

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 5
Friday, 11 April 2025
Question No. 298

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

1. How does the ACT Government assess the efficiency of traffic lights.
2. Are the assessments, referred to in part (1), done for each set of signals; if so, (a) what metrics are used and (b) how often are these assessments done.
3. Is there a formal process in response to these assessments for signalled intersections that need review.

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

1. Traffic signal efficiency is largely determined by intersection design, with the geometry and movements, including pedestrian crossings, fixed at this stage. The ACT has specification and design guidance that along with other design factors ensures that traffic signals are designed and assessed to be efficient and safe for the predicted traffic volumes and movements.

While most of the efficiency of a traffic signal intersection is locked in by the design, the traffic signal system operated in the Territory provides highly efficient adaptive operation, automatically adjusting green times to suit traffic demands at the time. The system also provides coordination of green signals when warranted by traffic flows. Traffic signal operation is regularly monitored by staff within the Traffic Signals Unit and Traffic Management Centre (TMC) through field monitoring, remotely through traffic monitoring cameras and desktop assessment of data derived from the traffic signals control and travel time monitoring systems.



2. Assessments for signalised intersections performance is undertaken at a strategic level when planning for infrastructure upgrades, as well as during the traffic signal design process and during operation.

During operation, where issues are noted by staff or through customer complaints the signal operation is reviewed and optimised on a priority basis. In performing optimisation of traffic signals a number of metrics, such as queue length and delay observations, degree of saturation, approach throughput, historical operational records, coordination diagrams and traffic modelling outputs are prepared and reviewed. These metrics are reviewed on a before and after basis following completion of the review.

The review of traffic signal operation may result in changes to the signal timing plans and minor changes to the traffic signal design, such as the line marking or positioning of traffic signal poles.

3. A review of traffic signal efficacy is done informally each day by Roads ACT operators monitoring the performance of the network in the Traffic Management Centre. Officers will also investigate concerns raised by the public (as per question 2).

Roads ACT also has an ongoing program of optimising traffic signals. Recent optimisation works have resulted in significant reductions in cycle times and hence reduced delays to cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles entering or leaving arterial roads.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date:

12/5/25

This response required 1 hr and 38 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$192.64