



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: CED

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: Coombs Peninsula

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) Regarding the Territory Plan Variation proposed for Coombs Peninsula, some land will be added to the reserve while a small area (1.4ha) will be removed from the existing reserve area. This is because of weed incursions due to the area not having been managed as a reserve. Why was the area not managed as a reserve?
- 2) When did the 1.4ha stop being managed as a reserve?
- 3) Whose decision was it to not manage the 1.4ha as a reserve?
- 4) Was the 1.4ha included in a Reserve Management Plan, with the intention of it being managed as a reserve?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) The 1.4ha area being excised from the reserve contains minimal conservation values and contains a network of underground services, which are more appropriate outside the reserve boundary. Ecological mapping earlier this year confirms that the area is largely dominated by exotic species, has low forb diversity and is highly degraded.

In addition, there are plans for delivery of new active travel infrastructure, including a pedestrian bridge and shared path in this location. These planned works will further alter the landscape and limit its potential for ecological restoration or conservation.

- 2) The 1.4ha is currently part of the Molonglo River Reserve but is not managed for ecological values.

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- 3) The decision to remove the 1.4ha as a reserve rests with the Territory Planning Authority but is supported by the Parks and Conservation Service.
- 4) The 1.4ha is included in the Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan (RMP) and the Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Planning and Design Framework, which states that as development proceeds and practical issues arise in determining the urban edge, there may be a need to review the boundary of the Molonglo River Reserve. The Molonglo River Reserve RMP recognises that reserve boundaries of unleased Territory land can be amended under the *Planning Act 2023* when the change is consistent with the intent of the original boundary.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several sweeping, interconnected strokes.

Signature:

Date: 04/12/25

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA