



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 8 November 2022, Annual Report of Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

In relation to: Tree Planting Loss Rate.

- 1) What is the planned or accepted loss rate of trees?
- 2) When a tree dies or may be illegally removed or some other issue, and another tree is replanted in that same spot, is that counted as another tree in the tree planting program?
- 3) If so, how many trees were "replacement" trees for trees that died/were removed?
- 4) Are the trees that were planted at Tuggeranong Town Centre in the area across the road from South.Point counted in the tree planting program?
- 5) 4 of the 6 trees in that area are dead/broken off. Are they going to be replaced? If so when, and what with?

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- 1) The loss of trees in the City Services planting program varies but can be approximately up to 4-5% which includes:
 - a. tree death (probably less than 1% of the total trees planted);
 - b. vandalism (tree remains but must be removed as no longer viable stock); and
 - c. missing trees (ie pulled out by residents or others).
- 2) Trees planted for Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) by contractors are maintained by them under consolidation. Any tree deaths during this time must be replaced by the contractor. After consolidation ends and a tree dies, is illegally removed or damaged, then its replacement is considered a new planting and is counted as another tree in the tree planting program. Some trees may not be replaced if it is deemed unviable, while others may be replanted and protection installed to prevent accidental vandalism, eg. in high use areas.
- 3) Planting programs include locations identified through a variety of platforms and over multiple years. Data is not available for the number of failed juveniles 'replaced' in a specific planting program.
- 4) The trees planted at the Tuggeranong Town Centre were planted as part of a capital works upgrade and were not counted in the tally of trees planted by the TCCS Urban Trees team.

- 5) City Services will be replacing the trees at Tuggeranong with the same species to ensure the continuity of the streetscape aesthetic and to maintain thermal comfort. Consideration will be given to sourcing more advanced (larger) plantings as well as the provision of a physical barrier that might afford some protection against vandalism. These trees will be scheduled for planting as part of the Autumn 2023 program and will be included in the target numbers. Species used are *Acer truncatum x platanoides* 'Warren red' and *Acer freemanii* 'Jeffers red'.

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

Signature:



Date: 22/11/22

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