



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for City Services

Ref: TCCS

In relation to: Lake Tuggeranong

1. Can the Minister provide an update on what action has occurred since I contacted you regarding mowing clippings entering Lake Tuggeranong.

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

Most mowers in operation in the ACT discharge the cut grass from the rear to avoid impacting on paths, gutters and roads.

Operators are guided through the use of *Principles of Mowing* which outlines Safe Work Procedures, Environmental Care, Mechanical Basic and In the Field knowledge.

Prior to the 2020-2021 season, the training package was redesigned to include practices to limit stormwater contamination from grass clip.

The outlined mowing practices offer protections against grass clippings entering the stormwater system. Mower operators are asked to avoid wherever possible the “windrowing” of clippings; and when mowing around stormwater drains or culverts, discharge should be pointing away from the drain.

Each season, inhouse mowing services are supplemented by procured contractor services. When mowing is undertaken by contractors, the following specifications are defined in the contract:

- The contractor must take all practicable steps to ensure that the mowing is carried out in a manner that results in no vegetation on road surfaces, cycle paths or footpaths.
- In the event that vegetation ends up on road surfaces, cycle paths or footpaths, the contractor must sweep, or blow clean the affected areas before leaving the site.

The option to equip mower operators with small hand-held battery-operated blowers is being explored by City Services. This could assist with mower clean up to reduce cross contamination of sites after working in an identified weed location and in removing grass from roadside gutters.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 8/9/22

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