

Tara Cheyne MLA

Assistant Minister for Economic Development

Minister for the Arts

Minister for Business and Better Regulation

Minister for Human Rights

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Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 25****Friday, 2 December 2022****Question No. 1004**

Asked by Ms Castley MLA –

- (1) In relation to certificates for electrical safety, how many inspections were completed between 1 November 2021 and 1 November 2022 per month for (a) new photovoltaic systems, (b) battery systems, (c) additions and alterations and (d) new electrical installations.
- (2) How many (a) electrical inspections is Access Canberra falling behind each month, (b) new photovoltaic systems were added to inspection lists each month between 1 November 2021 and 1 November 2022 and (c) new photovoltaic installations still need to be inspected as of 30 November 2022.
- (3) Does the Government aim to complete inspections of new photovoltaic installations within a timeframe; if so, (a) what is the timeframe, (b) what percentage of inspections are completed within this timeframe and (c) has the timeframe been changed; if so, (i) when was the timeframe changed, (ii) what was it before and (iii) what was it changed to.
- (4) How many new photovoltaic installations have been waiting for inspection since completion for more than (a) three, (b) four, (c) five, (d) six, (e) seven, (f) eight, (g) nine months and (h) a year.
- (5) Has the ACT Government committed to inspect 100 percent of new photovoltaic installations; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (6) Further to question on notice No 704, can the Minister provide (a) an update for quarter one and quarter three and include existing photovoltaic and NexGen battery inspections/failures



as well as for the 2021-22 financial year, (b) a breakdown by what the demerit points were received from eg, new photovoltaic installation, battery etc.

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

1. The numbers of inspections completed between 1 November 2021 and 1 November 2022 are as follows:

- a) new photovoltaic systems = 6,816
- b) battery systems = 2,998
- c) additions and alterations = 13,529
- d) new electrical installations = 20,661

| Month | a) new photovoltaic systems | b) battery systems | c) additions and alterations | d) new electrical installations |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| November 2021 | 828 | 132 | 2,851 | 2,128 |
| December 2021 | 612 | 116 | 3,126 | 1,444 |
| January 2022 | 341 | 140 | 1,658 | 736 |
| February 2022 | 435 | 184 | 2,204 | 1,511 |
| March 2022 | 549 | 287 | 2,760 | 2,136 |
| April 2022 | 436 | 227 | 1,980 | 1,392 |
| May 2022 | 821 | 390 | 2,086 | 2,183 |
| June 2022 | 780 | 232 | 2,585 | 1,994 |
| July 2022 | 573 | 205 | 3,569 | 1,947 |
| August 2022 | 532 | 289 | 2,991 | 1,854 |
| September 2022 | 368 | 490 | 2,371 | 1,580 |
| October 2022 | 541 | 306 | 2,128 | 1,756 |
| Total | 6,816 | 2,998 | 13,529 | 20,661 |

2. a) There is no set timeframe in which inspections are required. Inspections are undertaken following the submission of the Certificate of Electrical Safety (CES) for the works, which certifies the electrical work has followed necessary standards and guidelines and that this work was performed by qualified electrician. For new photovoltaic installations, the CES allows for the operation and use of the system, and there are no delays to the consumer while the inspection is pending.
- b) The number of new photovoltaic systems added to inspection lists each month between 1 November 2021 and 1 November 2022 are as follows:

| Month | New photovoltaic systems added |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| November 2021 | 741 |
| December 2021 | 395 |
| January 2022 | 701 |
| February 2022 | 856 |
| March 2022 | 832 |
| April 2022 | 661 |

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| May 2022 | 800 |
| June 2022 | 899 |
| July 2022 | 830 |
| August 2022 | 1,038 |
| September 2022 | 1,092 |
| October 2022 | 936 |

c) new photovoltaic installations that still need to be inspected as of 30 November 2022 = 3,513.

3. There is no set timeframe in which inspections are expected to be completed. Inspections are prioritised to allow Certificates of Occupancy and Use to be issued for new residential and commercial premises. Inspections are undertaken following the submission of the Certificate of Electrical Safety (CES) for the works, which certifies the electrical work has followed necessary standards and guidelines and that this work was performed by qualified electrician. For new photovoltaic installations, the CES allows for the operation and use of the system, and there are no delays to the consumer while the inspection is pending.
4. The number of new photovoltaic installations that have been waiting for inspection since completion are as follows:

| Months | Number |
|--------|--------|
| Three | 1,765 |
| Four | 1,207 |
| Five | 871 |
| Six | 527 |
| Seven | 274 |
| Eight | 123 |
| Nine | 11 |
| Twelve | 0 |

5. Part 2 of the *Electricity Safety Act 1971* (the Act) provides that all new electrical installations must be inspected. Access Canberra undertakes inspections for all new solar photovoltaic installations as required by the Act.

6. (a) Update to Question on Notice No 704:

- Quarter 1 (July-September 2021) = 14 defects;
- Quarter 3 (January-March 2022) = 90 defects;
- Defects for financial year 2021/22 = 420

(b) A total of 21 demerit points from seven demerit actions were issued regarding photovoltaic and battery installations in the financial year 2021/22.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Tara Cheyne MLA 
Minister for Business and Better Regulation

Date: 