

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 7

16 May 2025

Question No. 422

MS NUTTALL MLA - To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water:

- (1) Does the Government collect data on the number of wood heaters in residential properties in the ACT; if so, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of wood heaters in residential properties by year since 2019; if not, could the Minister advise their best estimates of wood heater ownership in the ACT currently.
- (2) Has the number of wood heaters in residential properties decreased since 2019.
- (3) How many public housing units have wood heaters, and what is the Government's timeline for the replacement of wood heaters in these units.
- (4) How many community housing units have wood heaters.
- (5) How many households used the Wood Heater Replacement Program through the duration of the program.
- (6) How many households have used the Wood Heater Removal Program since it began, broken down by year.
- (7) When will the Burn Right Tonight program commence, or if the program is being discontinued, what public education measures will the ACT Government take to raise awareness of the health impacts of wood heaters this winter.

MINISTER ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government does not collect data on wood heaters in residential properties.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) records the data of recent wood heaters that have been issued with a Certificate of Occupancy (COU). The table below describes the number of Certificates of Occupancy and Use issued for



Building Code of Australia class 10b work that refers either a 'solid fuel burning appliance' or 'internal wood heater' between 2019 and 2025.

Year	Number COUs issued
2019	136
2020	206
2021	193
2022	217
2023	181
2024	135
2025	31

Please note that these figures will not capture unapproved installations or where some may have been removed or demolished since installation. Prior to utilising electronic filing all record keeping was hard copy. Transference of data from hard copy to electronic could have resulted in missing fields in the database and without this information it is difficult to consistently identify that Class 10b building work was for wood heater installations as it also covers stand-alone structures such as masts and antennas.

In consideration of these matters, the number of wood heaters in the ACT is unable to be determined.

- (2) For the reason above this is unable to be determined.
- (3) Approximately 80 public housing properties have wood-fired heaters. A voluntary removal program was undertaken in early 2024. The program was made available to all public housing properties with a wood heater. From this program, 19 properties removed wood-fired heaters.
- (4) For the purpose of this response, all properties owned by ACT Government are incorporated into the figures in part 3, including those managed by Community Service Organisations on our behalf. This does not include assets owned by Community Service Organisations, as the ACT Government does not hold this information about these properties.

EPSDD does not collect data on wood heaters through electrification upgrades in privately owned community housing properties through the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme.

- (5) 1,309 households have used the Wood Heater Replacement Program since it started in 2004 until it changed to removal only in early December 2023.

(6) Total households by year who have used the Wood Heater Removal Program since it began in early December 2023 are:

- 2023 – 0 households
- 2024 – 31 households
- 2025 (YTD) – 9 households

(7) EPSDD's annual communications campaign Burn Better (formerly called Burn Right Tonight) will commence the first week of June 2025. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the simple steps community members can take to burn safely and efficiently.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 16/06/25

This response required 1hr 53mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$169.98