



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY  
MARISA PATERSON MLA (CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**4 March 2021**

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Asked by **MS LAWDER**:

Re: Proof Transcript of 4 March 2021 – page 92

In relation to: Lake Tuggeranong water quality infrastructure

**MS LAWDER**: Who owns the residual infrastructure?

Mr Walker: It is part of our arrangement with the University of Canberra. That infrastructure is the University of Canberra's.

**MS LAWDER**: It is falling apart. There are bits of it floating around the lake. Why hasn't anything been done about that? Why has it just been left there to decay and fall apart? I have some photos if you like. I kayak there every week.

**Mr Rutledge**: We will take that advice and get you some information, Ms Lawder.

**Mr Walker**: We will take that on notice.

**MS LAWDER**: That would be great. Do you have any plans to improve the gross pollutant traps?

**Mr Walker**: The gross pollutant traps, as I indicated in my earlier response, have been improved and upgrade

**MINISTER RATTENBURY**: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The mesocosms were part of the research project by the University of Canberra into methods to lock nutrients in the Lake Tuggeranong bottom sediments and to mitigate algal blooms once they arise.

They were last used in the summer of 2019-20. Following that, it was decided to discontinue the mesocosm experiments because the next steps in the research were to:

- continue the algal mitigation work in a lab setting; and
- track down the sources of excessive pollution coming from Tuggeranong suburbs.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QTON No. 22B**

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The University of Canberra had intended to break down the mesocosms but COVID intervened, and since then the lake has been experiencing regular algal blooms that have closed it to primary contact. (Divers will be required to remove the mesocosms).

The ACT Government has been assured that the University of Canberra will remove the mesocosms as soon as the algal blooms clear.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:

Date: 12/5/21

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Shane Rattenbury MLA