



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to:

Hearing: 20 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: 14/02/25 p 15.

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025

Minister for City and Government Services took on notice the following question(s):

MR COCKS: Have we seen an increase in recycling as a result of the scheme, or is it just substituting for what otherwise would have been in the yellow bin, and if so, by how much?

Mr Fitzgerald: One of the greatest benefits of the CDS scheme has been not necessarily recycling rates. We were already a strong recycling and we had strong recycling habits within the territory. It is actually litter. You see it on the streets. Prior to CDS, we actually had a large amount of this material that was proving to end up as litter on our streets. Now, because we have monetised, incentivised its collection, we have seen that as a material drop off significantly. So that is the main driver of a CDS scheme—and this is consistent right across other jurisdictions—has been the reduction in litter across our streets.

MR COCKS: Okay, but the question is about the degree, about the volume of recycling. Do you have the data on what the shift has been?

Mr Fitzgerald: So I will take that on notice. The specifics of it I would have to work through.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Transport Canberra and City Services Accountability Indicator 2.3i requires reporting of the "Percentage of Material Recovered from the ACT Household Total Waste Stream".

This indicator calculates the percentage of material recovered from the household waste stream (yellow and green bins) from the total stream (yellow, green and red bins).

Calculation of results against this indicator *excludes* eligible containers that are redeemed through the ACT Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) as these are reported in containers, not in tonnages. However, the yellow bin material recycled through our interim Material Recovery Facility (MRF) includes the containers discarded by residents in the yellow recycling bin.

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To establish how much the CDS scheme increased recycling in the household waste stream the following assumptions were applied:

- CDS Redemption figures excluding the yellow bin MRF material (i.e. containers redeemed by the MRF through the ACT CDS network), have been converted to tonnages based on the eligible container factor, determined by the ACT CDS Scheme Coordinator.

The following shows the estimated impact of CDS containers redeemed through the ACT CDS network if they were included in resource recovery calculation:

Household Waste Stream	Unit of measure	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
(a) Household Waste	tonnes	84,515	80,608	80,461
(b) Commingled Recyclables (MRF)	tonnes	32,243	29,635	27,523
(c) Green Waste	tonnes	28,936	25,613	24,510
(d) FOGO*	tonnes	-		1,224
Resource Recovery rate excluding CDS tonnage (b+c+d)/(a+b+c+d)	per cent	42%	41%	40%
Container Deposit Scheme	units	57,280,032	67,312,095	74,957,235
(e) Container Deposit Scheme	tonnes	19,486	20,561	21,514
Resource Recovery rate including estimated CDS tonnage (b+c+d+e)/(a+b+c+d+e)	per cent	49%	48%	48%

*Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) material started to be included in 2023-24.

Therefore, based on the table above, the ACT CDS can be shown to have increased recycling in the ACT. For 2023-24, the resource recovery rate would be estimated at 48% if CDS containers were included, compared to 40% when they are excluded.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

24/2/25

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA