

Minister Rattenbury: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate Regular Meeting

MEETING DETAILS			
Date:	Friday, 15 September 2023	Time:	9:45am – 10:45am
Location:	via Microsoft Teams	Apologies:	Geoffrey Rutledge

MEETING BUSINESS			
Item	Name	Requested by	Action Officers
1.	Declaration of Interest*		All
2.	Standing Items: 2.1 Weekly Brief, Media Forecast, FOI Report 2.2 Action Items/Ministerials in Action 2.3 Cabinet and Assembly Business	Minister's Office EPSDD	Ben Ponton Fiona Wright Kieran Lawton Alex Magee
Water			
3.	Government Response to the Non-Potable Water Review (22/440)*	Minister's Office	Ben Ponton Fiona Wright Emma Humphreys Tom Nilsen
Energy/Emissions Reduction			
4.	IEP Regulatory Strategy	EPSDD	Ben Ponton Fiona Wright Simon Grice

*Denotes no papers

Proposed Forward Agenda	
Title	Requested by

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions
Reduction

Tracking No.: 23/03471

Date: 13 September 2023

From: Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 18 September 2023

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 14/9/23

Purpose

To provide you with a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The brief also includes matters scheduled to occur from Monday, 18 September to Sunday, 24 September 2023.

Key Issues**Water****Biodiversity Conservation Forum (BCF) Meeting**

The BCF met on 11 September 2023 for a regular meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by the Executive Group Manager, Environment Heritage and Water and the Executive Director of the Conservation Council ACT. Attendees included Chief Executive Officer of Landcare ACT, Friends of Grasslands, Canberra Ornithologists Group, Catchment Groups (Ginninderra and Southern ACT), Office of Nature Conservation, Parks and Conservation Service, Office of Water, and Resilient Landscapes.

Agenda items discussed included Commonwealth environmental reforms and implications for the ACT, the high-level outcomes of the review into Reserve Management Planning, habitat restoration plans funded under the ACT Budget 2023-24, an update on the power tool risk assessment, the Canberra Urban Biodiversity Surveys (CUBS) program, invasives plant governance, updates on CNCP and the review of the Nature Conservation Strategy, and a proposed burn on Bluetts Block.

The meeting was positive, and stakeholders were engaged and collaborative. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2023 with the Minister for the Environment a planned invitee. Early agenda items for that meeting include an update on the Urban Forest Bill, mowing conservation on urban open spaces, and an audit of nesting boxes across the ACT.

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Conservator of Flora and Fauna Update – August 2023

Following early engagement, the Conservator wrote to Icon Water in August 2023 describing the ACT Government's position on trout management in the Lower Cotter River. With the construction of the Enlarged Cotter Dam there was a prediction that trout numbers would increase and consequently increase the impact on endangered Macquarie Perch, which also inhabit the Cotter River and Reservoir.

Evidence of impact of trout on Macquarie Perch has been reviewed by ACT Government Aquatic Ecologists and has been found to, at this stage and based on evidence, to have limited impact on the threatened fish. Therefore, the need for direct action in terms of trout control is not justified currently. Other actions to help conserve Macquarie Perch will be supported, such as genetic rescue, DNA investigation of trout stomach contents to further investigate potential predation by trout on the Perch and fishing enforcement to prevent accidental take of Perch by anglers. Ongoing discussions are being held with Icon Water and other interested parties about the matter.

Green-Card Training Proof of Concept

As previously reported, the Healthy Waterways Program and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are collaborating to guide the development of a one-day training module covering EPA requirements for building and construction sites. The module's focus will be on awareness of erosion and sediment control requirements. This is of particular interest to the Healthy Waterways Program due to the phosphorus carried by soil sediments into waterways from building sites across the Territory, as well as the numerous other negative impacts they have. Module development is progressing well, and the Suburban Land Agency has offered to provide case study material from the Whitlam Water Quality Project. An outreach to Capital Estate Developments at Denman Prospect for similar support is planned.

Following completion of the training package, it will be pilot tested and evaluated. If the training is well received and confirmed as beneficial in preventing pollution, then it is proposed that further liaison and policy development work would be undertaken to develop options for its further delivery. One option that would be considered is comprehensive delivery to all relevant developers and construction site managers within a framework equivalent to white-card or asbestos-awareness training. A detailed information brief is being prepared by the EPA for yourself and Minister Cheyne.

Drain Outlets in Kambah Delivered

Construction of 45 drain outlets in Kambah has concluded. These outlets will direct some of the roadside stormwater back into green space, reconnecting urban stormwater with its catchment. This reduces runoff and flow peaks because the water is taken up by vegetation in the green belt, evaporated from the soil or drained into groundwater aquifers. Nutrients and other pollutants are removed as the runoff interacts with soils and vegetation. The original plan was for 54 drain

outlets but nine had to be abandoned because underground services were too close to the soil surface and would have had to be moved at great expense. Over the next few months as grass establishes, the drains will be managed for storm damages that will protect the drains in the longer term.

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010923	Review of Water Abstraction Charge (TSY led joint brief)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MRO to discuss with CMO sensitivities around sharing brief with Icon.- EPSD to list item for discussion at the 08/09 exec briefing, with advice brief on how to proceed.	08/09/2023	Mhairin Hilliker/ Michelle O'Donnell	01/09 - In progress Item listed for discussion at 08/09 Exec Briefing	COMPLETED
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Once 'completed' leave it on for one ministerial meeting then remove it from the list

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CABINET AND ASSEMBLY ITEMS

(As at 14 September 2023)

Title	Minister	Cabinet Paper Type	Status	EXP due to MO	EXP due to CO	FIN due to MO	FIN due to CO	Cabinet Date	Assembly Date
23/XXX Cabinet ACT Government Submission for Senate Inquiry into Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023 Submissions close 29 September 2023 SHORTENED TIMEFRAMES TO BE AGREED TO BY CMO - LATE LODGEMENT REQUIRED	Minister for Water Energy and Emissions Reduction	Submission	CNRF with MO	-	-	20/09/2023	20/09/2023	25/09/2023	-
23/471 Cabinet Non-urban water Metering Policy ERC: 9 October 2023 Cabinet: 23 October 2023 ON TRACK	Minister for Water Energy and Emissions Reduction	Submission	FIN with AO	11/08/2023	28/08/2023	15/09/2023	27/09/2023	09/10/2023	N/A
23/527 Cabinet Water Recovery Agreement with Australian Government ERC: 9 October 2023 Cabinet: 23 October 2023 ON TRACK	Minister for Water Energy and Emissions Reduction	Submission	FIN with MO	9/08/2023	21/08/2023	13/09/2023	27/09/2023	09/10/2023	N/A

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<p>Cabinet Government Response - Non-Potable Water Review</p> <p>ERC: 3 November 2023 Cabinet: 27 November 2023</p> <p>ON TRACK</p>	<p>for Water Energy and Emissions Reduction</p>		<p>MO</p>					<p>November 2023</p>
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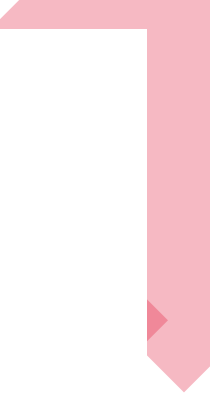
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