



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Jo Clay MLA on 8 November 2022: Mr Ben McHugh took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 8 November 2022 PAGE 102

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Excellent. Finished Mr Parton, that is great. I do have a transport question, minister, we heard yesterday from the Chief Minister that the big Canberra battery is going to include end of life recycling in its procurement of battery and panel equipment, I am wondering if we are using the same contact terms for our busses, our electric busses, and maybe electric garbage trucks and other electric vehicles.

Mr Steel: So there is some procurement underway at the moment on some of those, so there is some probity issues.

Mr McHugh: Yes, so I guess, speaking in general terms about the batteries on the electric buses, so they—some providers provide separate warranty periods and separate responsibilities around how batteries are managed compared to the bus infrastructure itself, they do have, potentially, different life cycles. And the reuse of those batteries, there are different companies that do different things with them and give them a second life.

So a battery that is designed for a vehicle has a particular life in a moving and an environment and a different lifecycle in a static environment, so there are certain providers that are looking at the second life of those batteries and then the responsibility for decommissioning them at end of life. So yes, that product stewardship piece is built into our contracts. And yes, we will continue to look at options to do that.

THE CHAIR: Yes, but noting that we are drawing up the contracts now and the recycling probably would not be required for another 20 years, possibly longer, is it something that is being considered as part of the procurement, given that we are doing it for the big Canberra battery?

Mr McHugh: I will have to take that one—

THE CHAIR: Take that on notice.

Mr McHugh: Yes, look, and I think it might be tied up in the probity of the current contract negotiations, I just want to be really careful about what I state at this point.

THE CHAIR: Okay, thank you.

Mr McHugh: But I will take that on notice.

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In relation to battery recycling for electric garbage contracts, given the advanced stage of the procurement for a new Household Waste Collection Service it is not possible to provide specific information on the requirements.

Transport Canberra is undertaking a procurement to purchase 90 x battery electric buses. These assets (vehicles) will be purchased as a whole, inclusive of the battery. Transport Canberra will be responsible for recycling options once the battery's useful life has been reached.

The useful life of a battery is up to eight years and could be longer with unknown influences and charge cycles. End of life arrangements will be put in place ahead of batteries reaching their end of useful life as energy for transport vehicles. Transport Canberra will be evaluating the options for repurposing batteries as part of its strategic asset management plan.

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

Signature:



Date:

18/11/22

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA