



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Andrew Braddock MLA on 2 September 2022: Mr Rob Thorman took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Uncorrected Proof Transcript 2 September 2022

In relation to: Tree Canopy Cover in Urban Spaces

MR BRADDOCK: So what percentage canopy cover do you aim for in public space to be able to have the whole suburb be able to reach the 30 per cent cover?

Mr Foreman: Yes, well, we have done an analysis of some of our recent suburbs and we are pretty confident, how you measure suburbs depends on the stage of the development, so obviously, the trees, you have to wait for the trees to grow. But we are pretty confident in a number of the new suburbs, if you look at Taylor, for example, that we are pretty much on target to reach the 30 per cent.

I have not got the figures at the moment about the relative proportion of what is in the public open space and between verges and what is in reserves and—

MR BRADDOCK: Could you please take that on notice for me?

Mr Foreman: Yes

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: —

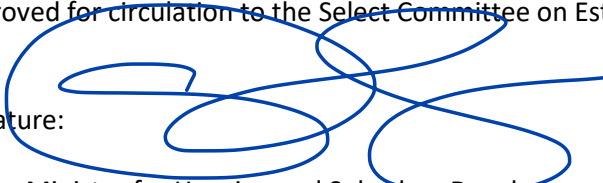
The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is working collaboratively with Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on the Territory Plan review which is aiming to establish canopy targets for estates, including urban open spaces and streets. In line with *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City*, the SLA is already aiming to contribute to the ACT Government's target of achieving 30 per cent tree canopy cover. To guide the SLA's work, the *SLA's Tree Canopy Cover Framework: A Practical Guide for SLA Staff* has been developed, establishing objectives and priorities for SLA staff to consider throughout the stages of land development.

To achieve the 30 per cent canopy coverage of mature trees in an estate, the percentage tree canopy cover target on public spaces must account for the SLA not being in control of the number or coverage of trees planted on privately owned land. Therefore, the percentage of tree canopy cover planned for public spaces will need to be higher than 30 per cent, however the actual percentage is dependent on the space available at each specific site.

For example, it is expected that the 30 per cent tree canopy cover at maturity will be achieved in the suburb of Taylor, with approximately 85 per cent expected to be within public spaces (including urban open spaces, parks and street verges). This will be achieved through the retention of existing trees and the planting of approximately 8,100 new trees. It is estimated that 15 per cent of the canopy will be on private blocks. It is important to note that specific circumstances may limit the number of trees that can be planted in some public spaces such as Bushfire Asset Protection Zones and sporting fields.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

09/09/22

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA