

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

MEETING DETAILS			
Date:	Friday, 02 September	Time:	09.45am – 10.45am
Location:	via Microsoft Teams	Apologies:	Ben Ponton Bren Burkevics

MEETING BUSINESS			
Item	Name	Requested by	Action Officers
1.	Declaration of Interest*	EPSDD	All
2.	Standing Items: 2.1 Weekly Brief, CCE Commitments Report, Media Forecast and FOI Report 2.2 Action Items/Ministerials in Action 2.3 Cabinet and Assembly Business 2.4 Budget*	Minister's Office EPSDD	Jim Corrigan Fiona Wright Alex Magee
Water			
3.	22/14462 Ministerial Information Brief - Rattenbury - Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant - Policy Update	Minister's Office	Jim Corrigan
4.	Government Response to Non-Potable Water Review*	Minister's Office	Jim Corrigan
Energy/Emissions Reduction			
5.	22/114444 - Singapore International Energy Week (25-28 October 2022)	EPSDD	Jim Corrigan Fiona Wright Carolyn Goonrey

*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.: 22/00037

Date: 31 August 2022

From: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 5 September 2022

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 01/09/22

Purpose

To provide you with a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and includes matters scheduled to occur from 5 – 9 September 2022.

KEY ISSUES

Water

Upcoming webinar – Friday, 2 September 2022

The Natural Resource Management team are hosting a webinar on Friday, 2 September 2022 at 12:00. This webinar will focus on managing farm dams to reduce carbon emissions while improving biodiversity and water security, with Dr Martino Malerba, a senior environmental scientist at Deakin Uni.'s Blue Carbon Lab attending. The webinar is funded through the Australian Government Future Drought Fund Naas Valley project and is proving to be a very popular topic with over 120 external registrations so far.

Successful completion of Platypus Month

Water watch has wrapped up another successful Platypus Month. Nearly 300 volunteers, with a third being new to the program this year, helped to conduct 34 surveys across the region. Most sites saw relatively low numbers this year with the high rainfall and river levels believed to have played a part. Point Hut Crossing, on the Murrumbidgee River, saw the most platypus with at least four individuals being sighted.

Engagement in King Brown – Caring for Ngunnawal Country Project

The Natural Resource Management team is facilitating the first of two field days as part of the King Brown – Caring for Ngunnawal country project on Saturday, 3 September 2022. The field day will see members of the Ngunnawal Community tour several sites of cultural significance alongside senior managers in Environment, Heritage and Water. The day will help to build relationships between the Ngunnawal Community and the directorate as well as garner understanding of the aspirations for Ngunnawal management of country, and a potential Ngunnawal management zone where the idea of co-management can be explored.



Media and Communications Forecast

(As at 01/09/2022)

Rattenbury forecast **Blue shading = Priority identified by MO**

MEDIA, EVENTS AND PROACTIVE PITCHES						
Date	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Communications Channel	Communications contact / Action officer	Comments
15 September 2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Home Energy Support Program - Cat B launch	Media release, event, social posts, webpage update, FAQs	Bonny Dietrich	Category B launch and extension of the Home Energy Support program to include hot water heat pumps, reverse cycle a/c, electric stove-tops/ovens. Arrangements brief being prepared by line area.
w/c 19 September 2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Minimum energy efficient standards for rental properties	Media release, event, web, social media, FAQs	Erin Chancellor	This is to announce the introduction of new regulation to provide minimum energy standards for renters.
21 September 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Climate Choice Business Awards	Awards event, media release, website updates, social media	Madeleine Gisz	Annual event showcasing the outstanding achievements of businesses participating in ACT Government climate change and energy programs. Event starts 7:30am. Nominations are now open
September 2022 TBC	Water, Energy, and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Recreational fishing declaration	Media release, web updates, stakeholder engagement, social media	Jacqueline Goddard	This declaration will introduce changes to recreational fishing rules to encourage compliance from recreational anglers and the community. The briefing process including a revised comms plan has started to progress making a September announcement date achievable.
Late September 2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	REIF grants round 3	Media release, social posts, webpage	Madeleine Gisz	Announcing the opening of round 3 of REIF grants. Event proposal is being developed and will go to MO shortly.
September/ October 2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury / Vassarotti	Fish Stocking Plan	Media release, social post, web updates, YourSay engagement, stakeholder engagement	Jacqueline Goddard	The previous fish stocking plan ended in 2020. It is now being replaced. Due to changes to the Fisheries Act, the fish stocking plan now needs to go to broad community consultation before being finalised. Currently waiting for advice on what this engagement will look like and when it will be delivered.
21 October 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Schools Climate Action Conference	Web updates, social media	Madeleine Gisz	The Climate Action Conference is an event giving schools the chance to learn about the work currently taking place in the ACT on climate action.
3 November 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Sustainable Business Expo	Community event, media release, we content, social.	Megan Baker	Annual event focussed on sustainability for ACT businesses. The event has been cancelled the last two years due to COVID-19.
Late 2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund for Community Clubs - First club to complete energy efficient upgrade work	Media event, release, social media	Madeleine Gisz	Ruc Club have been identified as a potential location for an event. The club are currently looking to undertake updates to transition off gas. A media event on a club that has completed their work is a long way off - more like September-November
TBC 2022	Water /Environment / Land Management	Rattenbury	Opera net sculpture unveiling at Tidbinbilla	Media event / proactive media, social media, web updates, Our Canberra	Jacqueline Goddard	Multiple sculptures have been made that show the impacts of opera and yabby nets on wildlife in our waterways - particularly platypus and rakali. An unveiling of the sculptures, which will permanently live at Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre is proposed within August to align with Platypus month. This is a media event that several other fisheries announcements could be tied into including noxious fish and the launch of the consultation on the fish stocking plan
TBC 2022 `	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Community Clubs EV charger incentive	Media release, web, social	Megan Baker	CCE are refining the program details. Communications team to work on work with on timing and communication materials.
TBC 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Announcement of the Extension of Renter's Home Energy Program	Proactive pitch to media outlet, media story, social media	Megan Baker	The MO have requested more proactive media and EPSDD will work with the media adviser to organise.
TBC 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Launch of Round 5 submission period 2 for new battery installers for Next Gen	Media event, media release	Megan Baker	Proceed as planned - if event would be close to the launch of round 6 do not proceed. This event was originally scheduled for June.
TBC 2022 / 2023	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction / Transport	Rattenbury / Steel	Car free day	TBC	TBC	Joint initiative between EPSDD, TCCS and CRA. Timing and approach still TBC.
TBC 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Launch of Renewable Energy Innovation Fund 2.0 grants	Social media, web	Megan Baker	Communications team to work with CCE on timing now restrictions have eased and BAU comms have re-commenced.

TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Scalable solutions platform	Media release, social media (TBC)	Erin Chancellor	The MO have requested more proactive media and EPSDD will work with the media adviser to organise.
TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Promote 'Don't dump that fish' information campaign	Social media, web	Scott Woodard	Working with NSW Health to expand on their campaign.

OPEN CONSULTATION AND UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT

Timeframes	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Channels / Region of Canberra / Engagement spend	Comms contact / Action officer	Comments
2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction / Climate Action	Barr / Rattenbury	Sustainable Home Advice Workshops impact	Private YourSay survey for workshop participants	Megan Baker	Private YourSay survey targeted at previous workshop participants to gather data on workshop impact and participant experience.
TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions reduction	Rattenbury	Subsurface wetland - Belconnen Oval - information session	Social media, targeted stakeholder engagement, community information sessions, web updates	Jacqueline Goddard	Subsurface wetland, the first one in the ACT, is currently in the design phase and looking to be built at the west Belconnen oval near Lake Ginninderra. This consultation will be with the Belconnen community and directly stakeholders to gain their thoughts on the wetland being installed there. For noting, the subsurface wetland will remove the capacity of up to half of the oval.
TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Non-potable water review	YourSay consultation	Hannah Evans	Line area and EPSDD comms will brief Minister on policy options and consultation options (currently with EGM). Initial delays to the brief have reduced chances to complete the consultation period in 2022.

CAMPAIGNS AND ADVERTISING

Campaign dates	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Channels / Target Audience / Spend	Comms contact / Action officer	Comments
9 May - 28 June	Climate Change & Energy	Rattenbury	Renters home energy program	Social, Allhomes editorial, radio - Renters in ACT - \$22,000 budget	Main contact: Danielle Forner Portfolio Manager: Megan Baker	Post campaign evaluation report going through approvals.
16 -30 June 2022	Climate Change & Energy	Rattenbury	Business water and energy program	Social, radio - small businesses in ACT - \$15,000 budget	Main contact: Danielle Forner Portfolio Manager: Megan Baker	Post campaign evaluation report going through approvals.
27 June - 31 August 2022	Climate Change & Energy	Rattenbury	Winter Energy Campaign	Social, Radio, web, digital ads, TV, YouTube ads - Renters and homeowners in ACT - \$78,000 budget	Main contact: Danielle Forner Portfolio Manager: Megan Baker	Campaign in market, all channels meeting KPI's. Campaign due to end Wednesday 31 August. As of the 18 August there have been over 1,116,227 total impressions from the campaign and 8,868 visits to the winter energy campaign webpage.
W/c 19 Sep (TBC)	Climate Change and Energy	Rattenbury	Minimum standards for rental properties	TBC	Main contact: Danielle Forner Portfolio Manager: Megan Baker	Media plan, content and creative going through approval. Announcement date still TBC (likely end of August/ start of Sep). Campaign timing will depend on new media buy tender results.

SIGNIFICANT WEB AND GRAPHIC DESIGN PROJECTS

Dates	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Channels	Comments
Feb - June 2022	Climate Action / Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Barr / Rattenbury	Everyday Climate Choices website phase 2	Web	Project complete.
May - Oct 2022	Climate Action / Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Barr / Rattenbury	Scalable Solutions digital platform	Web	Prototype complete. Project formally on pause. Aim to launch later in 2022.
September – Ongoing	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	ZEV Fleet advisory service	Print & Digital	Proceed as planned.
September - Ongoing	Climate Action / Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Barr / Rattenbury	Climate Action campaign rollout	Print & Digital	Proceed as planned.
July - March 2023	Climate Action / Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Barr / Rattenbury	Gas Transition Digital Hub	Web	Stage 2 commencing. Stage 2 will expand the interactive experience to support a number of SMB sectors.



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Meeting Date	Item	Actions	Due date	AO	In progress (date/notes)	Completed (date/notes)
220722	Item 3 - Indigenous water program/ management	Provide Caveat brief to Minister on opportunities for C'with Government funding and approach to progress indigenous water program.	ASAP	Ryan Breen/ Bren Burkevics	31/08 update: Brief in progress – expected to EGM September 2022	
220722	Item 4 - Non-potable water Government Response update	Provide brief to Minister on Government Response and timeframe for ERC and public consultation	29/07/22	Ryan Breen/ Bren Burkevics	31/08 update: Brief in progress Obj Ref: 22/107147	
220729	Item 3 – Embedded Network Ban	Provide brief to Minister on options for embedded networks in the ACT	07/09/22	Geoffrey Rutledge/ Fiona Wright	31/08 update: Extension granted to 07/09 Obj Ref: 22/98475	
220811	Item 4 – Fisheries (recreational fishing) Declaration	Brief to be updated to include engagement/communications plan and resubmitted for Minister's approval.	ASAP	Bren Burkevics/ Sally-Anne Clark	31/08 update: In progress Obj Ref: 20/91799	
220819	Item 2 - Weekly Brief – Review of Large-scale Feed-in Tariff Legislation	John Knox to be provided copy of review Terms of Reference once developed.	TBA	Fiona Wright	31/08 update: In progress – talking with stakeholders about options	

220819	Item 2 - Weekly Brief – Travel time to Public EV charging stations	If considered feasible, EPSDD to analyse travel times to ACT petrol stations and generate maps similar to that done for public EV charging stations.	TBA	Fiona Wright	31/08 update: In progress	
220819	Item 4 – Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program Funding	Provide brief to Minister on options to fund the Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program.	TBA	Fiona Wright	31/08 update: In progress Obj Ref: 22/118029	
220819	Item 5 – Energy Week in Singapore (October 2022)	Consider feasibility of sending delegation to Singapore along with Minister.	02/09/22	MO/ Fiona Wright	On the 02/09 agenda for further discussion/decision	COMPLETE

Ministerials in action – Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction (as at 1/09/2022)

Name	Minister	Due to Ministers Office	Status
22/82418 Ministerial Information Brief - Rattenbury - Subsurface Wetland in Belconnen Oval	Minister Shane Rattenbury	26/08/2022	With Directorate
21/86208 Ministerial-Information Brief - Rattenbury - Review of the realignment of Actsmart Business Recycling	Minister Shane Rattenbury	29/08/2022	With Directorate
22/113806 Ministerial-Correspondence - Rattenbury - Personal informaton EV charging in apartment complexes	Minister Shane Rattenbury	06/09/2022	With Directorate
22/98475 Ministerial-Information Brief - Rattenbury - Options for Embedded Networks in the ACT	Minister Shane Rattenbury	07/09/2022	With Directorate
22/108775 Ministerial-Arrangements Brief - Rattenbury - Launch of Home Energy Support Rebate for Homeowners - 15 September 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	08/09/2022	With Directorate
22/115796 Ministerial-Correspondence - Rattenbury - Chris Bowen MP - Consultation on the CFI Rule	Minister Shane Rattenbury	09/09/2022	With Directorate
22/22318 Ministerial-Arrangements Brief - Rattenbury - EVENT: Climate Choices Business Awards Breakfast - 21 September 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	14/09/2022	With Directorate
22/115318 Ministerial-Information Brief - Rattenbury - Announcement of Minimum Energy Standards for Renters	Minister Shane Rattenbury	15/09/2022	With Directorate
22/100357 Ministerial-Arrangements Brief - Rattenbury - 15th Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2021 - 25 to 28 October 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	18/10/2022	With Directorate
22/32632 Ministerial-Meeting Brief - Rattenbury - ACT Climate Council - 26 October 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	19/10/2022	With Directorate
22/93342 Ministerial-Arrangements Brief - Rattenbury - EVENT: Sustainable Business Expo - 3 November 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	27/10/2022	With Directorate
22/108215 Ministerial-Arrangements Brief - Rattenbury - Climate Choices School Awards 2022 - 8 December 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	01/12/2022	With Directorate
22/32635 Ministerial-Meeting Brief - Rattenbury - ACT Climate Council - 12 December 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	05/12/2022	With Directorate

Assembly and Cabinet Business

CABINET AND ASSEMBLY ITEMS

(As at 1 September 2022)

Title	CABINET DATE	ASSEMBLY DATE	Type	Current Status	DUE TO MO (EXP)	EXP TO CO	DUE TO MO (FINAL)	FINAL to CO
22/546 Cabinet Climate Action Sub-Committee No new gas connections regulation – Proposed approach	27/09/2022		Discussion Paper	FIN with Exec	-	-	5/09/2022	19/09/2022
22/442 Cabinet COSPONSORED: State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT - Government Response ERC: 3 November 2022 Cabinet: 21 November 2022	3/11/2022	29 November - 01 December	Submission	EXP with AO	05/09/2022	19/09/2022	12/10/2022	26/10/2022
22/440 Cabinet Government Response to Non-Potable Water Review ERC: 3 November 2022 Cabinet: 28 November 2022	3/11/2022	-	Submission	EXP with AO	5/09/2022	19/09/2022	12/10/2022	26/10/2022
22/XXX Cabinet The ACT's Greenhouse Gas Inventory	21/11/2022	29 November - 01 December	ABP	CNRF with AO	-	-	28/10/2022	11/11/2022
2021-22 Ministers Annual Report under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2020		29 November - 01 December	Paper for Tabling Only (Annual)					
ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group Annual Report 2021-22		20 - 22 September	Paper for Tabling Only (Annual)					

QON/QTONS IN ACTION

No.	Member	Topic	Due to Assembly/Committee	Current status
QTON 4/8/22	LEE	Rental properties - Minimum Energy Standards	04/09/2022	With MO 18/8
QON 888	LAWDER	Water Quality	05/09/2022	With MO 26/8
Budget Estimates QTON's				
QTON	LAWDER	In relation to the healthy waterways funding. How much is in the budget for last financial year. Provide the breakup of projects in a table	05/09/2022	In Progress
QTON	LAWDER	Stage 1 and Stage 2 Healthy Waterways Initiative - how much has been spent on initiatives for lake Tuggeranong?	05/09/2022	In Progress
QTON	PATERSON	Yarralumla Wetlands Proposal. Been any progress or further thought?	05/09/2022	In Progress
QTON	CLAY	How much water abstraction charges is coming from NSW. What is the exact figure?	05/09/2022	In Progress
QTON	DAVIS	Provide the research for using a floating wetland on Lake Tuggeranong instead of other options that are available.	05/09/2022	In Progress
QTON	DAVIS	Healthy Waterways – PAGA 30 million over 4 years. How much is in this particular budget?	05/09/2022	In Progress
QTON	LAWDER	Healthy Waterways – Isabella Pond in Monash. Is it your understanding that in Isabel pond in Monash that there's a scour hole that's developed goes vertically instead of horizontally.	05/09/2022	In Progress

CABINET SUBMISSIONS ON CIRCULATION AS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

Cabinet Date	Cabinet No.	Title	Cabinet Priority	Paper Type	Meeting Type	Minister	Current Action	Directorate
06/09/2022	CAB2022/347	Planning System Review and Reform – District Strategies	Category 1	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Planning & Land Management	Review final submission	EPSDD
06/09/2022	CAB2022/383	(ERC) Report No.3 Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion – Managing ACT school infrastructure – Government Response	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Education & Youth Affairs	Review final submission	EDU
06/09/2022	CAB2022/396	Government Response to the Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report Court Transport Unit Vehicle – Romeo 5	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Corrections	Review final submission	JACS
06/09/2022	CAB2022/418	Draft ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2022-2026	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Health	Review final submission	HEALTH
06/09/2022	CAB2022/438	Planning System Review and Reform – Territory Plan	Category 1	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Planning & Land Management	Review final submission	EPSDD
06/09/2022	CAB2022/441	Draft ACT Natural Resource Management Plan - Caring for Dhawura Ngunnawal	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for the Environment	Review final submission	EPSDD
06/09/2022	CAB2022/481	Discrimination Amendment Bill 2022 – Policy Approval (following Public Consultation)	Category 1	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Human Rights	Review final submission	JACS
07/09/2022	CAB2021/775	Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Amendment Bill 2022 – Policy Approval	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for the Environment	Review final submission	EPSDD
07/09/2022	CAB2022/501	Domestic Violence Agencies (Information Sharing) Amendment Bill 2022 - Agreement for Public Consultation & Ministerial Statement	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic & Family Violence	Review final submission	CSD
07/09/2022	CAB2022/513	Biosecurity Update	Category 2	Submission	Security & Emergency Management Committee	Minister for the Environment	Review final submission	EPSDD
07/09/2022	CAB2022/495	Adoption of Fossil Emblem - Executive Motion	Category 2	Assembly Business Paper	Cabinet	Chief Minister	Review final submission	EPSDD
07/09/2022	CAB2022/542	Implementation of the new Australia Fire Danger Rating System	Category 3	Submission	Security & Emergency Mana	Minister for Police & Emergency Services	Review final submission	JACS
07/09/2022	CAB2022/543	Emergency Services Agency update	Category 3	Submission	Security & Emergency Mana	Minister for Police & Emergency Services	Review final submission	JACS
12/09/2022	CAB2022/515	[OOS Meeting 9-12 Sep] Growing and Renewing Program Update - Ministerial Statement	Category 2	Assembly Business Paper	Out of Session Committee	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Review final submission	CSD
12/09/2022	CAB2022/468	Report No. 8 of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety - Inquiry into Terrorism (Extraordinary Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill 2022 - Government response	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Attorney-General	Provide exposure comments	JACS
12/09/2022	CAB2022/560	[OOS Meeting 9-12 Sep 2022] Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021 – response to petition	Category 2	Assembly Business Paper	Out of Session Committee	Minister for Health	Review final submission	HEALTH

12/09/2022	CAB2022/408	ACT's National Agreement on Closing the Gap Annual Report 2022	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Provide exposure comments	CSD
12/09/2022	CAB2022/443	[OOS Meeting 9-12 Sep 2022] Lifetime Care and Support (LTCS) Commissioner of the Australian Capital Territory	Category 3	Appointment	Out of Session Committee	Special Minister of State	Review final submission	CMTEDD
12/09/2022	CAB2022/240	(ERC 08-09-22) ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy	Category 1	Submission	Expenditure Review Committee	Minister for Mental Health	Review final submission	HEALTH
16/09/2022	CAB2022/464	(RESTRICTED) COVID-19 Response Expenditure Report – 2021 22 Full Year	Category 3	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Health	Provide exposure comments	HEALTH
16/09/2022	CAB2021/838	Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 – Policy approval	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Attorney-General	Provide exposure comments	JACS
16/09/2022	CAB2022/564	Release of the joint Teacher Shortage Taskforce Report – Ministerial Statement	Category 2	Assembly Business Paper	Cabinet	Minister for Education & Youth Affairs	Review final submission	EDU
16/09/2022	CAB2022/548	Government submission to Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity - Inquiry into the waste management of absorbent hygiene products	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Transport & City Services	Provide exposure comments	TCCS
16/09/2022	CAB2022/516	Appointment to the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS)	Category 3	Appointment	Cabinet	Minister for Education & Youth Affairs	Review final submission	EDU
28/09/2022	CAB2022/519	(ERC 15-09-22) Zero Emission Transition Program - Outside the Fence Works (electrical supply)	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Transport & City Services	Provide exposure comments	TCCS
28/09/2022	CAB2022/498	(ERC 08-09-22) NPA extension to the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Health	Review final submission	HEALTH
28/09/2022	CAB2022/32	Gaming Machine (Smoke and Heat Refuges) Amendment Bill 2022 – Policy Approval	Category 1	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Gaming	Provide exposure comments	JACS
28/09/2022	CAB2022/180	Our Booris Our Way Oversight Committee – Appointments and Governance Arrangements	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Provide exposure comments	CSD
28/09/2022	CAB2022/223	Endorsement of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic & Family Violence	Provide exposure comments	CSD
28/09/2022	CAB2022/492	ACT Government submission to the Productivity Commission Review of the National School Reform Agreement	Category 3	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Education & Youth Affairs	Review final submission	EDU
28/09/2022	CAB2021/352	(ERC 15-09-22) West Belconnen (Ginninderry) Joint Venture – Stormwater Harvesting Project	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Provide exposure comments	EPSDD
28/09/2022	CAB2022/439	(ERC 15-09-22) CO-SPONSORED Direct Sale of Blocks 2 and 3 Section 20 City to the Australian National University (ANU).	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Chief Minister	Provide exposure comments	EPSDD
05/10/2022	CAB2022/534	(ERC 29-09-22) Residential Eating Disorders Treatment Centre – land custodianship request	Category 1	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Mental Health	Provide exposure comments	HEALTH
05/10/2022	CAB2022/573	COVID-19 Rapid antigen tests in ACT Education settings for term 4, 2022 and term 1, 2023	Category 1	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Education & Youth Affairs	Provide exposure comments	EDU
10/10/2022	CAB2022/547	(ERC 29-09-22) Variation to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – National Heavy Vehicle Regulator	Category 2	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Business & Better Regulation	Provide exposure comments	CMTEDD

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Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

To:	Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Tracking No.: 22/14462
cc	Minister for the Environment	
	Minister for Business and Better Regulation	
Date:	12 July 2022	
From:	Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water	
Subject:	Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant upgrades: update and policy direction	
Critical Date:	22 July 2022	
Critical Reason:	To provide advice ahead of the tabling of the 'State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT' in the Assembly in August.	

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 12/07/22

Recommendations – Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

That you:

1. **Note** this update on the proposed infrastructure upgrades for the Queanbeyan Sewerage Treatment Plant, including the proposed review on the existing Environmental Authorisation.

Shane Rattenbury MLA

Noted/Please Discuss

28/8/22

Minister's Office Feedback

Thanks for the update. I am still unclear exactly where the decision point sits for finalising the standard ASTP will operate too, and not confident a new standard will be applied before the final DA approval.
Can you please organise a joint discussion/briefing for

advisers from Rattenbury/Chayne/Gentleman/Vassarelli offices.
Also, given the significance of this decision, I feel it needs to come before Cabinet. Please discuss options for this.

Background

1. The Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant (QSTP) is located in Oaks Estate ACT and treats wastewater from the Queanbeyan and Oaks Estate urban areas. The treated effluent is discharged into the ACT at the Molonglo River and flows downstream to Lake Burley Griffin (LBG), with outflow into the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee rivers.
2. The Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) operates the QSTP under an Environmental Authorisation issued by the ACT Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
3. The QSTP contains ageing infrastructure which is estimated to have three to five years left of serviceable operation. It was designed for 34,500 equivalent persons (EP) but currently serves approximately 50,000EP. The population of Queanbeyan is predicted to reach 75,000EP by 2045.
4. To address this issue, the QPRC propose the construction of a new treatment plant to upgrade the QSTP's capacity and elevate the infrastructure above the Molonglo River flood zone. This will reduce the risk of bypass events of partially treated sewage that pollute the river. The statutory planning process for the QSTP upgrade is well advanced.
5. The ACT Conservator raised concerns on a previous Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) about the new QSTP in early 2021. Concerns included impacts to aquatic biodiversity and water quality and noted the socio-economic and cultural significance of LBG as a centerpiece of the national capital. The issues highlighted the need for best practice effluent management to minimise water quality issues and harmful blue-green algae blooms in LBG.
6. Concerns raised by community members and the ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group on the Draft EIS included:
 - a. the QSTP upgrade will foreseeably have a negative impact upon water quality, aquatic ecosystems and human amenity;
 - b. negative water quality impacts will be most evident under scenarios of increasing population, low flow conditions, prolonged drought and warmer weather; and
 - c. the current Environmental Authorisation held by the QPRC does not encourage best practice sewage treatment plant operation, and the pollution compliance limits do not adequately protect LBG.
7. A revised EIS was submitted by QPRC on 2 May 2022 to the Planning and Land Authority and referred to relevant ACT Government entities. This referral sought comments on whether requirements in the scoping document and Draft EIS were adequately addressed. This process supports feedback in relation to concerns that have been raised about whether the QSTP upgrades will deliver acceptable water quality outcomes.
8. The Minister for Planning and Land Management is expected in the next two to three months to consider if the EIS provides an acceptable level of information on the environmental impacts of the development to enable an assessment. This step is required prior to allowing the QPRC to apply for Development Approval for the proposed QSTP upgrades.

Issues

9. An upgraded QSTP will avoid a potential critical failure of the existing plant and will accommodate population growth within the region. The impact from the upgraded QSTP can be lessened, to an extent, through the Development Approvals process.
10. The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has prepared an investigation report on the 'State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT' (22/273) which is to be tabled in the Assembly on 2 August 2022. The report raises a number of issues with the ACT Government's management of urban water, including a recommendation to review the Queanbeyan STP Environmental Authorisation.
11. Additional policy options and treatments, as described below, are recommended to reduce long-term water quality impacts from the upgraded QSTP and other polluting activities as part of maintaining and improving the condition of receiving waters including LBG and the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee rivers.

Regulatory standards

12. The existing discharge limits in the Environmental Authorisation issued by the EPA for the current QSTP are used by QPRC as the basis of proposed future compliance limits presented in the EIS.
13. The EPA has responded to this EIS by initiating a review of the Queanbeyan STP Environmental Authorisation in line with the recommendation from the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment investigation. This includes requesting additional commentary about what progressive environmental improvements have been factored in proposing these limits and noting that:
 - a. the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (EP Act) requires people engaging in polluting activities to make progressive environmental improvements (Section 3C(1c)). Therefore, additional information is also requested about what options have been considered for reducing contaminant discharge concentrations; and
 - b. the Environmental Authorisation, including the associated Environmental Management Plan, will be reviewed to take account of the upgrades, with the new conditions to be finalized prior to completion of the proposed works and commissioning of the new plant. The revision would aim to take account of the latest relevant water quality and discharge guidelines and consideration of the receiving environment including both the Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin; and
 - c. QPRC has indicated an expectation that actual discharge limits will be considerably better than those in the existing Environmental Authorisation and a willingness to work with the ACT Government in establishing more sophisticated, best practice standards in an anticipated updated Environmental Authorisation. Engagement by the EPA is underway towards this goal.
14. The Office of Water could have a role in supporting the EPA by establishing a policy framework for protecting water quality. This role could include collaborative development of environment protection policies and facilitating technical expertise to help inform the EPA's decisions in conditioning Environmental Authorisations. Final decisions on Environmental Authorisations would continue to rest with the EPA, as an independent statutory authority.

15. A review is proposed, to be conducted by the EPA, in conjunction with the Office of Water that would support the setting of licence condition to achieve the objectives of the Environmental Protection Act. The review would:
 - a. review and provide independent advice on the environmental authorisation for the QSTP;
 - b. provide an assurance review of the process for setting licence conditions related to water quality; and
 - c. advise on best practice licence conditions for supporting the regulatory function of the EPA, including information requirements, discharge emission limits and monitoring requirements.
16. The review will ensure that future licence conditions are fit for purpose and take account of environmental, social and economic impacts in supporting best practice regulatory outcomes. This will form part of the Government's management response to the State of the Lakes and Waterways report.

Point Source Pollution (PSP) policy (draft)

17. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is developing a draft PSP policy to drive improvement in managing pollution of single 'end-of-pipe' sources such as STPs. It is important to note:
 - a. this would be developed collaboratively with the EPA;
 - b. this would work towards the proposed PSP policy which could also fit into a broader review of the 2008 [ACT Water Quality Environment Protection Policy](#); and
 - c. additional internal and external consultation, including water utility operators (Icon Water, QPRC), is required to finalise the draft PSP policy.
18. Implementing a PSP policy would provide a set of medium to long-term measures to reduce water quality impacts. Because of the consultation process and timeframe to finalise the policy, it will not affect the statutory planning processes for the OSTEP upgrade proposal. However, the PSP policy would guide planning by Icon Water for Icon Water's proposed Eastern Treatment Plant and reviews of existing authorisations for other STPs.
19. The draft PSP policy encourages uptake of current scientific knowledge and better practice to optimise the standard of ACT water quality, by:
 - a. facilitating better practice development consistent with Section 3C(1c) of the EP Act;
 - b. reducing the load of point source pollution in waterways; and
 - c. where practical, removing point source pollution from waterways.
20. An integrated, coordinated approach to sewerage management such as development of sewerage master planning, would benefit the ACT by embedding consideration of pollution impacts as a key decision criterion into strategic planning activity.
21. Integrated water management, sewerage management master planning, and incentivising behavior change are central features of the PSP policy.
22. The use of treated wastewater for outcomes such as supporting food and fibre production or other re-use, needs to be evaluated as part of integrated water management planning

and the requirements to maintain lake and waterway values and environmental and cultural flows.

23. The development of the PSP will be further advanced through the Office for Water and a briefing will be provided.

Financial Implications

24. The proposed review of authorization and licence conditions, and the development of a point source pollution policy can be met within existing EPA and EPSDD resources.

Consultation

Internal and Cross Directorate

25. The EPA was consulted in developing this brief.
26. Relevant Government water stakeholders in EPSDD, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) (including the EPA and Utilities Technical Regulation), ACT Health and Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) were consulted in the scoping phase of the PSP policy. Consultation on the draft policy is yet to occur.
27. Consultation with CMTEDD Treasury is being undertaken to consider pricing incentives for the use of treated wastewater (non-potable water). Consultation will need to occur on options proposed in the draft PSP policy document, subject to agreement on the options.

External

28. Consultation is proposed with sewage utility operators (Icon Water, QPRC) and the ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group (includes National Capital Authority) to socialize PSP policy direction around STP operational planning and alignment with Government strategic priorities.

Work Health and Safety

29. There are no work health and safety implications associated with this brief.

Benefits/Sensitivities

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's lakes and waterways report

30. The Commissioner's report on the 'State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT' raises a number of issues with management of urban water in the ACT, including the need for a review of the Queanbeyan STP Environmental Authorisation. The proposal to establish a PSP policy could form part of the Government's response to the Commissioner's report.

Office of Water

31. The proposed governance model for the Office of Water provides functions for Government water policy and program implementation. Collaboration with the EPA and other relevant regulators would be designed into the proposed review, recognising the value of retaining an institutional separation of policy and regulatory roles, and the independence of the EPA.

STP operators (QPRC and Icon Water)

32. STP operators will be sensitive to Government policy and regulatory review that may affect costs and operation of STP infrastructure and future STP master planning. Conditions placed on the QSTP would have implications for the Eastern Treatment Plant in planning by Icon Water.

Communications, media and engagement implications

33. On 9 May 2022, there was media coverage about the National heritage status being granted to LBG which may heighten community interest in protecting the water quality of LBG.
34. Media interest may emerge following the Commissioner's release of the State of the Lakes and Waterways Report, the EIS outcome for the proposed Queanbeyan STP upgrade, or potential review of STP regulatory standards.

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ACT
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Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

EPSDD Ref No.: 22/114444

Response to DLO Request

Subject: Singapore Trade Delegation - proposed plan for participants

Response:

Through discussions with CCED and CMTEDD staff, we have refined the key components for ensuring a trade delegation is beneficial to businesses. Firstly, participation of the Minister would provide additional opportunities and can open more doors for meetings and engagements. This can be done through a roundtable, networking event and potential site visits. Secondly, benefits for businesses can be achieved through targeted one on one meetings with like-minded organisations or government.

With these considerations, CCED sees value in proceeding with preparation of a trade mission to Singapore led by Minister Rattenbury for two to three days.

To balance the risk of the resourcing needed to prepare the trade mission and ensuring priority work of the Division is not negatively impacted, CCED will work with Office for International Engagement (OIE) in CMTEDD and other contacts, such as AusTrade and contacts in Singapore to assist with logistics and preparation.

1. Objectives of the trade delegation

The trade mission should focus on promoting “two-way information exchange and technology sharing” with the following proposed four objectives to guide the trade mission:

- 1) **Showcase** ACT’s climate action leadership and policy expertise;
- 2) **Showcase** ACT’s renewable energy sector capability and industry solutions in the solar, battery and grid integration space;
- 3) **Learn** from counterparts in Singapore about managing sustainable and resilient cities best practices for climate adaptation (eg creating vertical gardens (green roofs/walls) to increase tree canopy cover in densely populated urban areas);



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Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

EPSDD Ref No.: 22/114444

- 4) **Promote** high level research partnerships between the ANU and universities based in Singapore in areas of strategic mutual priorities on climate tech research and development.

2. Proposed activities for the trade delegation

We understand that Minister Rattenbury will be speaking on 25 October at the [Singapore Energy Summit 2022](#) as part of the [Singapore–IEA Ministerial Roundtable](#).

We also note that between 26-28 Oct, there are a number of conferences happening in parallel during the [Singapore International Energy Week](#), with participants from the wider business sectors nationally and internationally. Businesses who join the trade delegation may be able to gain further contacts and opportunities at events during this week, such as the Asia Clean Energy Summit 2022 or the Future of the Grid event. Further details are being sought from the organisers on these events and potential opportunities.

The following is some further details on proposed activities. For the individual events, three streams of activities would be examined to meet the separate objectives 2, 3 and 4 above.

ACT-Singapore Renewable Energy roundtable

This would be held at the beginning of the trade delegation visit for around 2 hours. Minister Rattenbury and Singapore Government representative could introduce climate action policy priorities, and industry capacity from each side. ACT-based businesses could then showcase their profiles (projects, services, products) and business in Singapore could share solutions in climate adaptation and resilient cities management. This would be followed by Q&A

Stream One: One on One Canberra Business Meetings

Business and trade opportunities would be sought by showcasing ACT's renewable energy sector capability and industry solutions through one on one discussions. Each Canberra business will have between 3 to 6 meetings arranged with like-minded Singaporean organisations and/or Singapore Government agencies. We would investigate whether other businesses from key trade potential countries, such as Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines, would also be in Singapore. EPSDD will seek help with arranging these meetings through OIE and AusTrade.

Stream Two: Research discussions and partnerships

Discussions and potential site visits could be held to learn from counterparts in Singapore about managing sustainable and resilient cities best practices for climate adaptation to



develop Canberra businesses back in the ACT. Further work is required to confirm which companies / organisation may be interested in this type of engagement. For example, CCED could connect with the ACT branch of Regional Development Australia who would have connections with work on vertical gardens, food hubs and adaptability or with other sustainable and smart city design organisations.

Stream Three: Information exchange and learning opportunities

Through meetings and site visits, the aim would be to promote high level research partnerships between the ANU and universities based in Singapore in areas of strategic mutual priorities on climate tech research and development. CCED would work with ANU on what events or meetings could be arranged, including a potential alumni event. Site visits could be to NUS (<https://www.nus.edu.sg/>), or NTU (<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/>) labs.

Other potential joint events such as site visits

We suggest that joint meetings or site tours could be organised where there are businesses or Singapore Government agencies that would be of interest to a number of Canberra businesses and/or research organisations. Some initial ideas are as follows:

- Singapore's national energy agency (Energy Market Authority <https://www.ema.gov.sg/>)
 - This could be an opportunity for ACT attendees to understand the national renewable energy capability, discuss their challenges, and potentially visit their control rooms and other facilities
- Business premises and labs/testing sites
 - Singapore Power (<https://www.spgroup.com.sg/>), or other nominated business such as Sun cable Singapore (<https://suncable.energy/>)

Networking event

This would be held near the end of the trade delegation visit for around 2 hours. ACT trade delegates would mingle with Singapore government and business representatives. Other Australian representatives may also be in attendance, such as from the Australian Embassy in Singapore and AusTrade. This would potentially include a short speech and introductions following by networking.



3. Attendance interest so far (as of 26 August 2022)

EPSDD has contacted an initial list of key ACT-based renewable energy businesses who operate in the solar/storage/grid integration space. Further organisations and representative bodies will be contacted once confirmation has been confirmed of the Trade Delegation proceeding.

Confirmed attendees from ACT interested in participating in a Trade Delegation

ANU, Neoen, ZepBen, Reposit Power and ITP Renewables have indicated their interest. ITP Renewables noted they already have a large project in Indonesia and are looking for more business in Asia. Ecospectral is another business that is 'cautiously' interested and will speak to a larger business partner before giving a firmer response

4. Expected Outcomes of the trade delegation

Expected benefits would be refined further to verify proposed outcomes.

Benefits for the trade mission participants

- Showcasing their capability to a new market
- Exploring export opportunities in a new market
- Building business and research partnership opportunities with Singapore

Benefits for the ACT Government

- Showcasing ACT's climate and energy leadership
- Strengthening existing relationship with Singapore government counterparts
- Learning about best practice solutions to climate adaptation/mitigation in a challenging urban setting (e.g. green buildings, green roofs, sponge cities, EV charging in apartment complex)
- In the medium to longer term, expanding export for Canberra companies and research organisations could support Canberra jobs, economy and growth.

5. Logistical considerations and estimated efforts

A draft budget will be developed. We expect two to three EPSDD staff would be required to support logistics and planning, on a part time basis.