



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by JO CLAY MLA: To ask the Chief Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Economic Development, Tourism and Climate Action

In relation to the ACT Government's commitment to a zero emissions government

The ACT Government is committed to leading by example to showcase best practice sustainability in Government operations, by pursuing rapid emission reduction targets of greater than a 33% reduction in emissions from Government operations by 2025 (from 2020 levels), and zero emissions from Government operations from 2040.

- 1) While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?
- 2) What is CMTEDD's current % reduction in emissions?
- 3) What measures have you put in place to reduce emissions?
- 4) Can you confirm that this is a reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only?

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

- 1. While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?**

CMTEDD uses the ACT Government's Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP) to track and calculate its emissions. The ESP is a database that collates utility data such as natural gas consumption and transport fuel consumption and calculates the emissions profile for the Directorate.

In developing the CMTEDD Emissions Reduction Plan, CMTEDD took into consideration: the profile and age of assets; the impact of service growth; technology opportunities but also technology limitations.

The CMTEDD Emissions Reduction Plan factors in planned and budgeted projects. This combined with options to replace a variety of ageing assets, upgrade assets within their useful life, enhance efficiency of plant maintenance, and where budget funding is provided, will additionally contribute to the ACT Government target.

Some emissions-reduction activities are limited by technical challenges associated with their implementation. For example, heating for CMTEDD swimming pools accounts for 77.9 percent of the Directorate's emission profile in 2020-21. The replacement of gas heating systems with fully electric alternatives is limited by the prohibitive cost of replacements and/or technical challenges inherent in retrofits. The ACT government is considering options to replace gas consuming assets with all-

electric alternatives in a cost-efficient way, however, a replacement program would likely span up to and beyond the 2025 timeframe.

In addition, over 80 per cent of CMTEDD fleet emissions come from diesel use operational vehicles leased by Access Canberra, ACT Property Group, Shared Services and Major Venues. The ongoing delivery of commitments to transition the Government fleet to zero emission alternatives will be critical to achieving further emissions reductions.

2. What is CMTEDD's current % reduction in emissions?

In 2020-21, CMTEDD's emissions increased by 28.7%. This was an expected increase and was taken into consideration in the CMTEDD Emissions Reduction Plan. The increase is due to planned service growth due to the commencement of new facilities including Stromlo Leisure Centre and the Civic Office Building.

Heating for CMTEDD swimming pools accounts for 77.9 percent of the Directorate's emission profile in 2020-21.

3. What measures have you put in place to reduce emissions?

To mitigate future emissions, a number of emissions reductions activities were undertaken by ACT Property Group within CMTEDD.

- Pool blanket installation at Stromlo Leisure Centre, Gungahlin, Lakeside, and Dickson pools: Pool blankets were installed in February 2021 in Stromlo leisure centre and are programmed for installation in 2022 for Gungahlin, Lakeside, and Dickson pools. The estimated reductions in site gas consumption are 13% (2,850 GJ/y) for Gungahlin, 19% (3,930 GJ/y) for Lakeside and 34% (890 GJ/y) for Dickson; Stromlo did not have specific metering data to establish a baseline. This will reduce emissions by around 400 tCO₂-e per year, around 10% of CMTEDD's total emissions (in 2021-22 reporting). Financially it will create significant cost savings on the reduced gas, electricity, water and chemical usages.
- Dickson Pool: New solar hot water units for showers were installed at Dickson Pool in July 2020 to replace the old system.
- Lakeside Leisure Centre Preventative maintenance and additional capital works: These works were undertaken during the 2020 COVID-19 shutdown period, included electrical board upgrades and the replacement of gas fired hot water units with electric energy saving options.
- Building Management System upgrades/tuning at Lakeside and Gungahlin Leisure Centres These have commenced and continued to be implemented and monitored.
- 255 Canberra Avenue Workshop heater upgrade and installation of solar PV: Two large gas-powered space heaters located at 255 Canberra Ave workshop area have been replaced by 13 small electric heaters to minimise the emissions associated with the gas heaters. These smaller units provide better flexibility as they can be switched on and off individually, and therefore only provide heating to the areas being used. Funding has also been obtained and planning is underway, with procurement to occur shortly, for the installation of 29 small electric radiant heaters (in addition to the 13 above) to replace the current large gas tube heaters throughout the workshop area.

To offset the significant increase in electricity use, a 100 kW roof top solar PV system This project will effectively eliminate the use of gas in the workshop area, with an expected emission reduction of around 44 tonnes of CO2-e per annum.

CMTEDD continues to implement the requirements for leasing 100% zero emission passenger vehicles, where fit for purpose.

4. Can you confirm that this is a reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions only?

Scope 2 emissions are recorded as zero as the ACT has 100% renewable energy since 2020. The Government targets are for reducing Scope 1 emissions only.

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

Signature: 

Date: 20.3.22

By the Minister for Climate Action, Andrew Barr MLA