



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Miss Caitlin Tough MLA

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

In relation to: Healthy Waterways – Leaf Littler Bag Program

Hearing: 17 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p15

Transcript provided: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

MS TOUGH: Yes, on that, you mentioned less leaves going into the drains. I know each year there is that program about the leaf bags, whatever they are called.

Ms Orr: The bags, yes.

MS TOUGH: What is the take up of that program like?

Ms Orr: I would look to—I am not sure. We do not have Ralph here, which is a bit of a shame because I think he could talk for hours on this one. But in lieu of not having Ralph present, Mr Lawton, did you want to have a go at running through those?

Mr Lawton: So you are asking about the take-up of the sort of community programs?

MS TOUGH: Yes, the new take-up of those bags and actually people knowing that it is there and then getting those bags and using them.

Ms Orr: As far as I know, we run out of them. Like, we ran out of the bags last year, so the uptake is 100 per cent. I think we can say that. We might need to take on notice, though, if you were after how quickly we ran out of bags.

MS TOUGH: Yes, if I could get the number of people getting the bags and then, if possible, a breakdown of where in Canberra they are? Like it would just be interesting to know the take-up of people in Tuggeranong using those bags.

Ms Orr: Yes. I think they are particularly focused on—yes.

Mr Lawton: Yes. So a very popular program. Definitely the bags go quickly. We will take our notice where they go.

MS TOUGH: Yes, thank you.

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

Between 2021 to 2025, a total of 9,630 leaf bags has been distributed to residents across Canberra. Of those, 3,195 (33%) were distributed to Tuggeranong residents.

1. Leaf Collective - Autumn 2021

In 2021 during the pilot phase of the Leaf Collective, 162 leaf bags were distributed to 85 households across five suburbs, all outside of Tuggeranong.

2. Leaf Collective - Summer 2022

Under the summer 2022 Leaf Collective, 453 leaf bags were delivered to 238 households located within 5kms of Lake Tuggeranong with a maximum limit of 2 leaf bags per household.

3. Leaf Collective - Autumn 2023

As part of the autumn 2023 Leaf Collective, a total of 1,688 bags were delivered to households within the Lake Tuggeranong (1,382, 82%) and Yerrabi Pond (306) Catchment areas with a limit of 1 leaf bag per household.

4. 2024 Leaf bag project

In autumn 2024, the in-house leaf bag project distributed a total of 3,748 bags to residents across Canberra with 682 bags (18%) delivered to Tuggeranong residents.

5. 2025 Leaf bag project

In autumn 2025, 3,579 bags were distributed to households across Canberra (3,239 by the in-house team and 340 by community groups). Of the 3,239 leaf bags 678 bags (approximately 19%) were supplied to residents in Tuggeranong.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:

Date: 27/11/25

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