



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
19 November 2021

Asked by MS LEANNE CASTLEY on 19 November 2021: Dr Lewis took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 November 2021 - PAGE 46]

In relation to: 2019 SoER recommendation on electrification of the bus fleet

DR SOPHIE LEWIS: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Recommendation 18 of the 2019 State of the Environment Report (SoER) was to "*Hasten the electrification of the ACT bus fleet.*"

This recommendation was Agreed in Principle by Government, noting that the ACT Government is aiming to achieve a zero emissions bus fleet by 2040 and that options for potentially hastening the transition would be explored as technology and markets evolve.

In 2021, TCCS provides an update that:

- work has continued on implementing the zero emission transition plan for Transport Canberra including: workforce engagement; market sounding for the first tranche of 90 battery electric buses; energy and power modelling; technical specifications; and business case development.
- design amendments and electrical investigations for Woden bus depot commenced.
- market sounding for first 90 battery electric buses commenced. Procurement is underway for the provision of off-site charging facility and electric buses. Replacement of 34 diesel buses commenced in 2021.
- work will progress in 2021 in relation to developing a pathway for zero emissions on garbage trucks, taxis and rideshare vehicles.

Ms Castley referred to a \$20 million budget allocation towards new electric buses as part of this work towards electrification of the fleet. The Office is satisfied that work undertaken since the 2019 SoER Recommendations was delivered is satisfactory at this stage. Further updates will be required in future years.

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

Signature:

Date: 27 October 2021

By the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Sophie Lewis