



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Kyla Kerkow

In relation to: Wakefield Gardens Tree Removal

Hearing: 21 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 75

Transcript provided: 23 July 2026

Answer Due: 30 July 2026

Kyla Kerkow took on notice the following question(s):

MR EMERSON: Okay, and then decisions about what happens next will be part of the decisions about what happens next for the site, including the trees. I assume not all of them will stay forever, but—

Ms Kerkow: My understanding is that—I will take that on notice—but given the heritage overlay relates to the gardens and the trees, there is likely limitations in what can be done to any of the trees or the plants within the block boundary precincts because of the heritage overlay but we can take that on notice as to the specificity of which trees are included or not in the tree management plan

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Tree Management Plan (TMP) prepared for 91A Wakefield Gardens, Ainslie, identifies 22 trees and vegetation groups for retention and protection during demolition works. No trees or vegetation groups are proposed to be removed as part of the demolition project.

The following trees and vegetation within Section 27, Block 10 are identified in the TMP:

- 1 large, mature canopy tree located on the public verge along Wakefield Gardens.
- 5 ornamental street trees (Purple Plum type) located on the verge.
- 4 mature canopy trees along the northern boundary, including a large, mature Oak.
- 4 mature canopy and deciduous trees along the eastern boundary.
- 2 small ornamental trees in the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 3 mature deciduous canopy trees along the southern boundary.
- 3 shrubs or small tree clusters along the western and southwestern boundaries.

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All identified trees and vegetation groups are to be retained and protected during the implementation of Tree Protection Zones and other site management controls throughout demolition works.

Heritage considerations associated with the demolition works relating to the trees on the block were addressed separately through consultation with the ACT Heritage Unit during development of the demolition scope, noting no trees are proposed for removal as part of the project. The TMP was prepared to identify and protect the trees and vegetation to be retained during demolition works.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date:

30/7/26

By the Minister for the Public Service, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA