



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: Transport Canberra and City Services

Hearing: 11/02/2025

In relation to: Fix My Street requests and Fix My Street Trees

Question received: 12/02/2025

Answer Due: 19/02/2025

1. How many requests were made on Fix My Street in 23/24 relating to dangerous or otherwise problematic trees?
2. How many of those requests resulted in the tree being either pruned or removed?
3. What factors would be likely to lead to a tree removal? How much of that determination would be related to the health of the tree?
4. What is the suggested timeframe for the review of the Tree Management Act?
5. How will that review be undertaken? How wide will the consultation be and broadly speaking, which stakeholders will be included?

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. In 2023-24, there were 11,185 cases related to concerns about trees lodged through Fix My Street.
2. In 2023-24, the total number of Fix My Street cases assessed as requiring either pruning or removal was 5,127.
3. The Urban Treescapes team within Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) uses a risk identification and mitigation approach when assessing if a tree requires removal. Trees are adaptable organisms and can thrive in a variety of situations, factors for retention or removal include size of defect, location of the defect, health of the tree with the defect present, the location of the tree, target zone, occupancy rate, likelihood of failure and the consequence of failure. Trees with a higher risk rating in a high occupancy rate location are actioned sooner than trees in an open space. Differing arboriculture works can be undertaken to retain trees which include weight reduction, branch removal, habitat pruning and cable and bracing.
4. Pursuant to section 145 of the *Urban Forest Act 2023* a review was to be conducted two years after the Act's commencement. This means a review would need to be completed by

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January 2026. The ACT Government brought forward the review timings, which has now commenced.

5. TCCS has commenced an internal review of the *Urban Forest Act 2023*. The review will consider feedback received from the community and industry during the first year of operation. The review will seek to identify improvements that can be made to the application process and the operation of the Act. The focus of the review will also consider:
- modifications to Canopy Contribution Agreements to allow for greater flexibility.
 - the tree removal criteria.
 - incentives and alternatives for replacement of canopy consistent with ACT Government priorities.
 - that the objects of the Act support decision-making that leads to an appropriate balance between protecting or enhancing the urban forest while also supporting Government priorities.

Further consultation with cross government stakeholders and industry will occur during the review, when required. Any legislative amendments tabled in the Assembly will be practical and responsive to the issues raised and ensure a balance between achieving the objects of the Act and other ACT Government priorities.

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

Signature:



By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

19/2/25