

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. 160

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

1. How does the Government ensure that the number of trees planted under canopy contribution agreements sufficiently offsets the loss of removed trees, given that 234 trees were approved for removal and 478 were agreed to be planted.
2. What measures are in place to track the survival and growth of newly planted trees.

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

1. A canopy contribution agreement is required to remove a protected tree, and this contribution compensates for the loss of canopy coverage.

For homeowners: Two trees are required to be planted for each tree approved to be removed. Where two trees are not able to be planted due to site constraints, or other reasons, the Canopy Contribution Agreement will require a one-off payment of \$600 per tree not able to be re-planted.

For non-homeowners, a canopy contribution calculator is made available online to determine how many trees are required to be replanted for every tree approved to be removed, or what the financial contribution will be if the required number of trees is not able to be planted on site. The calculator incorporates in its algorithm an estimate of how many trees would be required to return the pre-development canopy cover within 20 years.



The requirements for a canopy contribution agreement are explicit in the *Urban Forest Act 2023* and associated regulations. <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2023-14>

2. The Applicant must, within 21 calendar days of making the on-site Canopy Contribution (planting of tree), submit a planting report to the Directorate.

Canopy Contribution Agreements require the applicant to acknowledge and agree that it is an offence under section 42 of the Act to engage in conduct that contravenes, or is likely to contravene, the Agreement.

The Tree Protection Unit undertakes random site audit inspections to ensure compliance with agreed Canopy Contribution Agreements throughout the year.

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 1hrs and 30 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$148.85