



Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **JO CLAY MLA**:

[Ref: Portfolio area, Annual Report, subject matter]

In relation to the ACT Government's commitment to a zero emissions government:

The ACT Government is committed to leading by example to showcase best practice sustainability in Government operations, by pursuing rapid emission reduction targets of greater than a 33 per cent reduction in emissions from Government operations by 2025 (from 2020 levels), and zero emissions from Government operations from 2040.

- 1) While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Health Directorate (HD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?
- 2) What is HD's current % reduction in emissions?
- 3) What measures have you put in place to reduce emissions?
- 4) Can you confirm that this is a reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) uses the ACT Government's Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP) to track and calculate its emissions. The ESP is a database that collates utility data such as natural gas consumption and transport fuel consumption and calculates the emissions profile for the Directorate.
- 2) In 2020-21, ACTHD's emissions decreased by 3.79 per cent.
- 3) ACTHD is committed to environmental sustainability in its own operations and in the ACT health system more broadly. The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25 commits ACTHD to several actions to improve the environmental performance of the health system and contribute to a zero-emissions health sector.

One of the actions outlined in the Climate Change Strategy is joining the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, which is a worldwide group of hospitals and health facilities that are committed to sustainable healthcare operations. The ACT joined in early 2021.

There are several other key areas in which ACTHD is focusing on environmental sustainability:

- a) The ACTHD headquarters in Bowes Street, Phillip, is operating at a NABERS efficiency rating of above 5 stars and has a rooftop solar PV system;
 - b) The ACTHD vehicle fleet is transitioning to electric vehicles. All new vehicles ACTHD leases are zero emissions (ZE) unless there is no fit-for-purpose ZE vehicle. In 2020-21 ACTHD leased six new electric vehicles, and one hydrogen vehicle; and
 - c) Embedding environmental sustainability into new infrastructure projects, including:
 - The Canberra Hospital Master Plan, which was issued in December 2021, lays out a pathway for the hospital campus to become zero emissions in the coming two decades;
 - The Government has announced that the Canberra Hospital Expansion will be all-electric; and
 - Planning is currently under way for the new hospital in Canberra's north to be all-electric.
- 4) Scope 2 emissions are recorded as zero as the ACT has 100 per cent renewable energy since 2020. The Government targets are for reducing Scope 1 emissions only.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

22 / 3 / 22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith