



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 3

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Wednesday 13 November 2019

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA:

In relation to: Breakdown of water pollution incidents resulting in infringement notices

MS LEE: Sorry, can I just clarify something? So when I asked my question about the breakdown of like the—as an example, the water pollution complaint and you said there was no further detail, but then obviously there is—you have been able to identify, you know, the two examples that you just gave which is on page 372 about paint from the builder's site and food waste from a food business, so I am a bit confused as to whether you do collect that level of detail or not.

Mrs Sargent: They are sort of classified as an incident, so how I said complaints and incidents? Anything to do with water, water pollution, would actually generally be classed as an incident, not a complaint. They are not—they are actually notifying us that it actually has happened.

MS LEE: Okay. Okay. So you will provide a breakdown of the incidents then, in terms of the water pollution? Like, pollution? Is that—can you do that or—or are they your only two?

Mrs Sargent: In terms of ones that warranted infringement notices, yes.

MS LEE: Yes, okay. And the ones that—

Mrs Sargent: Because some actually are not, if you like, valid in terms of a pollution incident.

MS LEE: Yes.

Mrs Sargent: So sometimes there is—

THE CHAIR: People can complain, but there is actually no issue.

Mrs Sargent: Exactly right.

THE CHAIR: Are you able to give that breakdown?

MS LEE: Yes, it is just the breakdown. Yes.

Mrs Sargent: Well, I will have to see if the complaints management team collect to that level of information.



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Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In 2018-2019 Access Canberra received 75 pollution complaints/incidents, which were recorded in three categories: drains, lakes and sewerage. The breakdown of the 75 complaints is:

- 49 complaints (approx. 65 percent) related to drains;
- 18 complaints (approx. 24 percent) related to lakes; and
- 8 complaints (approx. 11 percent) related to sewerage.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MG", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 25/11/19

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA