



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Caitlin Tough MLA

Addressed to: Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Soft jaw traps

Hearing: 12 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 66-67

Transcript provided: 21 November 2025

Answer Due: 28 November 2025

THE CHAIR: And can I check, are you capturing any data on how many— given that the directorate was using these traps and apparently nobody realised. Are you collecting data on how many soft jaw traps are being used, what the outcomes are and if there is any other wildlife or other species effected by these?

Ms Cheyne: I do not think it is fair or correct to say that no one realised that the directorate was using them. We all knew—

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Ms Cheyne: What was not known was that there had been a change to the regulation—

THE CHAIR: They were banned— sure.

Ms Cheyne: But yes, we will have information. I think we will probably have to take it on notice in terms of who is authorised to use them and how many we have, and what the outcomes are?

THE CHAIR: Yes. The information I would like to know is what data you are collecting on how many traps that you are using and what you are catching in those traps? And they are affecting any other species that— is that data being collected?

Mr Burkevics: As the minister has indicated, I think the interests of the animal welfare authority as the regulator for that regulation, they are interested in any user of a soft jaw trap providing data. And I think as minister initiated, it would be appropriate for that authority to answer those questions and their interests.

THE CHAIR: So I will ask the data question tomorrow?

Ms Cheyne: I will take that one on notice now because I think it is the data for how we are using soft jaw traps. But let us see if that, in the intervening period, between today and tomorrow, I will see if that exists in a way that is easily produced tomorrow.

Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service uses soft jaw traps to manage the impacts of Waragul (dingoes) and wild dogs within the ACT. Traps are used to control animals that are attacking livestock in areas bordering the ACT's parks and reserves. The traps are used in accordance with national operating procedures and are deployed under strict conditions by trained personnel.

Persons eligible to be authorised are listed under section 5A of the Animal Welfare Regulation 2001.

When a trap is used, data is created which identifies its location and if the trap captures a target animal, some information about that animal. The number of traps used to target a problem animal varies, however one or multiple traps may be used within a location to target an animal. Off-target trapping is infrequent as trap and lure types are carefully selected to minimise non-target impacts. Most non-target animals are released without injury.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA

Date:

24/11/25