



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**  
**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Jo Clay MLA:** To ask the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Ref: Annual Report 2020-21 at page 154.

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 Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?
- 2) What is EPSDD'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?

**Minister Rattenbury:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

**1) While this is a whole of government commitment, can you explain how the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) calculates its contributions to this emission reduction target?**

EPSDD has set an emission reduction target of 33 percent by 2025 to compliment the ACT Government's broader target. EPSDD produced 789 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions in 2019, which includes emissions from EPSDD, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA), the City Renewal Authority (CRA) and the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE). Given the unusual business conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, data from the 2019 calendar year has been used as a proxy for the 2019-20 baseline. EPSDD's 33 percent target will reduce emissions from the Directorate to 529 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e by 2025.

EPSDD uses the ACT Government's Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP) to track 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.

**2) What is EPSDD's current % reduction in emissions?**

In 2020-21 EPSDD reduced its emissions by 5.6% against the baseline with a total of 744\* tCO<sub>2</sub>-e produced in that financial year.

\*Note: Where complete data is not yet available, the ESP provides estimations using an accrual function using averages. This results in small variances in the emissions published between the Directorate Annual reports and other emissions reporting. The numbers listed in this response represent current data for the 2020-21 financial year.

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

EPSDD maintains a 5-year plan to 2025 to reach the 33% reduction target that is updated at the end of each financial year. Recent actions to reduce emissions include:

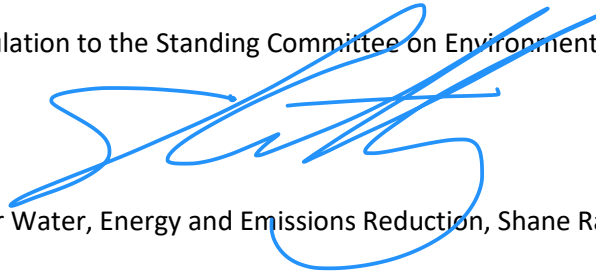
- The all-electric Dickson Office Block opened in 2020 significantly reducing EPSDD's building based emissions.
- In 2020-21, EPSDD transitioned all four new lease passenger vehicles that were fit for purpose to zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) in compliance with the ACT's Transition ZEV Action Plan 2018-21.
- A trial involving the use of electric tools and e-bikes commenced at Tidbinbilla Depot in 2020-21. The purpose of the trial was to assess the performance and capability of zero emission alternatives within the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) operations. This trial will be scaled up and integrated more broadly into PCS operations in future years.
- Currently, there are no fit for purpose ZEVs ready to be implemented to replace EPSDD's heavy vehicle fleet. However, EPSDD runs a Whole of Government working group to share research and information about new technology as it emerges to enable a transition once suitable ZEVs become available.

### 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. Scope 3 emissions are not currently included in targets or Whole of Government emissions reporting.

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

Signature:



Date:

28/3/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Shane Rattenbury MLA