

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15 06 February 2026 Question No. 824

Ms Deborah Morris MLA: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services -

In relation to mature trees protected by the *Urban Forest Act 2023*:

- a) Is there a statutory timeframe for a decision on an application to remove a protected tree;
- b) What were the
 - i. Median; and
 - ii. Mean processing times for a decision on an application to remove a protected tree in (A) 2023-2024 and (B) 2024-2025;
- c) How many full-time equivalent staff are currently employed to conduct a physical site inspection of trees on private land;
- d) What is the current backlog of tree removal applications as of 1 February 2026; and
- e) How many applications for tree removal related to a knockdown-rebuild or subdivision have been
 - i. Approved; and
 - ii. refusedsince the commencement of the act.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- a) Division 3.3 Section 28 of the *Urban Forest Act 2023* provides the decision-maker with a 35-working day period to decide on a Tree Activity Application. This period can be paused, should the application require further information.
- b) For decisions made under Section 28 of the *Urban Forest Act 2023*:

- i) The median decision-making timeframe was 34 working days in 2023-24; and 31 working days in 2024-25.
- ii) The mean decision-making timeframe was 28 working days in 2023-24; and 24 working days in 2024-25.
- c) There are 7.8 FTE employed who undertake site inspections of protected trees on leased land in response to Tree Activity Applications and Development Applications as part of their duties.
- d) Our system does not have the capacity to extract retrospective live application data. As at 19 February 2026, there are 154 applications active in the Urban Forest Management System, where removal was selected as an activity by the applicant. This includes all applications where a decision has not yet been made.
- e) Applications received by the Tree Protection Unit are not recorded by associated development type.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date: 11/5/25

This response required 3 hours 30minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$320