



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**1 March 2022**

Asked by Ms Lawder on 1 March 2022: Minister Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 1 March 2022 PAGE 31-32]

In relation to: Basin Plan's annual water quality report

**MS LAWDER:** Yes. It is my understanding that under the Basin Plan there is supposed to be an annual water quality report. Can you tell me when was the most recent water quality report?

**Mr Rattenbury:** Yes. Mr Walker, are you able to assist me with that one?

**Mr Walker:** Ms Lawder, for the interests of accuracy, I will take that on notice. I am pretty sure it left my desk recently, but for the purposes of getting that accurate to you, Ms Lawder, I will take that question on notice.

**MS LAWDER:** Thanks, that would be great, because from what I can find, the most recent one I can personally find publicly is 2015 and I just wondered, has there been a report every year? If not, why not and if there has been, where are they publicly available? Or if they are not publicly available, could I get a copy of them please?

**Mr Rattenbury:** No, they are all fair and reasonable questions and we will come back to you with the details on that.

**MS LAWDER:** Thank you.

**Mr Rutledge:** I might just—Ms Lawder, just to confirm, as the minister said, we will make that all available to you. I will just make an observation that the ACT Government, along with all the other basin states, have the same level of reporting, yet probably less impact than some of the other basin states and so we have the same, I suppose, administrative burden on getting our reports in on time and done, yet the impact of the ACT on the basin is not as great.

The basin plan reporting on the MDBA website I think is pretty comprehensive, so I would be—I think that is where I will start, but as the minister said and as I said, we will take the full set on notice and ensure that our reporting is up to date, or at least you have access to it and reasons why if that is not the case, but I am pretty sure we are on track, but maybe the MDBA website is probably as inaccessible as most government websites, so I will be happy that it is on there, but you have not been able to find it, so we will dig it out.

**MS LAWDER:** Thank you.

**Minister Rattenbury:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The most recent Basin Plan water quality report has been submitted to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for the 2020-2021 period. Water quality reporting is one part of the annual Basin Plan implementation report required under Schedule 12 of the Basin Plan.

All annual Basin Plan implementation reports, including water quality reports, are published on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's website and are available at:

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/mdba-reports/basin-plan-implementation-reports-2019-20>.

The Australian Government is responsible for publishing Basin Plan implementation reports submitted by Basin governments and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. The Australian Government has not yet published the reports for the 2020-21 period.

The 2020-21 ACT annual Basin Plan Implementation Report as submitted to the Australian Government, is provided with this response at Attachment A.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:

Date:

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