



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 7

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
MARISA PATERSON MLA (CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
2 March 2021

Asked by MS CASTLEY:

In relation to: Provision of Radiata Pine Seedlings

MS CASTLEY: The radiata pine seedlings. The ACT Government is spending \$1 million on the seedlings. So just wondering where they are going and what does the contract cover?

Mr Walker: Yes. So pine plantation—so the pine radiator are a pine plantation. So those pines are being planted as part of a program to, I guess, increase softwood opportunities in the territory. The number and costs are, you know, consistent with that scale of operation. And I am looking at Geoffrey, hoping Geoffrey is going to tell me on which piece of land that was—

Mr Rutledge: No, I am looking at you to say, we will take it on notice. And it will come back via Minister Gentleman. Because it is under the commercial forestry program—

MS CASTLEY: All right.

MINISTER VASSAROTTI: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

I have been advised that the Territory manages approximately 7500 hectares of commercial pine plantation located in rural areas of the ACT at Kowen, Pierces Creek and Uriarra. Every year forest managers plan for the planting of seedlings as part of sustainable plantation management.

The Territory has entered into contract with suppliers to provide pine tree seedlings over a five-year period valued at up to \$1 million. Revenue from the sale of mature trees fund all seedling and associated establishment costs. The contract ensures a reliable supply of high quality genetically superior *Pinus radiata* seedlings essential for the sustainable program of harvesting and replanting a minimum 200 hectares annually.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 11 / 3 / 2021

By the Minister for the Environment, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA