



**Shane Rattenbury MLA**

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question Time 18 October 2022**

**MS LAWDER:** Minister, did ICON treat to maximum capacity before overflowing occurred or was some equipment offline.

**MR RATTENBURY:** I have not been advised of any equipment being offline Madam Speaker. I will check and also provide that to Ms Lawder on notice.

**MR MILLIGAN:** What is the volume of extra sewer flow during wet weather and is this due to stormwater ingress.

**MR RATTENBURY:** I am sure there is a very detailed answer in litres, which I will provide to Mr Milligan on notice.

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

During recent rain events, the Office of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received notifications from Icon Water indicating that, due to significantly increased inflows, the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC) released partially treated effluent from the bypass storage dam. These overflows were not treated to a maximum capacity. However, the overflows were partially treated and consistent with the Environment Authorisation (EA) approved Environment Management Plan associated with the LMWQCC.

Routine water quality testing indicated that the LMWQCC remained compliant with the conditions of the relevant EA, as indicated below -

- **LMWQCC Effluent results**
- *EPA Licence Result Summary August 2022*
- *August 2022 – 100% Compliance*
- *EPA Licence Result Summary September 2022*
- *September 2022 – 100% Compliance*

Based off previous sampling and similar events, the EPA considers that the high volume background flows from persistent rain, as well as the partial treatment of the effluent, would have provided significant dilution and therefore mitigated environmental harm.

The EPA understands that the LMWQCC was operating at full capacity during these events and was not aware of any equipment being 'offline'.

The following table has been supplied by Icon Water as part of their reporting on this event and EPA analysis is provided.

It shows that the treated volumes during the recent peak rain events were about twice the Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF), at 150 to 198 ML/day compared with a current average of 100ML/day. This suggests an additional 50-98 ML/day associated with the wet weather. The key outlying of peak instantaneous flow is also worth noting, and is likely to have been a key feature driving overflows. The difficulty of emptying ponds between consecutive rain events is also a challenge, not just in the ACT but across much of Australia. The EPA is actively engaging with Icon Water to support efforts to reduce the risk of overflows, noting that such efforts require considerable lead times and financial investments.

## Attachment H

**Table H1 - LMWQCC Hydraulic Process Capability**

LMWQCC	1973 Design Capacity <sup>(1)</sup>	2012 Targeted Capacity <sup>(2)</sup>	LMWQCC reported Capacity at 2012 <sup>(3)</sup>	Maximum Daily Volume Treated during 4-6 August 2022 Wet Weather Event <sup>(4)</sup>	Maximum Daily Volume Treated during 4-6 September 2021 Wet Weather Event <sup>(5)</sup>
Average Dry Weather Flow (ADWF)	109 ML/day	100 ML/day	100 ML/day	~100 ML/day	~100 ML/day
Peak Instantaneous Inflow	1,064 ML/day			> 9,900 L/s (855 ML/day)	> 5,000 L/s (432 ML/day)
Overall plant capacity without diversion to the storage dam	3 x ADWF	3 x ADWF	2 x ADWF	198 ML/day 1.98 x ADWF	150 ML/day 1.5 ADWF
Preliminary	9.74 x ADWF	6 x ADWF	4.5 x ADWF	> 9,900 L/s (8.55 x ADWF)	5,000 L/s (4.32 x ADWF)
Primary	6.68 x ADWF	5 x ADWF	4.1 x ADWF	416 ML/day 4.16 x ADWF	266 ML/day 2.66 x ADWF
Secondary	3.67 x ADWF	3 x ADWF	2.7 x ADWF	244 ML/day 2.44 x ADWF	173 ML/day 1.73 ADWF
Tertiary	3 x ADWF	3 x ADWF	2.0 x ADWF	225 ML/day 2.25 x ADWF <sup>(6)</sup>	170 ML/day 1.7 ADWF <sup>(7)</sup>
Effluent Receiving Full Treatment	3 x ADWF	3 x ADWF	2 x ADWF	198 ML/day 1.98 x ADWF	150 ML/day 1.5 x ADWF
Bypass Dam Capacity	Did not exist	Once in 6 years overflow	147 ML	147 ML	147 ML

(1) Taken from LMWQCC Drawing CD73/32 Design Data

(2) Taken from page 23 of Reference 1: ACTEW Water Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre: Canberra Sewerage Strategy 2010-2060, published in 2012

(3) From Table 3.6 on page 27 of Reference 1.

(4) Icon Water LMWQCC Wet Weather Event Report of 4-6 August 2022

(5) Icon Water LMWQCC Wet Weather Event Report of 4-6 September 2021

(6) All Four refurbished Filters in service

(7) Three Filters in service

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Date: 14/11/22