

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 6

Friday, 9 May 2025

Question No. 401

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

1. How many staff at the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) work directly or indirectly in the tree protection unit and management of the urban forest.
2. How many arborists are employed directly, or as contractors, by EPSDD.
3. How much has been spent on arborists, for each of the last five financial years and this financial year budgeted.
4. How many people have been injured or have died from falling limbs or trees in the urban forest, for each of the last five financial years and this financial year to date.
5. Do Tree Protection Unit staff attend hydro excavations.
6. For each of the last five financial years, and this financial year to date, on (a) average how many Tree Protection Unit staff attend hydro excavations, (b) how many occasions did more than three staff attend a hydro excavation and (c) how many occasions did staff attend hydro excavations who are not arborists.

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

1. No staff in EPSDD work directly or indirectly in the Tree Protection Unit.
2. No arborists are employed either directly or as contractors by EPSDD to perform work on the urban forest.
3. TCCS does not have data for the last five years, as 2024–25 is the only financial year for which activity-based costing has been implemented. TCCS' budget for 2024-25 for Urban Treescapes is \$18.640m. This includes funding for all work done to support Canberra's urban forest, not only that of arborists but also tree planting, watering and public tree damage claims.
4. This information is held by the ACT Insurance Agency (ACTIA). ACTIA has indicated that the data cannot be easily extracted from its system.
5. Staff attend hydro excavations as required.



6.

- a) Seven Tree Protection Officers have attended hydro excavation in the last five years.
- b) No.
- c) All Tree Protection Officers are qualified arborists.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for City and Government Services

Date:

10/4/25

This response required 2 hr and 25 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$241.23