



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QTON No. 35**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**15 November 2019**

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA:

In relation to: Summary of the Trial of Recycling at Multi-Unit Developments

**MS LAWDER:** Hopefully a quickish question. The sewers trial in multiunit developments; can you give us a bit of an update of the outcomes of the trial and—

**Mr Haraldson:** Yes, so the trial which was done in—hang on, I will just bring it up, because I have actually got some notes here. I did have notes here, sorry. So yes, there was a trial undertaken and what they found is that there was some confusion around contamination, about what you can put in your recycling.

**MS LAWDER:** As we were just saying.

**Mr Haraldson:** Yes. Exactly right. So the trials were conducted. I am just trying to think of who actually ran the trial.

**MS LAWDER:** It was to trial behaviour change interventions, was my understanding.

**Mr Haraldson:** Yes.

**MS LAWDER:** So what did you try and what were the outcomes?

**Mr Haraldson:** Obviously being annual report hearings, I will make sure that is accurate information.

**MS LE COUTEUR:** Just talking about—yes.

**Mr Steel:** Look, if we do not have information on hand now it might be better to come back—

**Mr Haraldson:** Yes ...(indistinct)... [12.28.28] come back—

**Mr Steel:** —later on or provide it on notice.

**Mr Haraldson:** There is a report to come out shortly. If it is not end of this year, it will be early next year, so that report will obviously capture all the information that was found.

**MS LAWDER:** Well, if you could perhaps provide a short summary—

**Mr Haraldson:** Yes. No, we can. Yes.

**MS LAWDER:** —on notice to the committee, that would be good and that is it, thank you.

**Mr Chris Steel MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

ACT NoWaste's education team, partnered with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy Behavioural Analysis Unit (DOEE) in late 2018, to conduct a research trial to better understand recycling practices and reduce contamination in multi-unit developments.

The initial trial had four phases:

- i. Collection of baseline data in the form of audits and surveys;
- ii. An intervention campaign consisting new bin-room signage and the Cleaner Apartment Living Brochure along with "no recycling in plastic bags" posters and flyers;
- iii. Post intervention data capture in the form of repeat surveys and 'deep-dive' interviews; and
- iv. Analysis of findings and refining of interventions for future testing.

Both surveys and interviews revealed positive trends that demonstrate the effectiveness of the education materials in raising awareness and changing behaviours.

Following the analysis of initial findings, further interventions tackling recycling in plastic bags were workshopped with DOEE, Strata Managers and ACT NoWaste education in February 2019 and a second phase of research trials undertaken. These interventions were trialled between July and September 2019 and the analysis of these findings is currently underway.

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

Signature:



Date:

24/11/19

By the Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction, Chris Steel MLA