

Tara Cheyne MLA

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 3****Friday, 7 March 2025****Question No. 165****MR CAIN:** To ask the Minister for City and Government Services —

1. What specific budget efficiencies were achieved by increasing the inhouse planting team.
2. How does the Government plan to sustain these efficiencies while ensuring high-quality tree planting and maintenance.
3. How does the Government ensure that intergovernmental collaborations for tree planting are effectively coordinated and result in tangible benefits for biodiversity and landscape outcome
4. What metrics are used to evaluate the success of these collaborations.
5. What feedback has the Government received from residents regarding the tree giveaway trial program in 2024.
6. How does the Government plan to expand and improve this initiative to further enhance urban canopy coverage.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA – The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

1. The in-house team is essential for the delivery of the increased planting program through the efficient and cost-effective planting of tube stock plantings in open space areas and on the verge of main and arterial roads. Specifically, the in-house team offers budget efficiencies for the planting of tube stock as contractor rates differ little from those for larger individual residential street tree plantings. The in-house team is also able to deliver planting of job lots that have not been quoted by contractors due to market limitations, as well as cost-effectively supporting community plantings and the ongoing care of the ever-growing juvenile tree population (i.e. care of young trees planted in previous years).



2. The in-house planting team is now an experienced and well-trained workforce that is passionate and dedicated to high-quality outcomes. Through their engagement in the design and planning of environmental plantings and their knowledge of Canberra's urban environment, the team are able to consistently improve their efficiency, utilising spatial data to refine programs of young tree care, essential to the successful establishment of the juvenile tree population.
3. Intergovernmental collaborations are focussed on areas of low canopy cover managed by other directorates that lie within the urban footprint. These initiatives involve significant engagement with the partnering directorate, and species are selected to ensure the best outcome for the environment, including aspects such as biodiversity, climate resilience, and mature tree size.
4. The success of the collaborations is evaluated by numbers of trees planted or gifted as well as the number of schools engaged for the Shade our Play initiative, which is reported in the TCCS Annual Report, and the annual Urban Tree Canopy Coverage report. Ongoing success will be evaluated through the capture and analysis of LiDAR imagery every five years to calculate changes to canopy coverage in the ACT.
5. City Services received many positive comments relating to the tree giveaway program. These reinforced the strong support of the initiative demonstrated by tickets being fully allocated for both programs within an hour of the offering of trees being made available.
6. Any further free tree initiative will consider how to better target low canopy areas and numbers of trees per person, with a view to ensuring more Canberrans can access the initiative.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date: 2/4/25

This response required 2 hrs to complete, at an approximate cost of \$192.90