



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
15 November 2018

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA

In relation to: Public Park Irrigation Systems - maintenance

1. Which public parks have (i) ageing, (ii) leaking, or (iii) other issues with the irrigation systems which will (a) limit or (b) prevent their use during summer 2018-2019?
2. What criteria is used to assess whether an irrigation system will not be used due to (i) age or (ii) leakages?
3. What is the length of the usable lifespan of irrigation systems in ACT parks categorised by system type?
4. What standard maintenance works are carried out to ensure that each type of irrigation systems do not fall into disrepair or fail?
5. Are there periodic inspections on irrigation infrastructure at public parks?
 - a. If so, how frequently are these inspections carried out, and when was the last inspection for each park?
 - b. If not, why not?
6. What works were carried out in the 2017-2018 financial year to ensure irrigation infrastructure does not fall into disrepair, and what was the cost of the maintenance

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. City Hill and Corroboree Park are not operational due to irrigation infrastructure being at end of its useful life (more than 50 years old) and beyond economic repair.
2. TCCS consider factors including the age of the system, type of material used, ongoing cost of repairs and water usage as part of the decision to turn a system off. Where a system has excessive leaks and the ongoing cost of repairs becomes unsustainable, consideration is given to either turning the system off or seeking funding to carry out an upgrade. Such decisions are based on the importance of the park to the community, public visitation rates, impact on amenity and other surrounding alternative options for recreation.
3. Generally irrigation systems are designed and installed with an expected lifespan of at least 20 years.

4. Maintenance of irrigations systems in the urban area is carried out a minimum of once a month between October and May, with more frequent maintenance being carried out as required. Maintenance is dependent upon many factors such as damage caused during public events, vandalism, material failures and leaks and replacement of ageing components.
5. The major irrigation systems in the ACT are operated by a central control system that provides operators with daily system updates which helps identify issues and target inspections and maintenance.
 - a. Some systems require more maintenance than others depending on age and location however all systems are inspected at least once per month. In addition, the presence of leaks, dry areas and other visible indicators of problems are noted during general maintenance (such as mowing, litter picking, playground inspections) which takes place on a more frequent basis.
6. In the 2017-2018 financial year approximately \$550,000 was spent on the on the maintenance of irrigation systems in Canberra's town and district parks.

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

Signature:



Date:

4/12/18

By the Minister for City Services, Chris Steel MLA