



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Andrew Braddock MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**26 October 2021**

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Asked by ELIZABETH KIKEKRT MLA on 26 October 2021: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 26 October 2021, PAGE 49]

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Just a follow-up question, there, Mr Hezkial. You mentioned that it is quite costly to the community. How much has it cost to free up the poo in our sewerage?

Mr Hezkial: I can certainly come back to you with what our reactive maintenance program entails for the year. So I do not have that information. But it is a fair proportion of our operating costs. And so I guess you have hit the nail on the head in terms of the intention of the program, really, is if we get the right behaviours going and we do flush the right things down the toilet, that hopefully that keeps a lid on those operating costs.

But also, I guess, the other angle to it is continuity of service and reliability of service for our customers. So we want to make sure that those disruptions are kept to a minimum. But we can certainly come back with that information.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Icon Water advises that it spends approximately \$4.2 million on average each year reactively responding to reported failures in the network. This response involves clearing blockages and repairing broken infrastructure across the network of 3,037km of reticulation sewer mains, 170km of trunk mains and approximately 70,000 manholes. It also includes the restoration of affected sites to their original state. Icon Water also has a planned program of cleaning, inspection and repair of targeted sewer mains which aims to reduce the volume of reactive failures incurred.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Signature: 

Date: 8.11.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA