



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

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

In relation to: Monitoring of microplastics in water

Hearing: 31 July 2026

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Transcript provided: 4 August 2026

Answer Due: 11 August 2026

Mr Sam Engele took on notice the following question(s):

MS LEE: Can I go to microplastics please. And New South Wales study officially, showed 100 per cent of New South Wales waters contaminated with microplastics. Questions about, and I am just trying to think about in terms of monitoring what that the ACT government does, number one, in terms of the presence of microplastics.

Ms Orr: I will just get officials to come up and run you through microplastics while Mr Lawton is making his way to the table, would you like to repeat the question just so he has got the benefit of—no, he is sitting down.

MS LEE: I guess just in terms of what monitoring is done in the ACT waterways for the presence of microplastics.

Mr Lawton: We do not monitor for microplastics in the waterways currently.

MS LEE: So if that is not being done, do you have access to any data that will indicate a level of contamination in ACT waterways of microplastics?

Mr Lawton: Not as far as I am aware, no.

MS LEE: Okay. Is there any plan to do any assessment?

Ms Orr: It is possible that Icon Water does do monitoring but being a little bit separate to us, we would not have information on that.

Mr Engele: Yes, we would have to take it on notice whether Icon Water, yes, does monitor for microplastics. I am not sure, so I will have to take it on notice, yes.

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

Icon water undertakes monitoring of drinking water consistent with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, which do not specify monitoring for microplastics. Monitoring of wastewater is undertaken in accordance with their Environmental Authorisation, which does not specify monitoring of microplastics.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027



Signature:

Date: 13/08/26

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