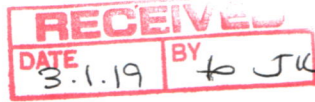




ACT
Government

Transport Canberra and
City Services



Ministerial Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Lawder, Nicole MLA – Upper Stranger Pond
OBJECTIVE FILE NUMBER: S2018/0534
MINISTER: Steel, Chris MLA
CRITICAL DATE: 9/11/2018
CRITICAL REASON:
CONTACT OFFICER: Noreen Vu

COMMENTS:

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Chris Steel MLA

Minister for City Services
Minister for Community Services and Facilities
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Roads
Member for Murrumbidgee

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA
Member for Brindabella
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

COPY

Dear Ms Lawder

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2018 to Mr Mick Gentleman MLA regarding Upper Stranger Pond. I am responding as the matter you have raised falls within my portfolio of responsibilities. I apologise for the delay.

On 7 September 2018 the valve was partially opened by the contractor undertaking work at the Isabella Weir, for about three hours to slightly lower the level of Upper Stranger Pond. This was necessary to prevent stormwater overflowing into the Isabella Pond worksite. The initial lowering of the pond by the Isabella Weir contractor was undertaken under an existing agreement with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). This is done by using a standard valve key to open a valve at Upper Stranger Pond, which allows the water to flow to Lower Stranger Pond. An officer from TCCS had verbally authorised the partial lowering of the water level in Upper Stranger Pond.

Subsequently, the pond was almost fully drained over the course of the next few days (to the level of the outflow pipe to Lower Stranger Pond). This was done without authorisation and neither the responsible party nor motive have been identified.

I am advised that in such a circumstance, most of the fish would have been flushed out of Upper Stranger Pond into the waters of Lower Stranger Pond. As the pond has now refilled, the ACT Government will consider re-stocking Upper Stranger Pond with Golden Perch and Murray Cod.

I note your concern regarding the works being undertaken at the ACT Healthy Waterways rain garden near Upper Stranger Pond. I am advised that this work is necessary to allow for appropriate drainage. The works are covered under existing contract arrangements and are not an additional cost to government.

The rain garden near Upper Stranger Pond is one of 20 water quality infrastructure projects to be constructed as part of the \$93.5m ACT Healthy Waterways Project. This includes, the recently announced additional rain garden near the Gowrie Playing Fields, Tuggeranong. This has been made possible by savings across the overall ACT Healthy Waterways Project to date.

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 1470 Email steel@act.gov.au



@ChrisSteelMLA



christeellabor



chrissteelmla



The ACT Healthy Waterways Project is a joint initiative of the Australian and ACT Governments to protect and improve long-term water quality in the ACT and further downstream in the Murrumbidgee River system.

The construction of the rain garden near Upper Stanger Pond is nearing completion. When finished, stormwater will be diverted to the rain garden, filtered and then flow into Upper Stranger Pond.

Information on the ACT Healthy Waterways' infrastructure projects can be found on the project website at: <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways>. Following your comment, the website has been updated to better reflect the location of the rain garden near Upper Stranger Pond.

Thank you for raising these matters. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Steel', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for City Services

10 JAN 2019



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for City Services
Minister for Community Services and Facilities
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Roads
Member for Murrumbidgee

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA
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If you would like any additional information with respect to ACT Healthy Waterways Project, please contact Mr Justin Foley, ACT Healthy Waterway Program Manager on 6205 8062 or justin.foley@act.gov.au

Thank you for raising these matters. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for City Services