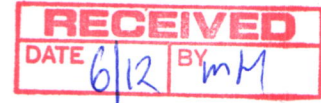




ACT
Government

Transport Canberra and
City Services



Ministerial Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Lee, Elizabeth MLA – Draining of Upper Stranger Pond
OBJECTIVE FILE NUMBER: S2018/0531
MINISTER: Steel, Chris MLA
CRITICAL DATE: 9/11/2018
CRITICAL REASON:
CONTACT OFFICER: Ken Marshall

COMMENTS:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

RECEIVED	
DATE	
NO.	



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for City Services
Minister for Community Services and Facilities
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Roads
Member for Murrumbidgee

COPY

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA
Member for Kurrajong
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Lee

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2018 to Mr Mick Gentleman MLA regarding the drainage of Upper Stranger Pond. I am responding as the matter you have raised falls within my portfolio responsibilities. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Upper Stranger Pond is a water quality control pond, which is designed to collect and trap sediment, litter and debris before it makes its way into downstream waterways. I have addressed the issues you have raised below.

1. Whether the dam was drained recently?

On 7 September 2018 the valve was partially opened by the contractor undertaking work at Isabella Weir, for about three hours to slightly lower the level of Upper Stranger Pond, to prevent stormwater overflowing into the Isabella Pond worksite. Subsequently, the pond was almost fully drained over the course of the next days (to the level of the outflow pipe to Lower Stranger Pond). It is not clear how this unintended discharge occurred.

2. Was it done without authorisation? If so, how was it done?

The initial lowering of the pond by the Isabella Weir contractor was undertaken under an existing agreement with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). This is done by using a standard valve key to open a valve at Upper Stranger Pond, which allows the water to flow to Lower Stranger Pond. The subsequent draining of the pond was done without authorisation, presumably using a similar valve key.

3. What efforts have been made to find who did it and what their reasoning was?

Investigation of the possible mechanisms,

- contractor error,
- unauthorised access, or
- equipment failure,

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Phone +61 2 6205 1470

Email steel@act.gov.au

GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



@ChrisSteelMLA



christeellabor



chrissteelmla



determined that the probable cause was unauthorised access. Neither the responsible party nor motive have been identified.

4. If it was done with an authority, who provided the authority and what was the reason for the drainage?
An officer from TCCS had verbally authorised the intended partial lowering of the water level in Upper Stranger Pond.
5. What has happened to the thousands of native fingerlings that were introduced to the pond in January 2018 after the carp had been removed?
It is expected that these fish have been transferred through the drainage network to Lower Stranger Pond.
6. If the fish were relocated to Lower Stranger Pond, is carp present there?
Yes, there are carp in Lower Stranger Pond.
7. If carp is present in Lower Stranger Pond, why was that not drained first to remove carp before fish were put in there?
Carp removal had not been undertaken as transfer of fish stock to Lower Stranger Pond was not intended.

Thank you for raising these matters. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for City Services

11 DEC 2018