

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. 180****MR CAIN:** To ask the Minister for City and Government Services —

1. What specific measures is the Government taking to ensure that the remaining tree planting target is met by June 2024.
2. How will the Government address any potential shortfalls in achieving this goal?
3. Has there been increased reports from residents experiencing issues with trees being planted by Transport Canberra and City Services in unreasonably close proximity to their driveways; if so, why?
4. How does the Government manage the process of selecting locations for urban tree planting.
5. What criteria and measurements are used to ensure that trees are planted in suitable locations without causing inconvenience to residents?
6. What steps are being taken to address and resolve any concerns raised by residents regarding tree planting in front of their driveways?
7. Did the tree planting program face significant challenges in 2022–2023, including delays, limited contractor availability, and high numbers of resident street tree refusals; if so, why?
8. What lessons has the Government learned from the challenges faced in the 2022–2023 tree planting program?
9. How is the Government adapting their strategies to overcome these issues and ensure successful tree planting in the future?

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

1. The 2024-25 target of 5,000 trees has already been met.
2. Refer to my answer to Q1.
3. No.

4. A thorough analysis of potential tree planting sites is undertaken which considers the requirements for resident parking in various areas. Each site undergoes careful oversight by an additional team member to ensure consistent decisions.

The process for allocating tree planting sites is robust and involves several key steps including:

- Exploring Planting Opportunities - identifying the best planting locations that benefit the greater community, replacing trees that have been removed or identifying vacant locations that would benefit from tree canopy cover.
- Identifying Suitable Tree Species.
- Conducting Detailed Site Analyses.
- Ensuring Quality Oversight - each location is reviewed to guarantee quality and compliance before any allocation to in-house teams or contractors.
- Final Validation by Auditors - in certain cases, an auditor is allocated to conduct an on-site visit to confirm the suitability of the chosen location.

TCCS also welcomes and accommodates resident's requests for trees, ensuring that community voices are heard and valued.

5. TCCS adheres to clearances identified in the Municipal Infrastructure Standards (MIS), including MIS06 – Verges, MIS07 – Driveways, MIS 24 – Soft landscape design and MIS25 - Plant species for urban landscape projects.
6. Tree planting is not undertaken in front of authorised driveways. Prior to trees being planted, homeowners are provided with an opportunity to comment on the location to ensure limited disruption.
7. The percentage of trees planted during the 2022-23 financial year fell short of the annual commitment to plant 18,000 trees. In 2022-23, 12,650 trees were sourced and planted by TCCS, or in partnership with TCCS, achieving 70% of the annual target of 18,000 tree plantings. The variance was caused by a variety of factors, including:
 - a shortage of contractors submitting quotes for work for subsequent planting programs at a price that represents good value for money;
 - persistent wet weather during spring and summer which impeded volunteer and inhouse planting events and prevented mowing of long grass as required for safe access to nominated open space planting sites;
 - difficulties in sourcing suitable planting sites due to planting restrictions, including bushfire management requirements, flood mitigation infrastructure, above and below ground utility easements, mowing clearances, development implications, site contamination, roadside restrictions on ≥80km roads, heritage approval delays, and environmental land use restrictions, e.g., native grasslands; and
 - residents refusing street tree plantings outside of their homes, requiring last minute re-routing of the young tree to a new planting location.
8. TCCS identified several lessons from the 2022-23 tree planting program, including the need to:
 - ensure timely procurement processes to maintain market access
 - develop greater in-house capacity to limit reliance on market availability
 - allocate more resources to identifying suitable planting locations

- improve community consultation processes to enable timely provision of resident feedback.
9. To address the issues that led to the variance, TCCS increased the size of the inhouse planting team to provide additional staff to plan and undertake tree planting and reduce vulnerability to limitations in the market. Additional training was also provided to increase team capabilities to maintain procurement and contract management processes.

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 5 hrs and 0 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$429.05