



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra and
City Services

Dot Point Request

Requested by: Minister's Office

Business Unit: Roads Maintenance

Subject: Storm Water Improvements in ACT

Dot Points:

- Refer to response for C2024/00119 – Stormwater Quality Concerns – Stormwater
- Cross connection between sewer and stormwater is an issue that can adversely affect stormwater water quality in Canberra. Some cross connections were made relatively recently, and some were made many years ago. Cross connections can go unnoticed for long periods of time before they are discovered, especially if there is extensive dilution and stormwater flows directly into water bodies such as lakes, ponds, and creeks.
- Where a cross connection is found or suspected, officers from the ACT Government will investigate and find the source of the cross connection. This is generally a time consuming process of elimination requiring access to private property, liaising with property owners, water quality testing for contamination indicators, the use of tracing dyes, installation of temporary plugs, excavation, and plumbing work. Generally, where a cross connection does exist there are tell-tale signs that are found by ACT Government officers, ACT Government contractors or reported by members of the public.
- Transport Canberra and City Services directorate (TCCS) collaborates closely with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to investigate and resolve sewer to stormwater cross connections.
- An ongoing program to address the issue would include representation from TCCS, EPA, ICON Water and the Office of Water at the very least. TCCS will reach out to relevant stakeholders to initiate discussions about this matter and to ascertain what an ongoing preventative program might entail.

Action Officer: David Hua

Executive Branch Manager: Tim Rampton

Date: 23 February 2024