



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 TAKEN ON NOTICE 1

24 February 2022

Asked by Ms Clay on 24 February 2022: Mr Walker took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 24 February 2022 [PAGE 4-5]]

In relation to: Indigenous positions in Parks and Conservation Services

THE CHAIR: I would love an update on notice, if I could, just of how we are tracking on that, ten new Ngunnawal positions. I am very happy if you want to come back on notice with that. That would be great.

Mr Walker: I certainly can.

MINISTER STEEL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) liaised with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee and was advised that employment of Ngunnawal people should not be limited to roles to care for Country, and that EPSDD should:

- provide employment opportunities to improve the engagement of Ngunnawal people in Caring for Country and for the integration of Ngunnawal knowledge and practices in environmental and land management activities more broadly; and
- create other career pathways for Ngunnawal people.

In line with this advice, EPSDD created six new positions across the Environment, Heritage and Water Division within EPSDD. This consisted of:

- three Ranger 1 positions;
- an Administrative Services Officer (ASO) Class 5 – Natural Resource Management Project Officer;
- an ASO5 Ngunnawal Conservation Research Officer; and
- an ASO6 Ngunnawal Water Policy Officer.

All positions have been successfully filled and staff commenced in the various roles in 2021.

The distribution of these new positions along with existing positions assists EPSDD to create career pathways and increase retention of Aboriginal staff. Another avenue to further increase retention of new staff is the development of the Yuma Induction Program. This program was specifically developed for the induction of the six new staff, supporting them with their commencement and

providing a cohesive understanding of working for ACT Government and managing cultural responsibilities and loads in the workplace.

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

Signature:



Date: 10/3/22

By the A/g Minister for Planning and Land Management, Chris Steel MLA