



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

## Answer to question taken on notice

---

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to:

Hearing: 20 February 2025

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

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025

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

**Mr Fitzgerald:**—skews that figure is because CDS—and we know CDS has a huge uptake within the ACT—is a large portion of that yellow bin. So it is not counted within that household recovery rate. But actually, if you go to the consumption within that household, it is actually a huge part of the recovery rate. So there is, I think, if you include CDS on a per household basis, you would see that recovery rate dramatically improve.

**THE CHAIR:** It is a shame, though, because we cannot include CDS because the directorate is reporting CDS per item rather than per ton, so we are not able to compare. We talk about 80 million bits of packaging, but we are not actually measuring how many tons it is. If you measure the tons, you would be able to put those together and see what was going on.

**Mr Fitzgerald:** The tonnage and that information is available. I am happy to take that on notice.

**THE CHAIR:** That would be great if you could. Thank you. Are there any more questions on this?

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

Tonnages are not usually reported for the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), rather they are provided as containers counted.

To assist addressing this question, Transport Canberra and City Services has been able to make several assumptions to **estimate approximate tonnages** from container counts (see below).

The following table reflects total containers collected and recycled through the ACT CDS network only and does not reflect material in household kerbside collections.

OFFICIAL

Financial Year	2021/22 Containers	2021/22 Tonnes (estimated)	2022/23 Containers	2022/23 Tonnes (estimated)	2023/24 Containers	2024/25 Tonnes (estimated)
Aluminium	29,109,779	531.2	35,002,954	638.7	39,814,847	726.5
Glass	13,490,406	14,989.3	13,313,781	14,793.1	13,433,623	14,926.2
Single Plastics	14,671,572	3,965.3	18,976,973	5,128.9	21,686,587	5,861.2
Steel	8,275	0.2	18,387	0.3	22,178	0.4
Total	57,280,032	19,486.0	67,312,095	20,561.1	74,957,235	21,514.4

*Assumptions:*

The eligible container factor is determined quarterly by the ACT CDS Scheme Coordinator, based on the number of containers of each material type per tonne of recyclable waste.

The container counts have been used to approximate tonnage estimates by container type, using an average eligible container factor for each container type, these are:

- Aluminium – 54.8 containers per kg
- Single Plastics – 3.7 containers per kg
- Glass 0.9 – containers per kg
- Steel does not have an eligible container factor, so aluminium has been used as a guide.

The tonnage figures have been specifically calculated for the purpose of this question. Note it is not typically relied upon for management of the scheme and is not ordinarily published.

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