



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: First Nations environment engagement

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: First Nations Environment Engagement

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) Have you engaged with local First Nations people and communities about the following issues this year? If so, what mechanism/group(s) were used for engagement?
 - a) Western Edge Investigation Area
 - b) Ginninderra Falls
 - c) City limits
 - d) Dingo management
 - e) Kangaroo management
 - f) Nature Conservation Act review
 - g) Nature Conservation Strategy review
 - h) Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- a) Kate Waters Consultancy was contracted to engage with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee and Representative Aboriginal Organisations to complete a Cultural Values report outlining the Ngunnawal community's cultural perspectives, values and heritage to inform planning for the Western Edge Investigation Area.

- b) The SLA has not engaged with Traditional Custodians or the ACT First Nations communities or organisations in relation to Ginninderra Falls.
- c) In April 2025, the ACT Government committed to the establishing an urban growth boundary by June 2027. This work is in the initial stages and no specific consultations on the urban growth boundary have occurred to date. Establishment of the urban growth boundary will include consideration of work in the Western Edge and Eastern Broadacre areas, including engagement with First Nations people as part of these projects. The ACT Government will publish half-yearly statements on progress in delivering an urban growth boundary on the ACT Planning website, beginning in the first sittings of 2026.
- d) A presentation was made to the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee outlining management practices, Waragul (Dingo) numbers and genetic makeup. Information on Waragul management has been provided to the general Ngunnawal community and Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Aboriginal Corporation was consulted to confirm the use of the Ngunnawal word Waragul. There is also First Nations representation on the internal Wild Dog/Dingo Steering Committee. The policy changes underway to recognise Waragul as a native animal under the Nature Conservation Act, changing its formal status from a list pest animal, have been made partly in recognition of the important cultural value of Waragul to the Ngunnawal community, alongside other drivers.
- e) In 2024 a Yarning Circle was held on the Buru Management Plan with the Ngunnawal Community and discussions were held with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee. The draft documents were circulated to the Ngunnawal community for additional feedback and input.
- f) Multiple consultations were held with the Ngunnawal community on both the Nature Conservation Act and Strategy Review over the course of 2024 and 2025. This was done through a combination of community workshops, options for written feedback and discussions with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee.
- g) Multiple consultations were held with the Ngunnawal community on both the Nature Conservation Act and Strategy Review over the course of 2024 and 2025. This was done through a combination of community workshops, options for written feedback and discussions with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee.
- h) The Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee were engaged from the inception of the Tidbinbilla project. Workshops were held with the broader Ngunnawal community and a Ngunnawal Co-design working group was established and engaged throughout this project. Additionally, the Tidbinbilla Ngunnawal Working Group was invited to participate in a follow-up meeting with all stakeholders to share the latest updates on the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre project and work together to resolve any outstanding matters.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes. The signature is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the document.

Signature:

Date: 10/12/25

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA