



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr James Milligan MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: Annual Reports 2023-2024: Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, page 84

Hearing: 14 February 2025

In relation to: Tree Planting

Question received: 18 February 2025

Answer Due: 26 February 2025

To ask the Minister for City and Government Services — On page 84, the infographic states that 23,304 trees were planted in the urban environment under programs managed by TCCS.

- (1) What are the considerations made when planting trees in urban environments?
- (2) Are residents consulted before these trees are planted on nature strips outside their property?

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) Considerations when planting trees in the urban environment include:
 - areas identified as vulnerable to heat and suburbs with low canopy cover, where the heat island effect is extreme;
 - locations in which trees would actively contribute to canopy cover;
 - locations where trees have been removed, both due to storm damage and the ageing tree population potentially endangering public safety;
 - street trees are selected according to their street designation;
 - locations which support heritage values and garden city principles;
 - underground and overhead utility services;
 - planting species and selecting sites where habitat connectivity can be increased whilst supporting biodiversity and minimising impact to threatened species and environments, achieved through consultation with EPSDD ecologists;
 - ensuring fire risk is minimised by species selection and placement, allowing space for Fire Management Unit practices to be effectively undertaken;
 - open space tree locations are consulted with our mowing teams and any impact trees may have on waterways and dams; and
 - sites requested by the public.

OFFICIAL

- (2) Tree Planting Notice (TPN) letters are provided to households in which a tree is proposed for planting on the nature strip. A three-week window is provided for consultation, in which residents can provide feedback for their own address, feedback can be provided via QR code website link or a direct phone call to Access Canberra (13 22 81). Residents are able to request a specific location on their verge, request species change or reject the planting completely. It should be noted that if a planting site has been requested by the resident themselves, they may not receive a TPN.

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

Signature:



By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

26/2/25