



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
21 October 2021

Asked by Ms Lawder on 21 October 2021: Mr Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

MS LAWDER: Thank you, chair. I have a question about the announcement the minister made earlier this year, I think it was in April, about an investigation into ACT lakes and waterways water quality by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. I just wondered whether it would look at previous reports and recommendations and whether those other recommendations have already been addressed?

For example, there was a report on Lake Burley Griffin called “A Better Functioning Lake by 2030” by the ACT government and I am interested to know, have the recommendations in that report been addressed? Where might I find them? And will that be looked at as part of the commissioner's next investigation?

Mr Rattenbury: Let me start on the broad, Ms Lawder, and then come to the very specific question.

In terms of the remit for the commissioner, yes. She can look at all of those previous investigations. And if I remember rightly, the terms of reference actually point her to those. The key driver of actually starting this next shift was that the Commissioner for the Environment, last did a report on the urban lakes and waterways in 2010.

It was a really important report. It steered a lot of the healthy waterways work over the last decade. And my view was that a decade down the track, and with all that investment we made in the Healthy Waterways Program, it was very appropriate to ask the commissioner to have another look.

And so the key reference really was, starting with that 2010 report, and all the work that has been done since, have we made progress? Are we doing the right things, or do we need to change direction?

So that is the sort of broad remit for the report.

In terms of that specific report on Lake Burley Griffin, I might see if Mr Walker can help me out.

Mr Walker: Thanks, Minister.

A good one, I think, to take on notice at this point. I do not have any further information at hand to be able to add to that, Ms Lawder.

Minister Rattenbury: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

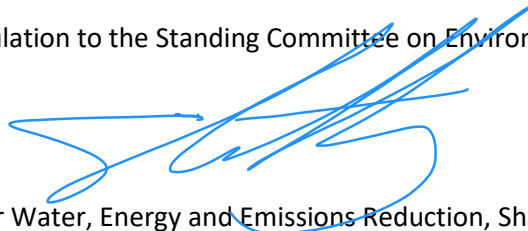
In April 2012, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (CSE) tabled “*The State of the Watercourses and Catchments for Lake Burley Griffin*” investigation report in the Assembly. As a result a senior officer group and an expert panel was convened to produce the “*A Better Functioning Lake by 2030 Report*” (the report) which was effectively an action plan for the original CSE investigation.

The report contained a number of higher level themes with many actions progressively implemented by Government. High level examples include:

- Establishment of the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group to improve catchment governance. Please see: www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water-strategies-and-plans/act-and-region-catchment-strategy;
- Development of the ACT and Region Catchment Management Strategy. Please see: www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water-strategies-and-plans/act-and-region-catchment-strategy;
- Development of the H2OK community education/engagement program. Please see: www.environment.act.gov.au/water/act-healthy-waterways/h2ok-keeping-our-waterways-healthy;
- Catchment decision support models and catchment planning processes currently under development with the current Healthy Waterways program;
- 2014/15 Water Sensitive Urban Design Review. Please see: www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water-strategies-and-plans/water-sensitive-urban-design;
- Current investigations into the upgrade of the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council Sewerage Treatment Plant;
- 2018 Environmental Flow Guidelines. Please see: www.environment.act.gov.au/water/water-regulation/environmental-flows-guidelines;
- Enhanced public reporting of the Recreational Water Quality Sampling and Analysis Program; and
- Three water quality assets built, and a significant riparian restoration program conducted in the catchment through the ACT Healthy Waterways project. Please see: www.environment.act.gov.au/water/ACT-Healthy-Waterways/home.

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

Signature:



Date:

1/11/21

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Shane Rattenbury