



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: Accountability Indicators, Budget Paper H, Page 26, Output 2.4

In relation to: Abandoned Vehicles

1. Under the city services accountability indicators, the target for the removal of abandoned vehicles on unleased land within nine calendar days was 100% for the 2020-21 period, however the interim outcome was 75%.

I note that in the 2020-21 Budget, the target was again 100% but only 61% was achieved for the 2019-20 period.

Minister, why is this the case?

- a. Why haven't more resources been allocated given these indicators haven't been met for two consecutive years now?
- b. The 100% target was met in the 2018-19 period. Has this area been under resourced since then?
- c. I note that a tender recently closed for a "suitable organisation to provide a complete management service for vehicle collection, towing, secure storage, reclaiming ownership and disposal services for impounded abandoned vehicles in the ACT. Please note, this is a non-profitable initiative for the Territory, but instead a financial revenue opportunity for local organisations." Has a successful organisation been found?
- d. If it is non-profitable for the government, why will a local organisation be able to make money on it?
- e. Will it cost more for a local organisation to do this work as opposed to the cost it takes for TCCS?

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

1.
 - a. Two additional staff positions were allocated to the City Ranger team in 2020 to assist with a range of regulatory issues including abandoned vehicles. The reasons for not meeting the target are not related to resourcing; they are mainly due to the time required to properly investigate, determine the vehicle's owner and hold them accountable for proper management of their vehicle. This approach has seen a significant reduction in the number of declared abandoned vehicles (492 in 2016 compared to 221 in 2020-21) as more vehicles reported as abandoned are now

being managed by their owners as a result of regulatory actions being taken.
In addition, impacts from the health emergency and other factors have influenced the outcome.

- b. No.
- c. Initial Expressions of Interest have been received and are currently being evaluated to short list suitable businesses for tender.
- d. Local businesses with expertise in towing, managing and disposing of vehicles will be entitled to retain revenue from the towing and storage of claimed vehicles as well as revenue from the sale of unclaimed vehicles which are disposed of according to relevant legislation.
- e. No.

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

Signature:



Date:

4/11/21

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