

City and Environment Directorate

OFFICIAL

To:	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Tracking No.: 25/0000222
Date:	30 July 2025	
From:	City and Environment Directorate	
Subject:	WEEKLY BRIEF - Commencing 4 August 2025	

- DDG, EPSD

Purpose

To provide you with a summary of the current work from the City and Environment Directorate. The brief also includes matters scheduled to occur from 4 to 8 August 2025.

KEY ISSUES**Climate Change, Energy and Water****Water**Publication of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Evaluation Report

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has published the [Basin Plan Evaluation](#) report and associated supporting information. The Basin Plan Evaluation presents a fairly positive assessment of progress towards the targets identified in the Basin Plan. The evidence laid out in the ACT's matters reports is not consistent with this narrative, reflecting that more work is needed in the upper Murrumbidgee River catchment. The ACT Government will continue to engage with MDBA and the Commonwealth on this matter, through the Basin Plan review and the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed (SWIOID) review.

Three reports produced by ACT Government contribute to the evidence base for the 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation. The [ACT Matter 8 report](#), [ACT Matter 12 report](#) and [ACT Matter 18 report](#) provide information on the state and condition of aquatic and riparian species, water quality and effectiveness of the ACT Water Resource Plan, respectively.

Healthy Waterways 'accelerated works' completed

✓ The Healthy Waterways 'accelerated works' comprised two infrastructure projects:

- a set of bioretention swales to intercept pollution from playing fields in Kambah, and
- the Yerrabi floating wetlands, which have been fully handed over to City Services for operation and maintenance.

These projects were funded in August 2022 and the Healthy Waterways team was given the challenge to complete them by December 2022. While construction for both projects only took three months, the

package of works was finalised in July 2025 due to development approval and asset acceptance handover. The new City and Environment Directorate presents an opportunity to streamline these processes for future projects.

Recognition of urban runoff as an important source of water in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB)

Staff from the Water Information Services (WIS) team attended a meeting of the Surface Water Advisory Panel (SWAP) which is managed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to discuss the role of urban runoff as a water resource of the MDB. MDBA commissioned Alluvium to undertake an assessment of urban runoff across the basin, with a specific focus on the ACT. Despite uncertainty in estimates, it was clear that urban runoff is an important source of water that is currently not accounted for in the Basin. It would be in the ACT's interest to see improved accounting methods to recognise this important source of water. The Office of Water (OoW) will advocate for this issue to be considered through Basin Plan reforms.

Visit to the Butler Laboratory, CSIRO Black Mountain

This week two WIS staff visited CSIRO's Butler Laboratory which historically housed the soil science research. The team met with Professor Ben Macdonald and his staff to discuss current and future research directions regarding water quality and hydrology in the ACT. The meeting has improved our understanding of CSIRO's research interests and capacity to improve our access to the best available information to inform water policy and planning.

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