



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: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 06 August 2026

The Territory Plan needs to be amended to allow a green waste facility to be established on Block 1653 Belconnen. Community engagement on amending the Territory Plan is underway. Issues raised during that engagement including runoff from the operations entering the waterways in the area and other risks to neighbouring properties:

- 1) What steps will you take to manage the risk of runoff into the waterways?
- 2) What steps will you take to manage any risks to neighbouring landholders?
- 3) If you do not find a suitable site to compost green waste, what will be the harm to the ACT in terms of climate impacts, access to services and any other impacts?

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

1. 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.

Operational requirements will be embedded through management plans and monitored through regular inspections. All controls will be designed and maintained in accordance with EPA requirements.

2. The facility will implement measures to manage dust, odour, noise, traffic, litter, pests, weeds and fire risk. These measures will include operational controls, monitoring, maintenance programs and emergency response procedures, with the facility operating in accordance with EPA approvals, licence conditions and its Environmental Management Plan.

3. The absence of a suitable green waste composting facility in Canberra's Northside would have environmental, economic, and service delivery impacts, while limiting the ACT's ability to meet waste diversion, resource recovery, climate, and circular economy objectives.

Potential impacts include:

- Increased greenhouse gas emissions from transporting green waste longer distances to alternate facilities.
- Reduced access to convenient green waste services and increased transport costs to the community.
- Increased pressure on landfill capacity if there are no processing alternatives.
- Reduced availability of compost and mulch for land rehabilitation.
- Reduced resilience of ACT waste infrastructure.

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

Signature: 

Date: 4/8/26

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