



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City Services

Reference: Budget Paper H page 26

Hearing Date: 24/07/2024

In relation to: TCCS and Waste and Recycling Investment

QON lodgement Date: 26/07/2024

Answer Due date: 06/08/2024

- 1) Why has the annual cost of domestic household waste collection services per head of population gone down the target from \$24.19 to EO \$23.71, yet is expected to increase to \$24.59 next year?
- 2) Annual tonnes of ACT household waste to landfill per head of population - the target of 0.187 but the expected outcome less than that, - 0.168, why?
- 3) Annual tonnes of ACT household organics (including food organics and garden organics) per head of population less than target of 0.066 - EO 0.052
- 4) Percentage of material recovered from the ACT household total waste stream has gone from a target of 43 % to EO 40%, why?

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

- 1) The estimated outcome has decreased from the 2023-24 target due to a higher population than initially estimated in the target. The increase in 2024-25 is mainly related to increase in contract cost due to inflation.
- 2) The reduction in the estimated outcome of annual tonnes of household waste to landfill per head of population is due to a reduction in household waste going to landfill from the initial estimate combined with a higher than anticipated population increase. This favourable result could be attributed to a reduction in household waste due to better consumer awareness and positive behaviours, and ACT Government initiatives such as single use plastic bans and food and garden organic bins diverting waste from the landfill bin.
- 3) The reduction in annual tonnes of household organics collected in 2023-24 could be attributed to a higher than anticipated population increase and drier and milder weather in 2023-24 compared to previous years that the targets were based on.

- 4) This calculation is based on the tonnage from household recyclables (yellow bin), organics (green bin) and waste (red bin). All three waste streams are showing a reduction in total annual tonnage. The reduction in general waste is due to a decline in waste going to landfill, the reduction in recyclables was shown in the 2022 waste audit to be less newspaper and glass, and the reduction in organic materials is due to the drier and milder weather conditions.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 6/8/24

By the Minister for City Services, Tara Cheyne MLA