



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services
Ref: Transport and City Services, Annual Report
In relation to: Cat Containment

1. Given that the Draft Cat Plan was released for comment in April 2019, why has it taken so long for the ACT Government to introduce cat containment legislation into the ACT Legislative Assembly?
2. Will additional funding be provided to assist with the roll-out of cat containment and/or for community engagement to help increase uptake of voluntary cat containment?
3. Has any work commenced on identifying priority suburbs for cat containment soon due to the proximity to natures reserves or high conservation value?

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

1. The final Cat Plan was released in May 2021 with the immediate priorities of implementing cat registration and territory-wide cat containment by 1 July 2022. The ACT Government has delivered on these priorities with the Domestic Animals Amendment Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly in February 2022.
2. The Government announces funding commitments through the regular Budget and Budget Review processes.
3. When releasing the Cat Plan in 2021, Government agreed to apply cat containment legislation to all ACT suburbs for cats acquired from 1 July 2022, allowing for a balanced, grandfathered approach towards full Territory-wide cat containment. It was also agreed that the existing policy of declaring all newly developed suburbs as declared cat containment areas will continue unchanged due to the close proximity these suburbs have to nature reserves and the opportunity for cat owners to make an informed decision before moving into these areas.

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

Signature:

Date:

17/3/22

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