



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
MARISA PATERSON MLA (CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
2 March 2021

Asked by MS CASTLEY:

In relation to: Straws Suck and reusable coffee cup scheme

MS CASTLEY: Yes, I do. Page 78 of the annual report talks about, you know, straws, we get a paper straw everywhere we go now and the reusable coffee cup scheme. So how much money has been spent on that scheme and can you tell me a bit more about it?

Ms Vassarotti: This is going to get a little bit boring, it is not us.

MS CASTLEY: It is not us.

Ms Vassarotti: It is Minister Steel, Minister Steel.

MS CASTLEY: Far out. Are we confused with all of the—why is this Mr Steel?

Ms Vassarotti: Yes. So this is Minister Steel, he has waste management in his—as part of his portfolio responsibilities.

MS CASTLEY: Right.

Ms Vassarotti: And I do not think there is any information—is there any information that we can provide?

Mr Rutledge: I think—we have been helping with that program in our climate change, Act Smart program. But I think the answer—where you are headed, I am going to take it on notice and get back to you.

MS CASTLEY: Great.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 3

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MINISTER VASSAROTTI: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Both the Reusable Coffee Cup Scheme and Straws Suck campaign are managed by Actsmart, who report to the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction.

Green Caffein were contracted to deliver a 12-month reusable coffee cup scheme which launched in December 2019. The scheme was based on a swap-and-go model and there were no costs involved for participating businesses or patrons. The trial ended in December 2020 with 120 cafes participating, over 4000 patrons using the service and more than 86,000 cups saved from landfill. The initial trial cost the ACT Government \$39,600 to implement, and the scheme is now continuing without Government funding as a market-driven scheme. Funding for the trial was spent on purchasing 6000 reusable cups and this cost was split evenly between the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and Transport Canberra and City Services.

The Straws Suck campaign encourages Canberra businesses and patrons to rethink their use of single-use plastic straws. Businesses can take a pledge to remove or replace single-use plastic straws and are provided with a range of collateral to promote their pledge including posters, drink coasters, etc. To date 74 organisations (73 businesses and one school) are participating in the campaign. The campaign cost approximately \$5,000 which was spent on collateral for businesses to promote their pledge.

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

Signature:

Date: 10/3/2024

By the Minister for the Environment, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA