

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

1. What criteria will be used to prioritise the replacement of mature trees.
2. How will the Government ensure that the new plantings are resilient and suitable for Canberra's urban environment.
3. What specific initiatives will be included in the Urban Wood Reuse Plan to maximise the value of urban wood waste.
4. How will the Government ensure that the initiatives, referred to in part (3), contribute to the broader goals of the ACT Circular Economy Strategy.

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

1. Tree assessment data is currently being reviewed to ensure that tree assessments are being performed in line with modern techniques that produce accurate and useful data which is efficient for the arborists to capture but also helps to justify decisions for members of the public. The main criteria captured during visual assessments of mature trees to make management decisions will be:
 - health (this captures issues of vitality e.g. canopy density, presence of deadwood etc)
 - structure (this captures issues of anatomy e.g. cavities, rot etc)
 - VALID risk score (this is an internationally recognised method to quantify tree risk)
 - natural value (this captures issues including remnant status, habitat tree etc)
 - societal value (this captures issues including visual amenity, valued by residents etc).



2. Trees will be prioritised for replacement if they are in poor health that pruning cannot rectify, or their structure or risk score indicates it is inadvisable to retain them. Tree species which replace declining mature trees will be selected for their tolerance to existing and future local environmental conditions, including Canberra's hot and dry summer climate, winter frosts, and often heavy clay soils. New trees will be planted in accordance with TCCS planting methodology and watered for the first three to five years of their establishment, depending on species tolerance and observed weather patterns (e.g., rainfall and temperature).
3. The Draft Urban Wood Reuse Plan is currently being drafted.
4. Refer to my answer to Q3.

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 55 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$87.31