



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Ms Leanne Castley MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**19 October 2021**

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Asked by Andrew Braddock MLA on 19 October 2021: Madelin Bayer, Environment Protection Authority, took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 October 2021, Page 24]

In relation to: Point source pollution

**MR BRADDOCK:** My question is around point source pollution and whether you are allocating enough resources to enable you to address this issue sufficiently. What resources does the EPA allocate for point source pollution and are we sufficiently addressing those issues?

**Ms Bayer:** Again, it is difficult to quantify exactly the resources that are put towards any one particular concern. I can take that on notice in terms of a more specific amount of time and resources spent on point source pollution.

**MINISTER CHEYNE:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The *Environment Protection Act 1997* ('the Act') identifies activities which have a risk of causing pollution. These activities are listed under Schedule 1 of the Act and grouped into two classes, Class A and Class B.

If a person or entity undertakes a Class A activity they are required to hold an Environmental Authorisation which is granted by the Environment Protection Authority. An Authorisation would include conditions which limit or regulate the amount of pollution from the activity. The Environment Protection Authority reviews the Authorisations, which includes site visits, to ensure compliance with the conditions of the Authorisation.

A person or entity who undertakes a Class B activity is required to hold an Environmental Authorisation or an Environment Protection Agreement (EPA). An Agreement details actions that the Agreement holder must undertake to comply with section 22 of the Act (General Environmental Duty).

The Environment Protection Authority proactively patrols and inspects sites subject to Authorisations and Agreements and areas of the ACT. Inspections are undertaken by Environmental Protection Officers within the EPA. The allocation of EPA resources for a particular activity, such as a site visit, depends on the nature of the compliance or enforcement activity and associated risks.

The EPA operates within the resources allocated by government and continues to work with the community, industry, and other government directorates to help protect, restore, or improve the ACT's environment.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 26/10/21

By the Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Tara Cheyne MLA