



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

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management

Ref: Planning and Land Management, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate Annual Report 2020-2021 p91, Draft Variation 369

In relation to: Planting coverage standards in suburbs, streets and parks

1. Is there a minimum provision of public open space for suburbs in the ACT?
2. Is there a minimum provision of canopy cover at the suburb level in the ACT (i.e., do suburbs have their own minimum standards for canopy cover as opposed to the territory wide goal of 30% tree canopy cover or equivalent)?
3. Is there a minimum provision of street tree coverage by street type in the ACT?
4. Is there a minimum provision of canopy cover for parks and open space in the ACT?

Minister Gentleman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The provision of public open space is determined at the time each suburb is being planned and is specific to that suburb. The planning system continues to deliver significant protection of our environment, maintaining and expanding access to green space throughout the city. The Commonwealth Government's most recent State of the Environment Report noted that 98 per cent of residents in this region live within 400 metres of a green space, with the highest levels of green space per person in Australia. The Government continues to add to the network of urban nature reserves.

The ACT Government, through the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, is investigating the possibility of suburb level tree canopy cover requirements for new estates. A precinct level tree canopy cover requirement is in place for Yowani East Estate and other precinct level requirements are being considered.

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

Signature: 

Date: *21/3/2022*

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister Gentleman