



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Standing
Committee on Planning, Transport and
City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Approved for publication

Report 10
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About the committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services on 2 December 2020.

The Committee is responsible for review into the following portfolio directorates:

- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
- City Renewal Authority
- Suburban Land Agency
- Major Projects Canberra
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

Committee members

Jo Clay MLA, Chair

Suzanne Orr MLA, Deputy Chair

Mark Parton MLA

Secretariat

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About this inquiry

Clause 3A of the establishing resolution refers all calendar and financial year annual and financial reports for 2020-2021 to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 31 May 2022 of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

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Acronyms

Acronym	Long form
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.
DA	Development Approval
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NHFIC	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation
SLA	Suburban Land Agency
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish the ecological assessments and studies around ecological values on the Western Edge and release results of the tenders for ecological assessments.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider new ways of providing reliable, renewable power to new suburbs such as solar panels, community grids and local batteries, in order to provide climate-resilient power sources that are less vulnerable to the impacts of storms and that cause less environmental damage and community concern than traditional power lines.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends the ACT Government advocate at the national level for standards related to emission reduction and climate-resilient building standards such as passive design, lighter coloured roofs, energy efficiency, permeable surfaces, low-embedded emissions building materials and insulation in the new national construction code.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends the ACT Government advocate for implementation of national product stewardship for recycling solar panels to commence by June 2023 as currently scheduled.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends the ACT Government set a firm timeframe on national product stewardship for receiving electrical appliances and explore local options for recycling these goods under the circular economy and waste reduction policy.

Recommendation 6

That Government extend tools such as geofencing to ensure it is not mowing no-mow areas that have been planted by local Landcare groups and conservation areas.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the ACT Government make all new government fleet purchases zero-emissions wherever possible, including for garbage trucks. Where technology does not yet allow a suitable zero-emissions option, that the ACT Government should ensure procurement and contracts are drafted in such a way as to allow a zero-emissions upgrade during the course of the contract.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends the ACT Government explore waste audit opportunities to track the recycling rate on packaging used as a substitute for single-use plastics.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the ACT Government clarify its position as to whether blocks and new suburbs are scraped by Suburban Land Agency and private developers prior to development and if so, whether the topsoil is restored or not, and what its policy is in relation to both block scraping and topsoil utilisation, what environmental protection measures are taken and what the environmental implications are for the waterways, topsoil, deep soil, tree canopy and climate resilience in standard block scraping practices.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends the ACT Government include climate-resilient building standards in the ACT appendix to the Building Code, where these are not included in the National Construction Code.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the ACT Government explore opportunities to avoid the production of construction and demolition waste, rather than simply recycling construction and demolition waste, through the upcoming circular economy strategy.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends the ACT Government develop more transparent ways to report public transport patronage and fare income and expense disclosures, including the split between bus and light rail.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends the ACT Government review resourcing to the Active Travel office or Disruption Taskforce to deliver the behaviour change programs to switch people into active travel, and consider increasing resources where needed.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends the ACT Government measure and report against any changes to transport mode share over the life of construction of Light Rail and the work of the Disruption Taskforce.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends the ACT Government release quantitative data of footpath conditions by district, informed by the full footpath and shared path/ Community Path audit, with effect as soon as practicable and in light of Cabinet and Government deliberations.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that once ACT Government has procured a package of footpath and shared path repairs or works through the capital works team, this is published on a website and possibly linked through to *Fix My Street* so community know this work is coming and do not need to continually report the problem.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends the ACT Government set an aggregate accountability indicator for share of footpaths and share paths maintained in good conditioned following consideration of current condition audits.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends the ACT Government assess the value of the mountain biking trails and walking trails in Territory forests in dollar figures, report against it and develop indicators and methods to weigh up what is the higher economic value of each section of our forest between tourism, trails and logging.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends the ACT Government progress consultation as soon as possible with the school community and general community on the future recreational uses for the Florey dryland oval.

Recommendation 20

That Committee recommends the ACT Government consider reviewing data disclosure in TCCS annual reporting, and recommends that greater segmented detail is shown on the nature and variation of traffic fines and these changes be in the relevant annual report.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider reviewing data disclosure in TCCS annual reporting, and recommends utilisation levels for Canberra's public transport system be more transparent, and include monthly boarding numbers for both ACTION Bus services and for Canberra Metro services in either graphic or numerical form.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider reviewing data disclosure in the TCCS annual reporting, and recommends great detail on Fix My Street complaints and service delivery results be provided in detail. This disclosure be displayed in the next annual report and have this communicated to the relevant Directorate (possibly CMTEED in the context of Access Canberra).

1. Introduction

Presentation of 2020-21 annual and financial reports

- 1.1. All annual and financial reports for the territory were tabled between 8 October 2021¹ and 2 December 2021² in the Legislative Assembly. A collated list of annual and financial reports is available online.³
- 1.2. During its inquiry the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2020-21;
 - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
 - Suburban Land Agency
 - City Renewal Authority
 - Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
 - Major Projects Canberra
- 1.3. The Committee's inquiry was undertaken amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this, all annual and financial report hearings were conducted via videoconference. On 16 September 2022 the Assembly amended the resolution of establishment for standing committees to set a reporting date for the committee inquiries into annual and financial reports for the financial year 2020-21 of 31 May 2022.⁴

Public hearings

- 1.4. The Committee held public hearings on 24 February 2022, 25 February 2022 and 4 March 2022. At the hearings the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers and their accompanying Directorate officials; statutory officers; and members of governing boards.
- 1.5. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at Appendix A. Transcripts from the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Legislative Assembly website.

¹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 27, 8 October 2021, p 334.

² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 36, 2 December 2021, pp 451–453.

³ Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, *Annual Reports*, 2 December 2021, https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/annual-reports (accessed 21 March 2022).

⁴ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 24, 16 September 2021, p 272.

Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice

- 1.6. A total of 80 questions were lodged during the inquiry. 15 questions were taken on notice by Ministers and statutory office holders during the hearings, and 65 questions on notice were submitted by Committee Members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.7. A list of questions (by subject, submitter, recipient) and the answers are available at Appendix B, and on the inquiry webpage.

Acknowledgements

- 1.8. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted, this inquiry. This includes the ACT Government Ministers, Directorate officials, and statutory officers. The Committee extends a special thanks to the Hansard and Broadcasting staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.
 - Access Canberra
 - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
 - Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
 - City Renewal Authority
 - Suburban Land Agency
 - Major Projects Canberra

2. Directorates

- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
- City Renewal Authority
- Suburban Land Agency
- Major Projects Canberra
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

Matters considered

2.1. The Committee hearings were conducted over three days (24 February, 25 February, and 4 March 2022) with the following Ministers questioned on issues relating to their portfolio annual reports:

2.2. **HEARING DAY 1, SESSION I: THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA

Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)

2.3. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Parks and Conservation	Indigenous employment
ACT Government Architects Board	Board vacancies
Housing affordability	Land release policy
	Questions relating to western development, sustainability
Building and DA Processes	Living infrastructure policy DV 369
	Prohibition notifications and issues arising
	DA processes and new community input
Biosecurity	Horse management
	Threatened species protection in near residential zones
Nature habitats	Namarag Native Reserve
	Molonglo River Reserve
	Native grasses and environment
Pine plantations	Economic performance indicators

2.4. HEARING DAY 1, SESSION II: THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA

City Renewal Authority

EPSDD Directorate

2.5. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Public transport service	Status of reduced COVID-affected transport services
City Walk renewal	Vision for Civic
	Remodelling for Theatre Centre

2.6. HEARING DAY 1, SESSION III: THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction, Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

EPSDD Directorate

Major Projects Canberra

2.7. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Developer registration policy	Protocols for implementation
	Phoenix schemes, and risk management
Climate resilient buildings	ACT input to National Construction Code
	ACT Appendix proposal to Code
	ACT government responsibility under cladding, exposures
Water waste	Policy on sustainability
Living Infrastructures	Urban heat island effects
	Lawn mowing in ACT
	Fix My Street portal performance measures

2.8. HEARING DAY 2: FRIDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2022

Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

2.9. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Recycling and waste policy	Performance and progress on IT recycling
	Product Stewardship Scheme
	B-cycling, large batteries
	Food and organics recycling, scope for ACT processing plant
	Container deposit scheme
	Construction and demolition waste, CNI waste targets
	Bulky waste scheme, GIVIT scheme
	Zero emission garbage trucks and large vehicle procurement
	Bans on plastics, outcomes of Tranche 1, scope for extensions with tranche 2
Tuggeranong foreshores	Status of construction
	Status of consultation
	Cycling, traffic planning
Public place upkeep - mowing policy	La Nina wet season experience
	Footpaths and verges
	Protecting Landcare and sustainable areas from lawn mowing
	Access Canberra, <i>Fix My Street</i> portal
Kambah Shopping Village	Kambah Shopping Village upgrades
Belconnen storm repairs	Status on Umbagog Bridge repair
	EIS and DA timetable
Suburban infrastructure improvements	ACT government \$40m playground renewal including shopping centres, living infrastructure, and dog parks
Animal shelters and support	Update on Animal Rescue Centre
	Domestic Animal Services and support for staff
	Centre security updates

2.10. HEARING DAY 3, SESSION 1: FRIDAY 4TH MARCH 2022

Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA

Transport and City Services Directorate

Major Projects Canberra

2.11. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Road usage, emissions and the environment	Disruptive taskforce
	Patronage measures - cycleways and roadways
	Household travel survey, update post-COVID
	Estimated cost of disruption due to Light Rail Stage 2
	Estimated climate impact of the disruption
Woden Bus Depot	Delays in design and build
	Inquiry on completion timetable
Emissions reduction, e-transition	Swap-and-go batteries and related schemes in ACT
	Leasing e-buses - status
	Feasibility planning on extension of e-bus fleet
Transport planning and return to work from COVID-19	School transport strategies
	Safety and hygiene, OHS and support for drivers and mechanics
	Transport Canberra recovery plan
	Absenteeism due to recurrence of COVID illness
	Return to normal, pre-COVID-19 service timetable
Light Rail Stage 1	Status on contractor responsibilities for defects and repairs
Light Rail Stage 2 (Woden)	Cost benefit data vis-à-vis buses from Woden to Civic
	Strategies for ongoing bus transport via Woden
Active Transport	Update on Active Transport policy and implementation
	Disruptive Taskforce and Stage 2 Light Rail
e-Scooters policy in Canberra	Consultation ongoing
	Safety considerations, excluding of e-scooters from at risk areas

Bus driver rostering	Conditions under current terms of employment, flexibility
	Encouragement of women drivers, permanent-part time employment
	Constraints from COVID-19 conditions
Disadvantaged groups transport access	Status of consultation and policy
	Stakeholder engagement
Bus procurement	Efficiency and cost concerns choosing multiple bus suppliers
	Leasing scenarios
	Battery operated bus procurement strategy
	Retirement of existing Renault bus fleet, ongoing policy
Fix My Street	Public awareness on footpath and shared path repairs schedule

2.12. HEARING DAY 3, SESSION II: FRIDAY 4TH MARCH 2022

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Suburban Land Agency

2.13. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Belconnen SLA development	Limitations on public housing
	Sustainability 'place-making' for buildings, including electric specifications
Detached housing	Limitations from ballots for Taylor SLA land
	Contractual obligations on builders for sustainable 'place-making'
	Data on registrations for land purchase
	15 new developments offered in 2021, seven completed for release
	SLA ballot criterion designed toward equity and transparency
	Audits and outcomes
Sustainable block development	Practice of block scraping, options for sustainability
	Retention of top-soil and future policies
Affordable Home Purchase scheme	Review of criteria to widen equity access to land/housing
	Case study of Whitlam suburban land release
	Concerns about economic capacity to develop under criterion
	Numbers currently registered, and use of ballot scheme on sales
	Policy and rate of unsold land and regulations on developers
	Owner-occupier caveat for purchasers
Housing strategy	Ministerial report cards table in Assembly – outcomes:
	Report card 1 (Nov 2019) - 15 of 16 targeted actions delivered
	Report card 2 (Feb 2021) - 14 completed actions

	Report card 3 (Nov 2021) - 21 completed, one in development, 32 progressing and 13 continuing
	Changes in policy include Affordable Housing to mandate 15 per cent for community, public and social housing
	Concessional rental schemes, with discounts of 75 per cent or less of market rate, eg Scullin, Giralang and several suburbs in 2020
Definition of land release	Discussion on SLA release policy
	Questions on meeting demand for detached housing
Exposure draft Planning and Development Act 2007	Consultation process for SLA with Planning Minister EPSDD
Community housing	Low levels of community housing stock under SLA & CRA
	New EOI offer for three new suburban areas
	Amendments made to federal NHFIC program and loans scheme
	Build-to-rent options explored in ACT
SLA purchase and commissions policy	Integrity Commission investigations update
	SLA sale policy and safeguards on conflict of interest
	Questions on SLA family-members purchase policy
Lawson Stage 2 land release	Above-ground power lines & sustainability
	Alternate provision of power, including battery power
ACT Mingle Scheme	Community objectives, new suburb extensions to 'Mingle'

2.14. HEARING DAY 3, SESSION III: FRIDAY 4TH MARCH 2022

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

2.15. Matters raised at the Annual Report hearing:

Discussion issues	Questions arising
Impact on women's sport from closure of AIS Arena	Impact on Canberra Capitals basketball
	Input from Chief Minister
Time-lag delays for scoping new sports infrastructure	Example of finalisation of Canberra's ice sports facility
	Question on SLA in role to support sports infrastructure
	SLA input to new suburban precinct planning and development
	Development of new Canberra tennis facility, potential partners
Condition and maintenance of sports facilities	Consideration to expand 'dry land' ovals in Canberra
	Cooperation with Education Directorate in green space for pupils
	Case of Florey facilities and policy on wider community access
	Uncompetitive pricing for public sports facility access
Female-friendly pavilions and improvements	ACT Government commitment to upgrade sports facilities
	Completion of 16 sports facilities for female-friendly facilities
	Rolling program continuing
Top-soil program for sporting clubs	Support to sports clubs for maintenance of ovals and grounds
	Network role of directorate

Key Issues

Housing affordability, planning & sustainability of land use: Canberra's western edge debate

- 2.16. The Committee sought advice from two ACT Government agencies on the issue of housing affordability, especially related to land release policy in Canberra.
- 2.17. First, the Committee questioned Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Development, in his capacity responsible for the Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). As noted in Section 2, the Committee hearing on Thursday 24 February 2022 hosted Mr Gentleman who was questioned on government land release policy with focus on planning policy and oversubscribed land applications in suburban land ballots in 2021. Further, the Committee inquired on the government's environmental advice for Canberra's western edge regions.
- 2.18. In response, Minister Gentlemen referred to the land release policy based on 30 per cent greenfield site development, while 70 per cent infill of existing urban development. Minister Gentleman explained this development strategy was based on the cost impact of urban sprawl in the territory, with additional comparisons of costs of similar urban development in other jurisdictions.
- 2.19. Minister Gentleman said,
- With that evidence, we firmly made the decision – and went to an election on it, I would say, too – to go forward with a densification process, which meant that we will see more residential in town centres. So there will be more densification around town centres and transport corridors rather than further long-term urban sprawl.
- Mind you, there are still greenfields in place, but the cost of greenfields development in the long distance is quite expensive. And it is a cost on us, too, Ms Orr, I must say; it is a cost on future Canberrans. So young people wanting to go into the market, for example, will be paying a lot more, if we have urban sprawl, for infrastructure, transport and those sorts of imperatives that go with living day-to-day in a city.⁵
- 2.20. Minister Gentleman added,
- What we want to do is provide the mix, of course. So we want choice for Canberrans into the future. You should be able to have a choice to live, as Mr Parton has explained, on a large block and play cricket in your backyard if you want to, or you might want to live in an apartment, for example, close to city

⁵Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Development, *Committee Hansard*, 24 February 2022, p.10

services or public transport. So it is a choice for the people of Canberra into the future, with all of that evidence to make those decisions having been shown.⁶

- 2.21. The Minister outlined that initial government studies showed portions of the 'Western Edge' may be suitable for residential development, while other parts contained considerable environmental values. He confirmed funding of \$477,000 had been budgeted in 2021-22 for assessments on the western edge region, and \$230,000 in 2022-23 under a preliminary strategic planning phase of inquiries, which will include bushfire and conservation assessments.
- 2.22. For more detailed background, Minister Gentleman referred to the Director-General of EPSDD, Mr Ben Ponton, to outline policy on Canberra's development planning specific to the "Western Edge" and outer Tuggeranong regions.
- 2.23. Mr Ponton said the ACT government had been scoping an investigation into greenfields issues on the Western Edge region. Mr Ponton said that as outlined by the Minister, quite separate to potential greenfield infrastructure and transport costs, similarly investigations will include environmental costs which may examine the area's biodiversity and how this is not compromised under a policy for development. Mr Ponton said the Directorate's investigations will need to be extensive and may span seven to 10 years to allow adequate scoping for greenfields studies, including impact to ACT agriculture. Mr Ponton referred to Ms Carolyn O'Neill, Executive Group Manager, Planning and Urban Policy, EPSDD Directorate, to further comment on the environmental assessment process and studies.
- 2.24. Ms O'Neill outlined that the Directorate had undertaken Phase I of Western Edge investigation works consisting of a preliminary ecological review and assessments. Ms O'Neill described how the assessment reviewed landscape values and visual assessments, bushfire risk assessments and preliminary air quality assessment studies.
- 2.25. Ms O'Neill indicated a further tender for a scope of works on urban capability assessment was released on 17 January 2022.
- 2.26. Further issues for ACT government policies on land release were discussed on Friday 4 March 2022. The Committee hosted Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, with responsibility for the Suburban Land Agency (SLA). The Committee questioned Minister Berry on land release policy and issues such as excessive demand for land releases, new releases of land and housing foreshadowed, internal governance on employee procurement, and disclosures on procurements.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish the ecological assessments and studies around ecological values on the Western Edge and release results of the tenders for ecological assessments.

⁶ Minister Gentleman, *Committee Hansard*, 24 February 2022 p.10.

Renewables, recycling and waste: sustainability in services - Policies promoting sustainability and regenerative buildings

- 2.27. The Committee sought further detail from portfolio Ministers on the ACT Government's policies on sustainability in land development and planning, particularly relating to capability for regenerative buildings and infrastructure that may include underground powerlines, and questions on alternative energy options including community grid or off-grid options for supply. These topics covered policies that were being applied to promote active transport, sustainability of the Canberra light rail program and infrastructure, and sustainability being applied to planning and development programs for new land releases in suburbs. Later, the Committee sought information on principles adopted by ACT agencies in tenders for developments and impact on the physical environment for recreation.
- 2.28. On 4 March 2022, Ms Yvette Berry, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, was questioned on application of policy being applied in Belconnen CBD. Specifically, the Committee inquired about an SLA development at Belconnen block 17, section 152, of a new 550 unit-development, and measures to prepare the location for sustainable 'place-making' for the community. Minister Berry replied that an aim of the Agency was not only to achieve satisfactory pricing for land developments, but prioritise contract management that ensured optimal and sustainable outcomes for communities. Minister Berry requested Mr John Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, SLA, to further outline processes in reply to the Belconnen development site inquiry.
- 2.29. Mr Dietz said SLA policy was to incorporate into tender developments specifications requiring builders to create energy-efficient electric buildings, and to illustrate, noted that the car parks had been constructed to incorporate 32 amp power supplies, and related technologies. Mr Dietz added, "*...These requirements are made very specific as part of the contract of sale, so that the tenderer, or the person who bids at auction, knows exactly the expectations required.*"⁷
- 2.30. Relating to alternate power options for suburbs, Minister Berry said the suburb development for Lawson had included new site-specific investigations, and collaboration with the SLA Agency to determine opportunities for community batteries. This range of options had also been considered for the new suburb of Jacka in Gungahlin, but declined to commit to the Committee request that this battery capability may be offered for development in Jacka Stage II.

⁷ Mr John Dietz, CEO SLA, *Committee Hansard*, 4 March 2022, p.117.

- 2.31. The Committee made a recommendation in relation to this policy, and related sustainability concerns.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider new ways of providing reliable, renewable power to new suburbs such as solar panels, community grids and local batteries, in order to provide climate-resilient power sources that are less vulnerable to the impacts of storms and that cause less environmental damage and community concern than traditional power lines.

Building Code and Standards

- 2.32. On 24 February, Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for Sustainability and Construction, and officials from the EPSDD Directorate and Access Canberra, appeared before the Committee. The Committee questioned Minister Vassarotti on her portfolio responsibility for sustainability in housing, and application for “living infrastructure principles” in new developments and standards and relationship to the Building Code. Minister Vassarotti explained responsibility for these issues in policy reform cover several ACT government portfolios, however highlighted that her Directorate was applying policy such as DV 369 on living infrastructure as a way to nurture more sustainable design and infuse such principles into more formal building codes that cover built materials.
- 2.33. Minister Vassarotti invited Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra, to outline these plans in more detail. Mr Edghill focused his response on ACT government work under the SLA Agency for its recent Whitlam suburban development, signalling this had been “...a pilot to establish the new norm in relation to opportunities in new estates.” Later, Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reform, expanded on this policy, to note the strategy is research-based and being showcased across several Canberra projects. He noted the example of the SLA development in Whitlam that produced best practice in permeable surfaces. Mr Rutledge explained,

“We teamed up with the SLA, and what we are doing there is looking at permeable surfaces in driveways and different ways that we keep our street trees alive, putting in changes to stormwater drains, changes to the way we do the planting at the inception of the new suburb, and looking at how we can increase hold water. It is a combination of canopy cover and holding water on site – water-sensitive urban design.

“When you go to the Whitlam display village you will park on a car park that happens to be permeable. Some of the display houses that are front and centre at Whitlam demonstrate some of that sustainability and surface permeability that you can do. The idea of doing that is to help people make that choice when they are at the point of buying land and designing their homes, to look at what elements they

can build into their house and their garden to ensure that they do not contribute overly to an urban heat island effect.”⁸

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends the ACT Government advocate at the national level for standards related to emission reduction and climate-resilient building standards such as passive design, lighter coloured roofs, energy efficiency, permeable surfaces, low-embedded emissions building materials and insulation in the new national construction code.

Product Stewardship recycling scheme

- 2.34. The Committee raised questions relating to the Transport and City Services Directorate *ACT No Waste* policies. On 25 February 2022, Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Transport and City Services, was questioned on recycling and battery power, under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme. Minister Steel responded by describing ACT Government work on the national Product Stewardship scheme, and outlined cooperation with Commonwealth authorities to progress wider applications that may include solar PV (photovoltaic cell) applications. These may be trialled for Canberra’s industry and ultimately households. Minister Steel referred to Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, for further detail on extensions to the Product Stewardship scheme and related recycling and waste projects.
- 2.35. Mr Fitzgerald said the ACT government was cooperating with a national solar PV scheme that he described as industry-led with effect from 30 June 2022, and for implementation from June 2023. He confirmed national ministers had initiated consultations with industry on further waste minimalization schemes for bulkier waste items, however no timetable had been set for industry response. Mr Fitzgerald said a working paper had been developed on these discussions, and “greater movement” on implementation expected in 2023. To clarify on the breadth of appliances that were not computers and TVs – such as fridges, washing machines and batteries – Mr Fitzgerald said a solution may be multiple streams of waste schemes and these may be included for the industry consultations.

⁸ Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, *Committee Hansard*, 24 February 2022, p.68

- 2.36. The Committee made several Recommendations:

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends the ACT Government advocate for implementation of national product stewardship for recycling solar panels to commence by June 2023 as currently scheduled.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends the ACT Government set a firm timeframe on national product stewardship for receiving electrical appliances and explore local options for recycling these goods under the circular economy and waste reduction policy.

La Nina climate event - Management of lawn mowing in Canberra public spaces and protection of conservation areas

- 2.37. The Committee requested further information on the reported increase in lawn mowing due to La Nina climate rainfall and funding allocations, noted in the 2020-21 TCCS Directorate Annual Report. The Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA, outlined to the Committee that the La Nina climate event had required a significant response for lawn mowing services for Territory public grounds. Minister Steel said while the extended rainy season had been most welcomed, the TCCS Directorate had responded to also employ dedicated technology that had successfully monitored the numerous mowing of property. Minister Steel referred for further detail to Mr Stephen Alegria, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, who outlined the continuous mowing works required.
- 2.38. Mr Alegria explained that the La Nina climate weather had caused considerable growth of grasses with the Directorate arranging for mowing five times of many public Canberra grounds this past year. He said special attention was made to prominent public spaces, and/or grounds subject of safety concerns. He explained the wet weather had caused the extra mowing to extend through two financial years. This was a labour-intensive process that was managed while taking into account workplace safety under COVID health regulations, and support for the safety of employees. Access Canberra's *Fix My Street* portal guided officers with special requests on those areas for extra mowing.
- 2.39. The Committee raised a question related to safeguards to areas that may avoid the accidental mowing of lands subject of Landcare or "no-mow" conservation zones in the ACT. Mr Alegria responded by assuring the management of urban biodiversity was treated seriously and his officers had invited advice from other directorates, and any advice on

protection of conservation areas. For these reasons, Mr Alegria said the Directorate had linked mowing machines to new geofencing technology. He added, “We have satellite trackers on all machines which measure their location, their speed and whether their blades are up or down. They can potentially be used to provide a warning for the operators if they inadvertently stray into a conservation area.”⁹

Recommendation 6

That Government extend tools such as geofencing to ensure it is not mowing no-mow areas that have been planted by local Landcare groups and conservation areas.

Zero Emissions Transition Policy – waste infrastructure

- 2.40. The Committee sought information on the ACT government policy of zero emissions in relation to waste processes and procurement of infrastructure for Canberra. The Committee questioned Minister Steel, when he appeared on 25 February 2022, to outline application of the government’s Zero Emissions Transition Policy to refuse and waste contracts, including kerbside collection contracts that may be due for consideration. Minister Steel said considerable attention is being given to scope capacity for transition to zero emission waste infrastructure, and explained the Directorate had reviewed policies in South Korea which had recently introduced hydrogen garbage trucks. However, Minister Steel cautioned that the transition policy as applied to waste infrastructure had proved challenging because the engineering technologies had not been proven so far. He requested Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, to provide further detail.
- 2.41. Minister Steel affirmed the government zero emissions commitment for 2040, and explained that the process was challenged by wider consideration for energy infrastructure and feasibility work proceeding to “future retrofitting” existing transport depots for high-capacity electrical charging to meet the needs of a new e-bus fleet. Minister Steel said this research on future capacity was being led by the ACT’s *Evoenergy* transmission agency. He said,

“This is not just about buying electric busses; it is about all of the infrastructure, grid capacity and skills that are required to be able to support that. That is what the plan has really fleshed out for us.”

Minister Steel added,

“This is a commitment, of course, that we have made under our parliamentary and governing agreement—to look at how we can transition our garbage truck fleet... When we are talking about a waste contract that goes over quite a long period, anywhere up to eight or 10 years, we expect that there will be quite a substantial

⁹ Committee Hansard, Mr Geoffrey Alegria, 25 February 2022, p.73

change in terms of the transition to zero emissions over that period and also the maturation of the technology. We need to take account of that in preparing for this procurement and to make sure that there are appropriate milestones in place that are both ambitious and acknowledge the realities of where the technology is up to, particularly in the first few years of the contract before the technology gets to a point where we can have a full-scale rollout...”¹⁰

- 2.42. Minister Steel requested Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, to provide further detail.
- 2.43. Mr Fitzgerald explained that the challenge in the transition involved questions about the capacity of hydraulics for garbage trucks and waste vehicles for lifting and compacting. Mr Fitzgerald said the Directorate had recently launched an expression of interest to industry to gain information on the engineering opportunities available, and understand new technologies that were emerging. He added, “We are currently in the process of evaluating those expressions of interest to understand the information that has been provided, which will inform our future tender process.”¹¹
- 2.44. The Committee made the following recommendation:

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends the ACT Government make all new government fleet purchases zero-emissions wherever possible, including for garbage trucks. Where technology does not yet allow a suitable zero-emissions option, that the ACT Government should ensure procurement and contracts are drafted in such a way as to allow a zero-emissions upgrade during the course of the contract.

Plastics reduction

- 2.45. The Committee inquired about ACT Government implementation of a range of sustainability and waste policies. The TCCS Directorate Annual Report had outlined government implementation for phasing-out single-use plastics, following passing of the *Plastic Reduction Bill* in March 2020. The legislation had sequenced application of the ban; the first tranche provided for bans to plastic cutlery, plastic beverage stirrers, and expanded polystyrene food and beverage serving containers, to apply from 1 July 2021. A second tranche of single-use plastics was to apply from July 2022. This ban would extend to single-use plastic straws (with exemptions for those who need them), single-use plastic fruit and vegetable carrier bags, cotton buds with plastic sticks, as well as plastic products made from oxo-degradable plastic.
- 2.46. The Committee inquired in detail about *ACT NoWaste* implementation, and made the following recommendation: -

¹⁰ Minister Chris Steel MLA, *Committee Hansard*, 25 February 2022, p.89.

¹¹ Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, *Committee Hansard*, 25 February 2022, pp.89-90.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends the ACT Government explore waste audit opportunities to track the recycling rate on packaging used as a substitute for single-use plastics.

Land clearing practices in new ACT housing developments

- 2.47. The Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA, was questioned in her evidence on 4 March 2022 about suburban land development practices in the ACT, in particular block scraping of topsoil off suburban land for sale in new suburbs. The Chief Executive Office of SLA, Mr Joh Dietz, referred the Committee to Mr Simon Tennant, Development Director, Molonglo, SLA. Mr Tennant said he understood the environmental concerns that topsoil would contribute as a pollutant in water catchments, such as the Murrumbidgee. However, he assured the Committee that in works managed under SLA for the Whitlam suburb, the Agency put in place measures “over and above” what may be required for managing water outflow. Mr Tennant confirmed SLA was funding water monitoring devices to measure quality of water that is currently leaving Whitlam. Irrespective, Mr Tennant conceded that for land gradient protocols for sale of land, certain technical requirements remain that may require scraping.
- 2.48. Mr Tennant said,
- “The Suburban Land Agency takes this very seriously in trying to minimise the amount of cut and fill that occurs across estate developments. But there are, particularly in Molonglo, areas where it just cannot be avoided. As a measure to try and minimise the impact of that, certainly topsoil is retained.”¹²
- 2.49. Mr Tom Gordon, Executive Director, Delivery Development, SLA, added that in most cases an effort is made to retain topsoil. He said *“We redress the individual housing blocks and then we come through with what we call temporary grassing to hold that topsoil in place. This all occurs as part of the full package of construction works that we do.”*¹³
- 2.50. The Committee heard that responsibility for block scraping policy was split as a responsibility of the Environmental Protection Authority ACT. A further recommendation is made relating to allocated statutory functions of directorates, which had caused significant cross-referencing and referrals on questions by Ministers to Committee questions.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends the ACT Government clarify its position as to whether blocks and new suburbs are scraped by Suburban Land Agency and private developers prior to development and if so, whether the topsoil is restored or not, and

¹² Committee Hansard, Mr Simon Tennant, 4 March 2022 p.124

¹³ Committee Hansard, Mr Tom Gordon, 4 March 2022, p.125

what its policy is in relation to both block scraping and topsoil utilisation, what environmental protection measures are taken and what the environmental implications are for the waterways, topsoil, deep soil, tree canopy and climate resilience in standard block scraping practices.

Climate Resilient Buildings

- 2.51. The Committee hosted Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, in her capacity as Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction (24 February 2022). One topic of discussion was climate resilient buildings, and policies and regulation that may be recommended to encourage sustainability of home and commercial buildings in Canberra.
- 2.52. Minister Vassarotti outlined policy discussions across Commonwealth, state and territory jurisdictions to develop a National Construction Code, with the purpose to update national standards for the Building Code in Australia. The ACT government is awaiting a draft regulatory impact statement (RIS) that was scheduled in April / May 2022, and the Minister signalled the option for an ACT appendix to this RIS to provide the maximum encouragement that building construction in the Territory achieves sustainable standards.
- 2.53. Ms Bethel Sendaba, Executive Branch Manager, Building Reform, in the EPSDD Directorate, explained the ACT government had sought to encourage a sustainability framework to the National Construction Code which acted as a performance tool, and this operate to set minimum standards for the building and construction sector. The ACT government, Ms Sendaba said, had advocated that the Code would offer building designers flexibility in form and design and accordingly, achieve minimum standards that may be nominated.
- 2.54. Ms Sendaba added, *“With some of the things that you have mentioned, such as passive design, material choices can be taken into consideration in the calculations around demonstrating that compliance with the code has been met.”*¹⁴

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends the ACT Government include climate-resilient building standards in the ACT appendix to the Building Code, where these are not included in the National Construction Code.

- 2.55. At its hearing on 25 February 2022, the Committee considered *ACT NoWaste* performance and policy for reduction of building and construction waste in Canberra. The Committee noted that around 44 per cent of waste nationally was sourced from construction and demolition waste, and sought details on measurements in the ACT. The Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel, said while construction waste was under review, a government priority had been strategies to reduce organic waste to date. He

¹⁴ Ms Bethel Sendaba, Executive Branch Manager, Building Reform, EPSDD Directorate, *Committee Hearing*, 24 February 2022, p.59.

referred the detailed answer to Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste, TCCS Directorate. Mr Fitzgerald said measurements showed the waste for construction was lower in the ACT than other jurisdictions, but this data had trended higher more recently as building activity and renewal has been returning in recent months in Canberra.

- 2.56. Mr Michael Trushell, Executive Branch Manager, *ACT NoWaste*, TCCS Directorate, agreed 40 per cent was a likely construction waste figure, but argued that the actual amount going to landfill was negligible saying the figure was approximately 40,000 to 24,000 tonnes per year.
- 2.57. The Committee noted that the construction and demolition waste did not simply represent waste being sent to landfill, but also embedded carbon emissions in the material, and that this might be its own reason to minimise construction and demolition waste.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends the ACT Government explore opportunities to avoid the production of construction and demolition waste, rather than simply recycling construction and demolition waste, through the upcoming circular economy strategy.

Public transport information

- 2.58. The Committee held a hearing on Friday 4 March 2022, and invited the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA, to speak referencing the annual report's operations and planning reports on Canberra transport, and City Services. The Committee traversed a number of issues with Minister Steel on transport issues, with some focus on the performance and contracts of the completed Stage 1 of Canberra's Light Rail to Civic, and planning on Stage 2 of the Light Rail to Woden. The Minister outlined detailed arrangements that had ensued on Light Rail in Canberra, and for Stage 2 discussed aspects of the program that had caused delays to the upgrading of Woden Bus Depot. On further questioning on capacity estimates for Stage 2 Light Rail with comparative capacities pre-COVID for the bus systems for south Canberra commuting, Minister Steel said an increase in capacity of approximately 30 per cent had resulted in Light Rail from Gungahlin to Civic, and an increase of approximately 20 per cent of commuters using the link from north Canberra area. He added Stage 2 Light Rail services to Woden will likely involve more complexity in the level of service – he reminded no bus stops were currently available for passengers between Curtin and Civic – so extensive planning is continuing, and this would include capability for future integration of commuting options between bus and light rail for commuters.
- 2.59. Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Manager, Major Projects Canberra, added that the Stage 2 Light Rail may include several new services including park and ride infrastructure, designing of stations that meet community needs and review of new stop options around Parliament House and Adelaide Avenue. Mr Edghill said a further consideration was that Stage 2 was not just linking Woden with Civic, but the planning was examining commuter

journeys such as between Parliament House to Dickson and Woden to Gungahlin. The Committee followed with several Questions On Notice, and further inquiries on financial implications including comparative actual fare receipts of bus services, vis-à-vis Stage 2 Light Rail project projections, and timing for these financial disclosures.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends the ACT Government develop more transparent ways to report public transport patronage and fare income and expense disclosures, including the split between bus and light rail.

Active Travel & Disruption Taskforce for Stage 2 Light Rail project

- 2.60. The Committee hearing on 4 March 2022 included questioning of the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA, on Active Transport, whereby the ACT government was implementing policy to motivate Canberrans on more active lifestyles that resulted in less carbon emissions via alternate transport usage/s, planning access across transport systems, City public infrastructure services and areas such as footpath design and flow into schools and offices. Minister Steel invited Ms Alison Playford, Director-General TCCS, to outline specifics of these Active Transport initiatives.
- 2.61. Ms Playford said Active Travel initiatives encompassed a package of measures including pathway signage and design, e-scooter access and networks, ride-to-school programs that would especially address routes of pedestrians and school children potentially affected by disruption from the Stage 2 Light Rail building between Woden and Civic. In answer to Committee questions about take-up by the Canberra community to 'active' facilities and policy in the context of the Stage 2 Light Rail construction, Ms Playford said a Disruption Taskforce had been established. She outlined the Taskforce had begun to research with data-gathering a series of measures, including numbers using cycleways and roadways, and public transport patronage. Minister Steel added that a household travel survey was scheduled that will coincide with the Stage 2 Light Rail disruption period. This data collection would help inform the Directorate into how people are moving in and around Canberra, especially as increased numbers return to normal lifestyle and movement after COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The Committee inquired on extra resources required to further encourage Active Transport, however this specific data was not available.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends the ACT Government review resourcing to the Active Travel office or Disruption Taskforce to deliver the behaviour change programs to switch people into active travel, and consider increasing resources where needed.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends the ACT Government measure and report against any changes to transport mode share over the life of construction of Light Rail and the work of the Disruption Taskforce.

City Services – footpath improvements and communication

- 2.62. The Committee inquired about ACT Government City Services agencies in general purpose repairs and management of public footpaths -- specifically, the reported time-gaps between community members accessing *Fix My Street* government portal, and the repair/s. Minister Steel said the Roads ACT agency managed this area of City Service policy, with strategies that prioritised repairs. He introduced Shelly Fraser, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Roads ACT in City Services TCCS, to reply. Ms Fraser outlined Roads ACT operations for such services provided for a “path infill priority list”, to enable efficient management of and completion after complaints or arrangements for footpath repairs.
- 2.63. Ms Fraser explained,

“As Minister Steel mentioned, we take into consideration a range of factors, including demand, proximity to community facilities like schools and shops, public transport, and the strategic cycling network or connectivity active travel plans that we are working on.”¹⁵

In further exchange with officials, the Committee expressed a preference that Roads ACT provide improved access and awareness on government websites to its progressive planning for footpath upgrades and repairs, and these issues formed additional recommendations.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends the ACT Government release quantitative data of footpath conditions by district, informed by the full footpath and shared path/Community Path audit, with effect as soon as practicable and in light of Cabinet and Government deliberations.

¹⁵ Committee Hansard, Ms Shelly Fraser, p.114

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that once ACT Government has procured a package of footpath and shared path repairs or works through the capital works team, this is published on a website and possibly linked through to *Fix My Street* so community know this work is coming and do not need to continually report the problem.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends the ACT Government set an aggregate accountability indicator for share of footpaths and share paths maintained in good conditioned following consideration of current condition audits.

Re-purposing review for Canberra's pine plantations to widen community usage

- 2.64. The Committee heard from the Minister for Planning and Land Development, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, at its hearing on 24 February 2022 on management of the pine forest plantations under management on ACT public lands, and technology of aerial mapping that locates these sites under Access Canberra. Minister Gentleman was asked if current measurements recorded under the ACT parks service showing a surplus of funds as a dividend to government of pine forest sales, could better record the cost-benefits of recreational use of the Canberra forests, beyond sales for woodchip and timber. This included economic benefits after the ACT government had promoted trail-bike riding which attracted numerous domestic and international visitors to Canberra.
- 2.65. Minister Gentleman invited Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and Built Environment, to respond.
- 2.66. Mr Rutledge said the government does not measure the economic benefits of its forestry plantation areas, beyond records published on receipts from management of and sales for timber. Mr Rutledge said he was aware of broad economic studies about the value of mountain biking, and the trend of numerous local government agencies to promote destination tourism on this basis.
- 2.67. The Committee questioned EPSDD officials to encourage closer economic analysis on whether returns to the ACT Government may be higher if the mountain bike and recreational value of the forest were costed and prioritised, rather than pursuing dividends from pine logging. Mr Rutledge said the 30-year life-cycle from pine seedling to commercial viability for timber harvesting provided a significant timeframe to examine further sources of activity. Mr Rutledge said the government did not currently have any economic measure of the recreational and mountain bike value of the forests and so could not consider it when weighing up the best use of the forests.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends the ACT Government assess the value of the mountain biking trails and walking trails in Territory forests in dollar figures, report against it and develop indicators and methods to weigh up what is the higher economic value of each section of our forest between tourism, trails and logging.

School recreational sports facility access for communities

- 2.68. The Committee invited the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Ms Yvette Berry MLA, to appear on 4 March 2022, to discuss TCCS Directorate policy and key issues. The Committee discussed sporting infrastructure in Canberra, and playing facilities associated with the AIS Arena, hosted at the University of Canberra. Minister Berry outlined concerns about the impact the closed AIS Arena had on the Canberra Capitals professional women's basketball team, and related services for community groups. Later, the Minister was questioned about the time-lag in the scope, development and build of new sporting facilities, especially in newly released Canberra suburbs. Minister Berry outlined collaboration that the SLA had achieved with their suburban land development, to incorporate sporting facility opportunities, covering sports fields, indoor sports and other community facilities. However, Minister Berry conceded there was considerable challenge to increase new or improved sports facilities in "older brownfield sites" that covered established Canberra suburbs. In contrast, Minister Berry illustrated the progress achieved in Gungahlin for new sports facilities, with the ACT government commitment to build a dedicated tennis centre in the area.
- 2.69. The Committee heard further questions about community access to school sports grounds and the management plan that will incorporate a community process to review the use of dryland ovals all around Canberra, commencing with the dryland oval in Florey. Minister Berry confirmed discussions had been initiated with the Education Directorate and school community. The Committee asked if these consultations had yet included the general Florey community and questioned what the timetable would be to hold those Florey dryland oval consultations. No specific timetable was given.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends the ACT Government progress consultation as soon as possible with the school community and general community on the future recreational uses for the Florey dryland oval.

Disclosure protocols in annual reports

▪ Issue 1 – Detail on traffic fines

- 2.70. The Committee *Inquiry into the impact of reduced speed limits in Civic* – Petitions 31-21 and 38-21 (*PTCS Report No 9*, released out of session, *January 2022*) was held after much public interest in petitions, particularly on the levels of traffic fines and ability to use certain streets in Civic. The ACT Government responded to the PTCS Report (Legislative Assembly tabled statement, 5 May 2022). The Committee additionally noted current disclosure protocols in TCCS annual reports (both TCCS /Access Canberra) which provided some consolidated detail that enabled the public and MLAs an overall appreciation of magnitudes and trends in fines incurred by the public. However, the Committee noted the following table (example only) may be a more useful template for disclosure of current fines and data, for additional consideration by government.

Number of traffic fines issued in the ACT		
Category	2020-2021	2021-2022
Speeding – static camera		
Speeding – mobile camera units		
Other speeding fines		
Total speeding		
Parking fines		
Other vehicle related fines		
Total fines issued		

Recommendation 20

That Committee recommends the ACT Government consider reviewing data disclosure in TCCS annual reporting, and recommends that greater segmented detail is shown on the nature and variation of traffic fines and these changes be in the relevant annual report.

Disclosure protocols in annual reports

▪ Issue 2 – Data on public transport usage

- 2.71. The Committee hearing (24 February 2022) examined TCCS disclosures and data collection on utilisation levels for Canberra's public transport system. Minister Steel and officers of the Directorate referred to various survey data as significant for budget determination and strategic directions for future policy development. The Committee determined that a

review of disclosure protocols that may show utilisation levels and trends in utilisation would be a most useful feature in the TCCS annual report.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider reviewing data disclosure in TCCS annual reporting, and recommends utilisation levels for Canberra's public transport system be more transparent, and include monthly boarding numbers for both ACTION Bus services and for Canberra Metro services in either graphic or numerical form.

Disclosure protocols in annual reports

▪ Issue 3 – Fix My Street portal

- 2.72. The Committee hearing (25 February 2022) with Minister Steel and TCCS officials included a discussion on information made available on the *Fix My Street* Government website. In those discussions, Ms Shelly Fraser, Acting Executive Branch Manager, responded to review the portal information in next year's annual report.¹⁶
- 2.73. The Committee notes several additional areas of disclosure for consideration: an insight into the opening balance of outstanding jobs, jobs created in the reporting year, jobs completed in the reporting year and jobs outstanding at the close of the reporting year (as an example). The Committee also proposed for improved transparency on the major categories of requests that were lodged by the community.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider reviewing data disclosure in the TCCS annual reporting, and recommends great detail on Fix My Street complaints and service delivery results be provided in detail. This disclosure be displayed in the next annual report and have this communicated to the relevant Directorate (possibly CMTEDD in the context of Access Canberra).

¹⁶ Committee Hansard, Ms Shelly Fraser, p.114

3. Conclusion

The Committee has made 22 recommendations into its Inquiry into the Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21 and thanks those who contributed to the inquiry.

Jo Clay

Chair

31 May 2022

Appendix A: Witnesses

24 February 2022

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction
- Ms Bethel Sendaba, Executive Branch Manager, Building Reform

Major Projects Canberra

- Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Officer

Access Canberra

- Mr Nick Lhuede, ACT Construction Occupations Registrar/Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Manager of Government Business, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- Mr Ben Ponton, Director-General
- Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment
- Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
- Mr Ian Walker, Executive Group Manager and Conservator of Flora and Fauna; Environment, Heritage and Water
- Ms Bethel Sendaba, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
- Ms Carolyn O'Neill, Executive Group Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
- Mr George Cilliers, Acting Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning

Access Canberra

- Mr Nick Lhuede, Acting Executive Branch Manager; Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection

Mr Barr Andrew MLA, Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tourism and Special Events, Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment

City Renewal Authority

- Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive Officer

- Mr Craig Gillman, Chief Operating Officer

25 February 2022

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

- Ms Alison Playford, Director-General
- Mr Jim Corrigan, Deputy Director-General, City Services
- Mr Bruce Fitzgerald, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery and Waste
- Mr Stephen Alegria, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation
- Mr Jeremy Smith, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
- Ms Meghan Oldfield, Acting Chief Operating Officer
- Mr Craig Jordan, Executive Group Manager, Territory and Business Services
- Mr Michael Trushell, Executive Branch Manager, *ACT NoWaste*
- Ms Sarah Steed, Director of Engagement, Library Support Office, Libraries ACT

4 March 2022

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- Mr John Dietz, Chief Executive Officer, Suburban Land Agency
- Mr Neil Bulless, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Suburban Land Agency
- Mr Nicholas Holt, Executive Director, Built Form and Divestment, Suburban Land Agency
- Mr Simon Tennent, Development Director, Molonglo, Suburban Land Agency
- Mr Tom Gordon, Executive Director, Development Delivery, Suburban Land Agency
- Ms Mayumi Piper, Senior Director, Community Development and Engagement, Suburban Land Agency
- Ms Bethel Sendaba, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Urban Policy

Steel, Mr Chris, Minister for Skills, Minister for Transport and City Services, Special

Minister of State

Transport Canberra and City Services

- Ms Alison Playford, Director-General
- Mr Ben McHugh, Deputy Director-General, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- Mr John Bowdery, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy and Customer
- Me Ian McGlinn, Executive Branch Manager, Bus Operations, Transport Canberra
- Mr Judith Sturman, Executive Group Manager, Transport Canberra
- Ms Shelly Fraser, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Roads ACT, City Services
- Mr Ashley Cahif, Project Director, Light Rail Stage 2 to Woden, Major Projects Canberra
- Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra

Transport Canberra and City Services

- Mr Stephen Alegria, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation

Appendix B: Questions on notice and taken on notice

Questions on notice

No.	Received Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	01-03-22	Lee	Gentleman	Tenders awarded by EPSDD	16-03-22
2	01-03-22	Lee	Barr	Tenders awarded by City Renewal Authority	15-03-22
3	01-03-22	Lee	Steel	Tenders awarded by Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority	10-03-22
4	02-03-22	Clay	Steel	FOGO	11-03-22
5	02-03-22	Clay	Steel	Waste audits	11-03-22
6	02-03-22	Clay	Barr	Controlled Activity orders - Access Canberra	11-03-22
7	02-03-22	Clay	Gentleman	Coombs Peninsula	21-03-22
8	02-03-22	Clay	Rattenbury	Gas Draft Variation	02-05-22
9	02-03-22	Clay	Gentleman	Parks and Conservation Rangers	16-03-22
10	02-03-22	Clay	Gentleman	Proposed dementia-friendly village	21-03-22
11	03-03-22	Kikkert	Gentleman	Grandfathering clause for DV 369	02-05-22
12	03-03-22	Kikkert	Gentleman	Blocks impacted by DV 369	02-05-22
13	03-03-22	Kikkert	Gentleman	Planting coverage standards in suburbs, streets and parks	21-03-22
14	03-03-22	Kikkert	Gentleman	Modelling on block level recommendations from Tait Report	11-03-22
15	03-03-22	Kikkert	Gentleman	Tait Network Recommendations	12-05-22
16	03-03-22	Lawder	Gentleman	Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan	16-03-22
17	03-03-22	Lawder	Gentleman	Demanding and Mac and Bert Oldfields Huts	16-03-22
18	03-03-22	Lawder	Gentleman	Tidbinbilla and Namadgi National Park	11-03-22
19	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Cat Containment	18-03-22
20	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Domestic Animals services	15-03-22
21	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Dog Parks	15-03-22
22	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	FOGO Pilot and Waste Facilities	16-03-22

No.	Received Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
23	04-03-22	Lawder	Re EGEE QON 24	Veolia Waste Incinerator	Yes
24	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Mugga lane	16-03-22
25	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Local Shops	16-03-22
26	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Southern memorial park	18-03-22
27	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Playgrounds	15-03-22
28	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Mt Taylor	21-03-22
29	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Mature Trees	15-03-22
30	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Vest	15-03-22
31	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	City Presentation	16-03-22
32	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Broken Footpaths	04-04-22
33	04-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Footpaths	01-04-22
34	01-03-22	Lee	Steel	Tenders awarded by Transport Canberra Operations	15-03-22
35	01-03-22	Lee	Steel	Tenders awarded by TCCS	10-03-22
36	07-03-22	Lee	Berry	Tenders rewarded by Suburban Land Agency	28-03-22
37	07-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Graffiti	18-03-22
38	07-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Potholes	06-04-22
39	08-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Container Deposit Scheme	24-03-22
40	08-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Soft Landings Mattress Recycling	22-03-22
41	08-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Libraries story walks	18-03-22
42	08-03-22	Lawder	Berry	Female Friendly Guidelines for Sports Pavilions	07-04-22
43	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Community Footpaths	07-04-22
44	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Bus Patronage Numbers	18-03-22
45	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Bus Fleet Age	22-03-22
46	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Woden Interchange	21-03-22
47	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Upgraded Ticketing System	18-03-22
48	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Services for New Suburbs	18-03-22
49	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Auditor General's Report 8/2021 - Light Rail Stage 2 Business Cases	15-03-22
50	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	TCCS Tender ITR GS2493434	18-03-22
51	08-03-22	Parton	Steel	Infrastructure Underspend	22-03-22

No.	Received Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
52	08-03-22	Parton	Berry	Affordable Home Purchase Threshold	11-04-22
53	08-03-22	Cain	Berry	Ballot process for sale of SLA land	12-04-22
54	09-03-22	Parton	Steel	Bus Network	18-03-22
55	09-03-22	Clay	Steel	Bike safety	21-03-22
56	09-03-22	Clay	Steel	Path quality audit report	21-03-22
57	10-03-22	Kikkert	Steel	Construction of Community Paths	31-03-22
58	10-03-22	Kikkert	Steel	Inspection of footbridge on Ginninderra Drive	01-04-22
59	10-03-22	Kikkert	Steel	Molonglo River Bridge	21-03-22
60	10-03-22	Parton	Steel	Action Bus and Light Rail Revenues	23-03-22
61	10-03-22	Parton	Steel	Action Bus - Expenses in Operating Statement	23-03-22
62	10-03-22	Lawder	Steel	COTA Relocation	26-03-22
63	10-03-22	Lawder	Steel	Works at Fadden Pond (Re QON 579)	28-03-22
64	11-03-22	Parton	Steel	Car Parking in the City and Acton	01-04-22
65	11-03-22	Parton	Steel	Bus Staffing Numbers (Ref: Budget 2021-22 Answers to QON 21)	25-03-22

Questions taken on notice

No.	Hearing Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	24-02-22	Clay	Gentleman	Ngunnawal rangers	11-03-22
2	24-02-22	Clay	Gentleman	Western Edge Studies	11-03-22
3	24-02-22	Parton	Gentleman	ACT Planning System Review and Reform Project	11-03-22
4	24-02-22	Clay	Gentleman	Complaints about DAs	11-03-22
5	24-02-22	Parton	Vassarotti	Class Action Combustible Cladding	03-03-22
6	25-02-22	Clay	Steel	Battery Recycling	08-03-22
7	25-02-22	Lawder	Steel	Online Mowing Map Visits	08-03-22
8	25-02-22	Lawder	Steel	Fix My Street	08-03-22
1	04-03-22	Parton	Steel	Light Rail maximum capacity	11-03-22
2	04-03-22	Parton	Steel	Bus services from Woden to Civic	23-03-22

No.	Hearing Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
3	04-03-22	Parton	Steel	Light Rail - stage 1	22-03-22
4	04-03-22	Cain	Berry	Detached Housing dwelling percentage	22-03-22
5	04-03-22	Cain	Berry	Integrity Commissioner Enquiry	22-03-22
6	04-03-22	Cain	Berry	Purchase of SLA property declarations	22-03-22
7	04-03-22	Cain	Berry	Numbers of staff purchased SLA property	22-03-22