



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

Addressed to: Fiona Veikkanen, Executive Director, Canberra Environment Centre

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript page 66

Hearing Date: 22 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 23 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 29 July 2024

Question:

MS ORR: Can I just get a quick overview from each of you as to what requirements and obligations you have under your current funding arrangement? Because Ms Mance, I think you made reference you had to attend six forums a year, so those sorts of things. So, what it is you are currently funded to do now?

Ms Mance: I think we are funded for, I guess, a moderate amount of activities that we have to do under our contract. But I guess it is a case of like what impact do you want the environmental organisations to have? Because if we reduced our services back to the minimum then the organisation would be a shell. And what we would be providing to government would be well under what we need in the current climate crisis and what we are being asked to do in terms of bringing expertise and the voice of community to government.

So that minimum standard does not kind of really—

MS ORR: Yes, that is not really—sorry, Ms Mance, that is not really the question and the direction I was trying to get at. What I am trying to get an understanding here of is you are saying there is more funding needed there. I am not quite sure what has been funded now and how big the gap is. I am also trying to get a little bit of an understanding to—and this is sort of my follow up question, as to the type of funding you—have you got funding arrangements that say, "we will fund you to do x, y, z", and they are quite prescriptive? Or is it, "we will give you a little bit of a discretionary grant and you can go ahead and use it as you want". But these are things I am trying to unpack to get a better understanding of what the response is.

Ms Mance: So it is six consultations is it 10 activities per year?

Ms Veikkanan: So I am happy to take that on notice and respond really specifically. Because in—I know the Canberra environment into our contract does have some particular numbers. For example, 12 workshops and six consultations with government, et cetera. And then beyond that, a lot of it is responding to the volunteer demands and community needs and also the inbox that is full of questions—

THE CHAIR: I wonder, in the interests of time, you might each take it on notice, and let us know, so we can move on to—

Fiona Veikkanen: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

In our Contract it states minimum requirements:

-Information disseminated in various media such as newsletters, social media, meetings and emails to reach at least 1500 people

-Conduct at least 12 consultations, events and/or workshops that meet one or more of the ACT government's sustainability and environmental priorities. *

- Participate in at least 4 meetings with EPSDD to discuss key sustainability and environment policies and programs.

* Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptation and resilience, improving energy efficiency, sustainability in the built environment, active transport, waste management, water management, and protecting the natural environment.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025



Signature:
Date:23/7/24

By the Fiona Veikkanen, Executive Director Canberra Environment Centre