.

Capturing LiDAR every five years is both cost effective and practical as it provides a range of data such as information relating to trees, buildings and topography. The LiDAR data is used across multiple ACT Government areas and is published as open data to assist industry and the broader community.

It is ideal to capture at this interval to provide a consistent change over the entire Territory and capture data as specific areas are being developed.

The ACT Government also has a regular aerial imagery program, capturing imagery seasonally over the urban extent, and annually over the entire Territory.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

8 / 8 / 24

By the Minister for Planning, Chris Steel MLA