



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 50-51]

In relation to: **Healthy waterways flow from healthy homes and gardens**

Hearing Date: 24 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 24 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 30 July 2024

THE CHAIR: Just for a surprise, I have a water question, Dr Ogden. Pretty sure you would be involved in this. In April 2024, there was a letter called, "Healthy waterways flow from healthy homes and gardens" sent to your residents. Can you tell me how many households received this letter?

Dr Ogden: Thanks, Ms Lawder. I will have to take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: And whereabouts was it letterboxed or was it sent in the mail? In which suburbs did it go to?

Dr Ogden: Again, I will have to take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: So, as a result of the letter, how many calls did the Healthy Waterways team make to people? It said in the letter, just to refresh your memory, "To join in, be part of making a difference, get your free garden advice and resources, simply chat to the Healthy Waterways team when they telephone you". How many phone calls did the team make?

Dr Ogden: Again, I will have to take that on notice. This is part of a program that we are developing around reducing fertiliser use in residences.

THE CHAIR: I understand that, but a bit more detail. The second point in that about being part is, "Call", and the number, the 08 number, "To book your free garden consultation and products". How many residents called that number?

Dr Ogden: Again, I will have to take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: Related to my previous point about, “Chat to the Healthy Waterways team when they telephone you”, I asked previously how many calls did the team make, my next question then is how many residents agreed to talk and engaged in that process?

Dr Ogden: Unfortunately, I do not have those figures with me. I will have to take it on notice.

THE CHAIR: Is that Healthy Waterways team that people are encouraged to chat to, are they ACT public service employees or is this contracted out?

Dr Ogden: It was contracted out.

THE CHAIR: What was the value of the contract?

Dr Ogden: I will have to take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: Take that on notice, thank you.

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The ACT Government engaged contractor ‘Concepts of Change’ to undertake a research, design, garden advice service and evaluation program to reduce phosphorous pollution from household gardens in the Tuggeranong area.

The letter referred to was sent to 5,000 addresses. The letters were sent by mail to households across Kambah, Monash, Isabella Plains, Bonython, Oxley, and Greenway.

There were only a small number of calls in response to the letter (less than 20), as expected. The letter provided a phone number for residents who wished to hear more about the program or provide updated contact details.

The team rang 4,558 numbers from the 5000 addresses. The team reached 1,250 households where a resident was available to speak and 600 (48%) chose to take part in the garden advice service. Those 600 households spoke to the team for an average of 15 minutes to discuss solutions for a great garden that will not impact the waterways.

The contract value is \$ \$198,787.60 including GST and can be found at <https://www.tenders.act.gov.au/contract/view?id=212719>.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

30/7/24

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