



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. 188

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

1. What steps is the directorate taking to identify and expand no-mow zones across the Belconnen district.
2. How will the Minister collaborate with local ecologists and land managers to ensure these areas effectively support biodiversity.
3. Can the Minister provide an update on the Government's efforts to improve signage and enforcement for no-mow zones in Belconnen.
4. What specific measures are being put in place to raise public awareness about the value of these zones.
5. What actions is the Government taking to address the hotspots in Belconnen.
6. How will the Minister support initiatives, like a dedicated signage program, to mitigate this issue.
7. How does the Government plan to collaborate with local groups, such as the Ginninderra Catchment Group, to collect data on wildlife mortality and raise awareness among drivers about these hotspots.

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

1. TCCS is progressively reviewing the management and extent of no-mow zones throughout Belconnen and the rest of Canberra. Current and new no-mow areas are being considered to update a previous internal review by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna of infrequently mown or unmown areas of urban open space.

2. The Urban Open Space Land Management Plan is being implemented over the next ten years. It sets a community centric approach with decision making input from community groups, land managers, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, volunteers and specialist ecologists, to appropriately balance amenity needs, ecological interests and bushfire fuel reduction safety requirements.
3. TCCS places conservation bollards along perimeters of no-mow areas and information signs are used to raise awareness of ecological and heritage interests (e.g. Umbagog District Park). In some cases, community groups place additional ecological information about the sites and encourage new volunteers to join their groups (e.g. Lions Croke Place Wetlands Land Care Group).
4. See above.
5. Through the Urban Open Space Land Management Plan, TCCS has committed to engage site by site, in partnership with local resident groups where they exist, to document high environmental values and to agree on management actions consistent with delivering the required amenity and supporting environmental values.

In a relevant recent example, TCCS and Parks and Conservation Service collaborated with local community members/ecologist to prepare a site-specific management plan to protect an area of native temperate grassland at Dawn Crescent, Lawson. The management practices now include weed spraying, grass cutting at an appropriate height and frequency with mowers cleaned to prevent spread of weed seeds, and planned installation of conservation bollards to raise awareness of passing pedestrians.

6. Signage is provided on specific sites as required. The need for a dedicated signage program has not been identified.
7. The ACT Government engages with ACT Wildlife on injured wildlife matters, with reports submitted as per licence conditions. Data is also gathered by the urban wildlife team in the Parks and Conservation Service. The City Services website provides information for the public about wildlife collisions. The Biodiversity Conservation Forum (BCF) allows community groups to discuss land management and conservation issues with the government, including injured wildlife support.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services**

Date:.....6/4/25.....

This response required 2 hrs and 26 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$251.73