



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mark Parton MLA

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

Asked by Nicole Lawder MLA:

Ref: Waste and Recycling, Budget Paper H, Page 18, Output 2.3

In relation to: Closure of Green Waste Facility

1. Why was the green waste facility scheduled for closure by the Labor/Greens government when there was no feasible alternative identified?
 - a) Why did it take the Government a petition with over 2000 signatures to listen to community feedback?
 - b) Even with a petition signed by over 2000 locals, has the government still failed to provide a suitable alternative or even a confirmed plan, over 5 months later?
 - c) Does the Government think it is acceptable for the community to wait 5 months (and counting) to be provided a transparent plan to ensure a Green waste facility will be available in North Canberra?
 - d) Why as a 'zero emissions Government' who claims on the EPSDD website to 'lead by example to showcase the best practise sustainability in Government operations' does this Government fail to prioritise the only green waste facility on the Northside of Canberra?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Government has commenced a strategic waste infrastructure study to identify current and future waste requirements for the ACT, with a particular focus on North Canberra. This work will also identify suitable locations for future waste collections points. The commencement of the closure was required to assist in the remediation of the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre and the future development of MacNamara. Working collaboratively with stakeholders, the green waste service has been able to continue while alternatives are identified.
 - a) The Government has responded to concerns raised by the community and has committed to providing ongoing access to green waste facilities in West Belconnen.
 - b) The Government is working with the operators of Canberra Sand and Gravel and the Ginninderry Joint Venture to retain green waste drop off in West Belconnen. The service at the current location will continue until a suitable alternative is operational.
 - c) The Government has committed to providing green waste processing on the northside and services are still being provided to residents at the existing Canberra Sand and Gravel site.

- d) The ACT Government continues to deliver increased services to the Canberra community, particularly in the Belconnen area. The green waste kerbside collection service continues to be well supported and we recently announced a food organics and garden organics pilot program in Belconnen to further enhance the recovery of waste from landfill. Green waste processing remains available to all northside residents at West Belconnen.

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

Signature:



Date:

3/11/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA