



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall

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

In relation to: Overall Catchment Health

Hearing: 17 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p16

Transcript provided: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

MISS NUTTALL: If that is all right. And just noting what you said about overall catchment health, reading through the plan they talk about how—the consultation paper talks about how there are a number of things that could work, but I think none would be sufficient on their own; you need multiple. So I am interested. I would like to ask about the creek line at Tuggeranong Homestead which was the final stage 2 project in Healthy Waterways that had not been and has not been completed yet. Now, documents released through an order of production of documents show that in November 2024, minister, I think the directorate said to you that: A project to naturalise in old Tuggeranong Creek and a branch at the Tuggeranong Homestead is approved and awaiting your go-ahead to procure construction contractors. A brief is being prepared to seek your approval to progress this project. Now, this obviously implies that there was funding attached to the project and that the only barrier was you signing off on the project proceeding. Did you receive a brief from the directorate asking for your sign-off to commence the project?

Ms Orr: I might take that on notice so I can go back and check my records.

MISS NUTTALL: Okay, I would be interested then in understanding is the project ready to go?

Ms Wright: I do not have the answer on that, sorry, minister.

Ms Orr: I think we would have to take that on notice as well.

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

It is not true to imply that there was funding directly attached to the Tuggeranong Creek anabranch project.

'Stage 2' Healthy Waterways water quality assets were built in a priority order, with the aim of building as many assets as possible with the capital funding granted to the project.

There is always some uncertainty on the final cost of projects as factors like weather and encountering unexpected underground services can increase the cost of projects. Contingency funding is set aside to meet the costs of unexpected events in the life of the project.

By late 2023 six assets had been built and there was enough funding to build one more project with certainty, and possibly another if there was enough unspent contingency funding.

In November 2023, the then Minister for Water, Shane Rattenbury approved a proposed priority order for construction of the final 'Stage 2' Healthy Waterways water quality assets as:

1. Stormwater recycling unit for irrigating Kambah Playing Fields.
2. Restoration of the Tuggeranong Creek anabranch.
3. A mini-raingarden in Higgins.

In December 2024, the incoming Minister, Minister Orr, was briefed on the status of the work to develop options to restore Lake Tuggeranong as well as the priority water quality assets listed above.

The stormwater recycling at Kambah was subsequently built, with a decision on progressing further water quality assets to be made after the amount of unspent contingency funding was known and the options for Lake Tuggeranong work has been through public consultation and finalised.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning



Signature:

Date: 28/11/25

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