



Inquiry into the provision of municipal services in Canberra

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: City Services and Results of grass replacement trial

Hearing: 19 February 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: p 77

Transcript provided: 25 February 2026

Answer Due: 4 March 2026

Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services - took on notice the following question(s):

MR BRADDOCK: There was a trial and forward in terms of replacing some grassed areas with tan bark or similar. Has the— to reduce the amount of mowing area. Has there been a results of that trial being produced by the government?

Ms Marriage: I would have to take that one on notice and check into it for you.

Ms Cheyne: Yes. We will let you know either way, but we will try and give you as much detail as we can if it is done.

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

City Services was involved in grassy box woodland restoration projects in collaboration with community and catchment groups and the Sustainable Urban Green Space project with ACT Natural Resource Management.

12 urban open spaces in the Belconnen/Gungahlin areas, including Proud Street, Forde, were identified as suitable for an urban green space 'refresh' strategy. This alternative management approach aimed at trialling the establishment of native 'garden-bed' style enhancement work, including mulching, placement of logs and boulders and understorey planting, using remnant mature trees as focal points. It aimed to increase the health and retention of remnant trees, as well as increasing biodiversity and social values at these sites, and thereby also reducing long-term maintenance costs.

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These sites will be revisited to guide future projects aimed at increasing the health of remnant native trees within the urban area, and further planting may also be undertaken at the original sites if establishment has not been successful.

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

Signature: 

Date: 11/3/26

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