



Shane Rattenbury MLA

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 29

12 May 2023

Question No. 1202

MS LAWDER MLA - To ask the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction:

- (1) Why is the 2012 reported capacity significantly reduced from the 1973 design capacity, for example, up to 50 percent for Preliminary Treatment, and lesser but still significant reductions for the other treatment stages.
- (2) What is Icon Water doing to improve treatment capacity.
- (3) What were the actual estimated bypass flows.
- (4) What were the water quality tests done upstream and downstream of where the effluent is discharged into the Molonglo River and also in the Murrumbidgee River and of the effluent discharged, before during and after the bypass.
- (5) Does the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) require this monitoring; if not, why not.
- (6) Was the bypass dam empty before both events; if not, why not.
- (7) Does the EPA get daily updates of the bypass dam volumes during wet events; if not, why not.
- (8) If the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC) can treat up to 190ml/day, why wasn't the bypass dam of volume 147ml able to be emptied in about two days ($147/(190-100)=1.7$ days).
- (9) Could the plant treat excess flows, if the inflows for subsequent days were still greater than 100ml.
- (10) How many bypasses have occurred since 2012 given this was two bypasses and there was another this year.
- (11) What is Icon Water doing to reduce stormwater ingress to the sewer network, especially as the sewers react to stormwater ingress almost as quickly as the normal stormwater system.
- (12) What is the population that LMWQCC can treat if the treatment capacity has not increased in 50 years.

MR RATTENBURY MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1-8) Information on this matter was provided in the response to [Question on Notice 1020](#), provided in December 2022.
- (9) If inflows to LMWQCC from the sewerage network remained above 100ML/day then return flows from the LMWQCC bypass storage could be processed at a rate up to the available treatment plant process capacity. Icon Water continually monitor the performance of the LMWQCC treatment process and balance the rate of returns from the bypass storage dam to ensure the process capacity is not exceeded. This is to ensure ongoing compliance of LMWQCC effluent as prescribed in EA0009.
- (10-12) Information on this matter was provided in the response to [Question on Notice 1020](#), provided in December 2022.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Date:.....7/6/23.....

This response required 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$35.52.