



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
1 March 2022

Asked by JO CLAY MLA on 1 March 2022: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 1 MARCH 2022 PG 42]

In relation to:

MS CLAY: Chief Minister, I was wondering whether you have done an analysis across the budget of dollars spent per tonne of carbon avoided or reduced and whether you might be doing that kind of thing. It would really help us benchmark all these different programs against one another, and it might be a tool that you could use in our non-climate areas to see whether we are accidentally spending money that is increasing emissions in other areas.

Mr Barr: There would be data on emission reductions at a territory level. Whether we have fine enough data to be able to attribute it to every dollar spent in the budget might be more challenging. Let me see what level of data we have where we may be able to construct something that would answer the first part of your question. I guess the second part really goes to what price you put on carbon in terms of future policy decisions.

MS CLAY: I would be interested in hearing your thoughts or seeing the analysis that is done. I have seen other governments do it and it is a tool—

Mr Barr: There are certainly some working models but they are, again, only as good as the quality of data that is fed into the model.

MS CLAY: Absolutely. Is that a question you have taken on notice? Is that some analysis that is available?

Mr Barr: I will see whether there is anything available. If there is not, then it is a question that we would consider as to whether we would need to commission a piece of work and what that would cost. There are a range of issues to consider. I take the point you are raising. I do not have an in-principle objection to that. I just need to know the cost-benefit if we do not already have a level of data that would enable where I think you are going with it. We have got some data, but I could not say at the moment that we could drive every single investment decision of government on every dollar spent in the budget through the lens of its emissions reduction outcomes. I do not think we could accurately report that

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

The ACT Government's ambitious climate action agenda seeks to mitigate emissions through the implementation of several long-term strategies, funded over multiple budget cycles.

Whilst the ACT Government maintains emission reduction reporting to track progress against legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets, this reporting is attributable to sectors within the Territory or Directorate specific emission profiles and is not tied to the individual carbon abatement arising from specific initiatives.

The Office for Climate Action was established in 2021 to coordinate and support the ACT Government's ambitious agenda for Climate Action. As part of its work program the Office is investigating a range of tools to support Government decision making.

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

Signature: 

Date: 16.3.22

By the Minister for Climate Action, Andrew Barr MLA