MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into Urban Forest Bill 2022

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services, Ms Jo Clay MLA, today tabled the Committee's report on its *Inquiry into Urban Forest Bill 2022.*

The Committee's report made 17 recommendations covering a broad range of issues in relation to the Bill, which will replace the *Tree Protection Act 2005*. Among other measures, the Bill introduces a canopy contribution framework under which replanting or financial contributions are required when a protected tree is removed.

Ms Jo Clay MLA said, 'Due to major policy changes proposed in the Bill, it was important our Committee conduct this inquiry to review this piece of legislation.

'We heard overwhelming support for increasing Canberra's tree canopy coverage, particularly given the key role trees play to offset the heat island effect, provide habitat and provide green space and amenity for Canberrans. Some respondents were concerned this bill did not go far enough. Some were concerned about the detail of implementation. We heard a lot of evidence about how we need the right trees in the right place at the right time. We thank all those who contributed to the Committee's inquiry and we look forward to the Government response.'

The Committee's report is available on the Assembly's webpage at
https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/recent-reports

Under the Assembly's standing orders, the ACT Government is required to respond to committee reports within four months of tabling.

22 November 2022
STATEMENT ENDS.

For further information please contact:
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