



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City Services

Reference: Budget Statement H

Hearing Date: 24/07/2024

In relation to: TCCS and Sulwood Drive

QON lodgement Date: 26/07/2024

Answer Due date: 05/08/2024

- (1) The Sulwood Drive upgrade required the removal of about 100 trees. Why are these trees being replaced on a 1:1 basis when protected trees on private land must be replaced on a 2:1 ratio?
- (2) For the replacement trees, what is the mix of saplings versus more mature trees?
- (3) What proportion of these trees are expected to reach maturity?
- (4) When will the upgrade be completed?
- (5) When will work commence and finish on the path on the southern side of Sulwood Drive between Athllon Drive and Drakeford Drive?

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

- (1) The Sulwood Drive Upgrade will be planting as many replacement trees as possible. There are restrictions on plantings in the Sulwood Drive road reserve as this is an Inner Asset Protection Zone. This area is defined under the Bushfire Management Standards, and has limits on what can be planted, how close these trees and shrubs can be to each other (spacing), and the species that are suitable for this location.

TCCS is working with Conservator of Flora and Fauna to ensure the replacement trees are suitable from an environmental and fire safety perspective, and that they do not increase the risk or consequence of any fire.

The approval of the Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) granted by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna stated that the works are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

- (2) The planned ratio of saplings to mature trees is anticipated to be 80:20.
- (3) All of the plants recommended for placement along Sulwood Drive are expected to reach maturity. We are undertaking a specific mix of topsoil and ameliorating the soil to be placed around each tree to provide the highest chance for each tree to grow, noting the contractor has a consolidation period for trees under which they are responsible for replacing any trees that do not establish.
- (4) The current program for the construction of the Sulwood Drive Upgrade identifies physical completion in June 2025 (weather and site conditions permitting). There will be a 12-month landscape consolidation period for the trees and grassing after completion, where the contractor remains responsible for these elements.
- (5) The walking and cycling path has commenced construction, noting that the contractor is currently focused on the intersection works while the road closure remains in place. The walking and cycling path is identified for physical completion in June 2025 (pending suitable weather).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:



By the Minister for City Services, Tara Cheyne MLA