



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 Ms Jo Clay MLA:

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In relation to: Consultation with residents on street tree removals

One of the stated functions of City Services is "Significant Tree Protection" however there are instances where street trees need to be removed for a variety of reasons.

1. How does TCCS consult with neighbours in residential areas so they are well informed about why a tree may need to be removed and;
2. Can neighbours request a second opinion where they may disagree with the assessment that a tree needs to be removed?

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

1. When a tree requires removal, the adjacent resident is informed, either via phone or email provided the removal was requested, or at the residence after the inspection. The tree is then signposted for at least 14 days prior to the removal, unless urgent circumstances require swift action where a tree presents an unacceptable risk to the community. If the tree has been placed on a future removal program, the adjacent resident is notified by mail prior to the scheduled works.
2. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) is the ACT Government agency responsible for managing Canberra's urban trees and employs a team of suitably skilled and qualified staff to carry out this task. Ensuring that public safety is not compromised by the presence of trees within the urban area is a high priority and decisions relating to the management of urban trees are generally based on this objective.

If a neighbour requests a second opinion, a second arborist can attend the site to perform an assessment.

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

Signature:

Date:

1/11/21

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