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Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE



MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Ms Mary Porter

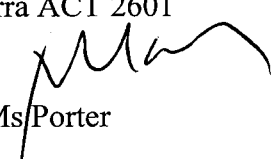
Chair

Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

Canberra ACT 2601


Dear Ms Porter

Please find attached responses to 2008 - 2009 Annual Reports Hearings –
Supplementary Questions from the Territory and Municipal Services Annual Report
Hearing on 5 February 2010.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

11 MAR 2010

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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**Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and
Territory and Municipal Services
2008-09 Annual Report Estimates
Supplementary Questions
5 February 2010
TAMS**

Questions:

- 1. What spending has there been on advertising ACTION products to encourage increased patronage?**
 - a. What forms of advertising were used, and why were those forms selected?**

In 08/09 ACTION spent \$479,522 on Advertising for Network 08.

A comprehensive communication strategy was rolled out and aimed at reaching current and potential bus users across the Canberra Community.

Forms of advertising included:

- Radio: \$30,959;
- TV: \$221,781;
- Print: \$37,782;
- Brochures: \$144,000*; and
- Bus Advertising: \$45,000.

* This cost also includes production of timetables, maps and customer information pamphlets.

- 2. Has there been any advertising specifically promoting park-and-ride/bike-and-ride facilities?**

There has been no advertising promoting park-and-ride/bike-and-ride facilities in 2008/09.

- 3. What programs have ACTION implemented to improve passenger satisfaction and timeliness of services?**

ACTION regularly reviews customer and driver feedback and uses these results to improve customer service. Changes to timetables based on feedback and monitoring are a regular part of ACTION's network reviews.

- 4. The ACT public Transport Strategic network plan mentions that TAMS commissioned a feasibility study to determining key potential locations for 'bike-and-ride' and 'kiss -and-ride' facilities.**
 - a. Has this strategy been completed, and what was the gist of the findings?**
 - b. If the study has not been completed, when is expected to?**

In 2009, TAMS completed a feasibility study to determine potential locations for bike-and-ride facilities throughout the ACT.

This study was conducted as part of the ACT Government's plan to increase the future mode share of sustainable transport modes. The public transport strategy is a component of this action plan.

The study identified locations for a number of bike-and-ride facilities and kiss-and-ride facilities across Canberra. The Government has already provided a bike-and-ride facility at one of the locations (incorporating this into the Mawson park-and-ride). Consideration of other sites for bike-and-ride and kiss-and-ride facilities will be undertaken in the context of future integrated transport planning.

5. Draft Aboriginal Heritage Guidelines – Have they been circulated and adopted and when is the consultation likely to begin?

The Aboriginal Heritage Guidelines have been drafted and forwarded to the ACT Heritage Council for consideration and comment. It is envisaged that the draft document will be finalised in early 2010 and then community consultation will commence. Some preliminary discussions have been held with the Representative Aboriginal Organisations and industry groups to identify issues and concerns prior to the finalisation of the draft Guidelines.

6. What is the current status of the Gungaharra Homestead?

- a. **What assurances can you give that the site will remain a heritage site and be preserved as such?**
- b. **What did you base your decision upon to allow a development to go ahead on the site?**

The Gungaharra Homestead has been nominated for inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register. Preliminary assessments of homesteads in the Gungahlin region were undertaken in early 2003 and indicated that this homestead has heritage values that meet ACT Heritage criteria. It is anticipated that this place will be formally assessed along with other rural properties in Gungahlin in 2010/11.

While the site remains nominated for inclusion onto the ACT Heritage Register it is afforded the protection of being fully registered. As such all development proposals need to be referred to the Heritage Unit/Council for assessment to ensure heritage values are not compromised.

A Development Application was submitted by CHC Affordable Housing to develop the site for aged care. An onsite meeting was convened with members of the ACT Heritage Council Development Application taskforce and conditional approval was granted for the proposed development. Revised documents prepared by the proponent that respond to suggestions made by the heritage Council are currently being assessed by Council.

- 7. Can you please inform what community engagement the Government is doing in regard to the urban forest renewal program?**
- a. Page 18 states you are developing a community engagement plan and program website – has this been done?**

In November 2009, the ACT Assembly agreed that the Urban Forest Renewal Program, along with other ACT Government urban tree management programs, be reviewed by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Pending finalisation of the Review, communication and community engagement activities associated with this new program are on hold. The Review is expected to be complete by June 2010.

- 8. When is the Jerrabomberra wetlands management plan due to be completed?**
- a. The draft plan was released in 2006 – has the Department undertaken and public consultation on the future of the wetlands since that time?**
- b. Is there any further public consultation planned?**

The final draft plan will shortly be considered by Cabinet prior to being referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services.

The Department has not undertaken any further public consultation since the draft plan was released for public consultation and no further public consultation is currently planned by the Department.

The Minister for Territory and Municipal Services has recently flagged that a master plan for the Wetlands will be developed following finalisation of the Plan of Management. The Master Plan will be developed in close consultation with the community.

- 9. What is the role of the round table meetings that have been held in regard to Jerrabomberra wetlands?**
- a. Can you inform us who attended the round table meetings and are there minutes from those meetings that are publically available?**
- b. How much ranger time did Jerrabomberra wetlands get last year from PCL?**

The roundtable meetings were attended by members of the Flora and Fauna Committee and Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee, Canberra Ornithologists Group, CSIRO and officers from ACTPLA, DECCEW, LDA and TAMS. No formal minutes were kept.

The time spent by rangers in individual reserves is not recorded.

10. Are rangers employed specifically for their skills in natural resources management (eg; grasslands) and do you have urban ranger teams and reserves teams, or are they one and the same?

a. Can you provide information on how this works?

The vast majority of rangers in Parks Conservation and Lands (PCL) have university degrees in environmental science or resource management and as such have the scientific training required to manage protected areas including natural temperate grasslands and/or woodlands. The Department also supports further training of ranger staff.

In addition there are City Rangers employed in the Licensing and Compliance branch of TAMS to assist in the management of events in urban parks and public places.

11. Are you able to provide a breakdown of the number of hours that were allocated last year in terms of ranger resources in each of our reserves and parks?

No. Ranger time is not recorded down to the level of individual reserves and parks.

12. How successful were the feral animal management practices in the Canberra Nature Park over the year?

a. What are the areas of real concern?

In the past 12 months, Parks, Conservation and Lands (PCL) have completed two successful large scale feral animal control programs.

These are:

- **Majura/Ainslie**
The rabbit control program undertaken on Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie Nature Reserve in Autumn 2009 reduced the population by approximately 85 per cent according to spotlight monitoring. Mapping of the area by local ParkCare volunteers prior to the commencement of the program showed that there were over 700 individual warrens across both reserves. Follow-up spotlight monitoring in late 2009 has shown that rabbit numbers are again beginning to increase, however the follow-up control program currently being undertaken across both reserves are indicating good results.
- **Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary**
Following the construction of the Sanctuary at Mulligans Flat, staff have undertaken programs to control the feral animals from within the Sanctuary. Recent monitoring results show that the programs appear to have eradicated both foxes (over 10 removed) and cats from within the Sanctuary. The rabbit numbers have been reduced by 85 per cent, however, the hare populations have increased due to the removal of predators. Control programs are currently being implemented by PCL staff to control both these feral animals within the Sanctuary.

Rabbit control was undertaken on both Red Hill Nature Reserves and Jerrabomberra West Grasslands in October 2008. At both locations warrens were ripped and rehabilitated. Subsequent inspection showed that very few of the warrens had been re-opened.

Other feral animal control work at Canberra Nature Park included fox baiting at Rob Roy Nature Reserve. Sand pad monitoring in Spring 2009 showed a fox abundance index rated at medium (on a scale developed by CSIRO). This indicates that foxes are migrating into the Reserve from surrounding farmland faster than they can be baited. PCL is addressing this by approaching the neighbouring land holders to be involved in a cooperative baiting program to increase the baited area.

13. One issue that has been highlighted to us is that of people running dogs of leash inside Nature Parks- how does TAMS go about educating the public about this?

a. What policing mechanism are there?

The *Domestic Animals Act 2000* makes it an offence to run a dog off-lead in non off-lead designated areas. PCL Rangers work co-operatively with officers from Domestic Animal Services to issue infringement notices, most recently on Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie. These are targeted activities undertaken after a targeted media campaign and appropriate on-site signage and warning period. Maps are available on the TAMS website showing dog off-leash areas.

Rangers address compliance issues opportunistically when on-reserve for other purposes (e.g. vertebrate pest management, supporting ParkCare activities, hazard reduction burning, etc). Reports received from the public on these issues are also addressed as they arise.

14. What width are Canberra's footpaths?

a. Is this compliant with AusRoads standards?

b. Are all new paths built to standard?

Footpaths are generally 1.2m wide. In some cases this width is increased to 1.5m. Paths of more than 1.8m in width are developed where there is likely to be shared pedestrian and cyclist use.

Paths are designed in accordance with the TAMS Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure. This standard is consistent with the principles adopted by various other jurisdictions throughout Australia.

All new paths are built to standard.

15. Is it a fact that the walkway and cycleway map isn't published in hard copy anymore?

a. Why's that?

The Canberra and Queanbeyan Cycling and Walking map is currently in the process of being updated. Until this process is completed, there are no plans to have the 2005 map reprinted.

- 16. The Albert Hall Conservation management and Landscape Plan 2007 proposed an extended heritage precinct for Albert Hall. Can you advise:**
- a. What stage is the legislation up to at the present time?**
 - b. When is the legislation likely to come before the Assembly?**
 - c. Does the current precinct need to be deregistered before the new registration and if so, will Albert Hall have no heritage status for a period of time?**

The Albert Hall Conservation Management and Landscape Plan 2007 is not a legislative issue as the Heritage Act 2004 applies.

There is no need for new legislation to be considered to expand the curtilage, or the enclosed land around a building, of the Albert Hall precinct. The process will be undertaken within the current legislative framework - *ACT Heritage Act 2004*.

The ACT Heritage Unit has sought advice/direction from the Government Solicitors Office (GSO) in relation to the process. The GSO advice indicates that the current/existing registration and curtilage of the Albert Hall will need to be deregistered and that a new citation with the increased curtilage for the Albert Hall will need to be registered. It is proposed to do this simultaneously with an appropriate communication strategy to minimise confusion. The heritage status of the Albert Hall will not lapse. The heritage values of the place remain unchanged and any proposed works would still need to ensure that these values are not compromised.

It is expected that this process will be completed in 2010.

- 17. Are recycling bins provided at major events – like sporting events, festivals etc?**
- a. What type of collections do these get?**

Parks, Conservation and Lands (PCL) provide additional rubbish services that include recycling bins, on a “do and charge” basis at the request of event organisers, e.g. the balloon festival, family and community day and the multicultural festival.

Information to assist organisers manage recycling at events is provide by ACT NoWaste at http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/Recycling_and_Waste/public_event_recycling.

Other groups who hold events on public land are responsible for arranging their own waste removal, although PCL may provide this service for a fee.

- 18. New bins were installed in Civic last year – have there also been bins installed in other town centres recently?**

One bin has been installed in Tuggeranong Town Centre and six bins were installed in Lonsdale and Mort Streets, Braddon.

19. What happens to not-for-profit organisations like tennis clubs, scout halls etc who are located on commercial land, and therefore don't get their rubbish collected or recycled – all the bottles etc just go into skips?

a. Can't you make some kind of accommodation for them

The Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) provides municipal waste and recycling collection services to residential households and multi-unit developments. The commercial waste and recycling industry services the non-residential sector, including not-for-profit organisations. It is the responsibility of each business or organisation to arrange its own services.

The ACT Government is a strong supporter of recycling in the non-residential sector and provides assistance through the office and business recycling program.

The ACT Government also supports recycling in preference to disposal at landfill through the Waste Pricing Strategy. Organisations that introduce or expand their recycling services and consequently reduce their waste disposal services may find they actually save money by doing so.

TAMS' core business is to provide municipal services. It is outside of this core business to directly provide waste and recycling services to the non-residential sector.

20. P13 refers to the recycling of tyres. Where do these tyres ultimately end up?

a. Are they shipped overseas for recycling or do they stay local?

Tyres presented at the Mugga Lane and Mitchell Resource Management Centres are transported to Sydney where they are shredded into 50mm chip by Tyrecycle Pty Ltd. Tyrecycle is the largest tyre collector and recycler in Australia. Once the tyres have been chipped the product is sent over to either Japan or Korea for further processing.

21. The TAMS statement of performance as at December 2009 stated that the annual tonnes of waste to landfill per head of population is 16% above the target.

a. What do you think caused this, and what kind of things can you do – and are you doing – to keep this figure low?

b. When is the projected life of the existing landfill? (Assume it should be what is)

c. What plans are being made for another landfill?

The ACT Government's No Waste by 2010 strategy has been very successful, improving overall recycling rates in the ACT from 42% in 1996 to 75% in 2009, the highest recovery level in the country. Nevertheless, waste production nationally continues to grow per head of population, with tonnes of waste to landfill in the ACT now increasing.

The Commercial and Industrial sector generates about half of the waste to landfill. The ACT Government is focussed on addressing this and in the 2009-

2010 Budget provided \$483,000 (\$225,000 in 2009-2010 and \$258,000 in 2010-2011) for a Commercial Waste Scheme that aims to improve recycling in the commercial sector, promote innovation in resource recovery and, as a consequence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The ACT Government has recently completed market research for a Request for Tender (RFT) document for a Hume Resources Recovery Estate (HRRE). The RFT seek to improve ACT commercial waste services by engaging the private sector to further develop the HRRE.

To further assist the ACT commercial sector to improve its waste management practices, the ACT Government released its Business and Office Recycling programs in July 2009. The 2009-10 budget of \$250,000 will allow the Department to provide a step-by-step program including best practice guides on waste management, advice and assistance to establish improved waste management systems, waste audits and staff education. Annual accreditation provides customer recognition of business and office waste management achievements.

The Government is also developing a new waste strategy that will incorporate a range of initiatives to further improve resource recovery and greatly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill in the ACT.

Current landfill cells are expected to be fully consumed by around 2014. Expansion options are being considered which may extend capacity to around 2017.

Studies have been conducted on capacity, future requirements, extension options and options to construct a new landfill. The ACT Government will consider options this year to ensure that Canberra's future landfill needs are met.