



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Geoffrey Rutledge took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to: NSW Water Abstraction Charges

MS CLAY: Great. And how much of the water abstraction charge is coming from New South Wales?

Mr Rutledge: I can—we will take on notice the specifics of that. I know Queanbeyan, through their bulk water arrangement, do pay a water extraction charge. So it will be for Queanbeyan residents—

MS CLAY: Great.

Mr Rutledge: But I can take on notice the exact figure for that one.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

A break down of water abstraction charges coming from New South Wales (NSW) is provided below –

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) is Icon Water's only customer in NSW, and Icon Water pays a Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) to the ACT based on the total volume of water abstracted.

Under the agreement between Icon Water and QPRC there is a component of the fee that relates to the WAC, as outlined below:

- WAC component billed to QPRC in 2021/22 FY was \$2,324,130.90.
- WAC component billed to QPRC in 2020/21 FY was \$1,704,805.83.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

Date:

2/9/22

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

Proposed criteria for expenditure relevant to the Water Abstraction Charge

Criteria to support reporting on expenditure for water planning and management activities, aligned with the objectives and NWI Pricing Principles:

- a. *Water planning and management activities* are based on a defined and consistent set of activities relating to:
 - i. Water resource and environmental management planning
 - ii. Water management, e.g. water use efficiency, environmental works, operations and maintenance
 - iii. Water monitoring, evaluation and resource assessment
 - iv. Information management and reporting
 - v. Water administration and regulation, e.g. water sensitive urban design, metering and compliance, administration of water trade
 - vi. Water industry regulation.
- b. Alignment with ACT Government strategies specifically relating to water and catchment management, including:
 - i. ACT Water Strategy
 - ii. Living Infrastructure Plan
 - iii. Nature Conservation Strategy
- c. *Government administrative activities* should be excluded from the cost of activities levied upon water users, including:
 - i. development of inter-governmental agreements
 - ii. broad strategy/policy development
 - iii. development and/or refinement of overarching statutory instruments
 - iv. Ministerial and Parliamentary services.