



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: City Services – City and Environment Directorate

Hearing: 22 July 2026

In relation to: Green waste in West Belconnen

Question received: 6 August 2026

Answer Due: 13 August 2026

Whilst work is proceeding on finding a permanent site in West Belconnen, the green waste services have been temporarily relocated to Block 1586 on Parkwood Road. A proposed permanent site has been identified on Block 1653 Stockdill Drive. Community engagement on the development of the site, including a major plan amendment to allow the proposed use is underway:

- 1) How long will Block 1586 be needed for a green waste facility?
- 2) Do the operators pay a fee, and if so how much is the fee?
- 3) Will the current operators continue to run the green waste facility on Block 1586 until it is no longer needed?
- 4) How will the operator of the permanent site (Block 1653) be determined?
- 5) If it is to be a competitive process, when will the sale process commence and what method of sale will be used?
- 6) Will the site only be used for green waste or will it include landscape supplies.?
- 7) What will happen to Block 1653 when it is no longer needed?
- 8) How many tonnes of green waste does the current facility recycle each year?
- 9) If this facility ceased to operate, would that waste go to landfill, and would there be environmental and climate impacts from that?
- 10) If this facility ceased to operate, would there be an impact in terms of access to a service that the community uses?

- 11) What steps will Government take to ensure that any site that processes green waste does not lead to run off into our waterways?
- 12) Is Government considering any other sites that might be suitable to operate a green waste recycling service from?
- 13) What consultation has Government conducted with CSG, the community and environmental groups about these decisions?
- 14) What are the process steps from here, and what is the approximate timeline for those process steps?

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

- 1) A decision on the expected length of occupancy on Block 1586 has not been made. The period of occupancy is dependent on the progress of the Ginninderry estate development, and the schedule for their works has not yet been finalised.
- 2) No.
- 3) The current operator on Block 1586 has a contract to operate on the site until 30 October 2026 with options to extend for a further 18 months at the Territory's discretion. The City and Environment Directorate (CED) will continue to monitor the progress of the Ginninderry estate development and make decisions on the current operator tenure in line with this.
- 4) The operator for block 1653 will be determined through a competitive tender process procured in line with the ACT Government Procurement Framework.
- 5) There will be no land sale process. The new site operator will be granted a site licence to operate on the block for a fixed term and operations at the site will be managed under a separate service agreement.
- 6) A temporary facility has been approved for green waste collection and processing only. The final layout and services provided will be dependent on the outcome of Draft Plan Amendment – 14 (DPA-14) and any future development application should the Territory apply to establish a permanent facility. DPA-14 proposes to amend the Belconnen District Policy in the Territory Plan to introduce 'recycling facility' and 'bulk landscape supplies' as additional assessable development on Block 1653 Belconnen within its Land Use Table.
- 7) Future decisions on Block 1653 will rest with the land custodian at the time the block is no longer required.
- 8) The current facility reports that it collects and processes approximately 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes per annum.
- 9) The green waste facilities receive what cannot be collected through the green bin system. If there is no facility in West Belconnen, green waste may be taken to a privately operated facility in Mitchell for a fee or taken to the free government-operated service at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre. Having no facility in West Belconnen may reduce the convenience of green waste disposal in West Belconnen and may lead to materials placed in the landfill bin, this may result in environmental impacts through increased greenhouse gas emissions or illegal dumping of green waste in the local area.

10) Yes.

11) The facility will implement a range of environmental controls in accordance with the ACT Environment Protection Authority (EPA) advice, including impermeable processing and storage areas; stormwater diversion and containment systems such as bunding, and diversion banks; sediment and erosion controls; leachate and collection and management including leachate dams and irrigation areas.

The EPA have assessed the site design drawings and have approved the proposed design with respect to stormwater and leachate management. Any design changes in the future, such as an application for a permanent facility, would need to be resubmitted to the EPA for approval.

Operational requirements will be embedded through management plans as part of the Service Agreement with the future operator and monitored through regular inspections. All controls will be designed and maintained in accordance with EPA requirements.

12) No other sites are being considered.

13) The ACT Government submitted a development application for a temporary green waste facility and approval was granted in August 2023. Consultation was undertaken through this process and significant feedback from the community was received.

Consultation has been recently undertaken for the proposed Territory Plan amendment DPA-14 from 5 June 2026 to 20 July 2026 with late comments accepted until 3 August 2026. The recent consultation included representatives from CED meeting with landowners adjacent to Block 1653 and a community information session at the Link Building in Strathnairn on 2 July 2026.

Members of the community and environmental groups were able to submit representations about the development and proposed planning amendment to the Territory Planning Authority during these consultation processes.

14) The Territory Planning Authority will follow the legislated process for a Territory Plan Amendment, including assessing the outcome of community consultation. The outcome of this process will then determine the next steps and timing.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



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

Date:

12/8/25