



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
4 March 2021

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA:

In relation to:

MS CASTLEY: A standalone, I do.

Replacing solar panels. So the ACT was an early adopter of rooftop solar. I imagine some are coming to the end of the life—

Mr Barr: Close, yes.

MS CASTLEY: What has the government put in place for recycling?

Mr Barr: Of solar panels—

MS CASTLEY: The solar panels—the rooftop?

Mr Barr: Not strictly a question in this area. But we will happily take it on notice. And get some information for you.

MS CASTLEY: I would also like to know what advice people are given when they, you know, launch into the solar panel scheme—

Mr Barr: Sure, yes.

MS CASTLEY: And is it a consideration to ask companies who supply them to think about a stewardship program?

Mr Barr: Yes, I think that is—certainly is commonplace now for manufactured goods—

MS CASTLEY: Okay.

Mr Barr: —that have a particular lifespan. Solar panels, I think, are generally speaking multi-decade. They are not short—so even the ones that went in as part of the initial feed-in tariff program towards the end of the last decade, would still only be 10 to 12 years old. So absent hail damage, or something like that, would still be going strong. But this will obviously be an issue over time—



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. ECCB17

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MS CASTLEY: Yes.

Mr Barr: And so I am happy to get the information on the recycling process. But it is not strictly an area that—it is more a waste management issue, rather than—


MS CASTLEY: Waste management, okay.

Mr Barr: Yes, yes. But we will get the information for you.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- The ACT has been working at the national level on stewardship options for photovoltaics (PV) through the Victorian-led Photovoltaic Working Group (PVWG) for several years. Our position is that a national scheme to address these products would prove most effective and efficient in promoting increased resource recovery.
- There has been promising movement in this space over the last year. Australia is starting to see the development of a local PV recycling industry, as evidenced by Reclaim PV, Australia's first dedicated solar panel recycling company, recently leasing land in Lonsdale, South Australia, to develop an at-scale processing facility. The company already has around 70,000 stockpiled panels to process and has indicated its intention to set up further sites in regional areas processing up to 50 tonnes each into the future.
- ACT residents are advised to consult the Recyclopaedia for the most up-to-date advice on disposal options for PV panels in the ACT.
<https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia/home>

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

Signature: 

Date: 15.3.21

By the Minister for Climate Action, Andrew Barr MLA