



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Joy Burch MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Jayson Hinder MLA

Inquiry into Auditor-General report No. 3 of 2015: *Restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment*
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Thursday 31 March 2016

Asked by Jayson Hinder:

In relation to:

Request for additional information regarding work undertaken in relation to \$93 Million in Commonwealth funding over the next 5 years.

Mick Gentleman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Basin Priority Project "*Improving long-term water quality in the ACT and the Murrumbidgee River System*" (the Project), to be delivered in two phases, provides an opportunity to improve values and water quality related outcomes for Canberra and downstream water users in the Murray Darling Basin. This includes long term improvements to environmental condition, urban landscapes, liveability, amenity and recreational opportunities.

The Project is being delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government. It focuses on six priority catchments that collectively represent a variety of urban catchment types. These are the catchments of Tuggeranong, Yarralumla, Upper Molonglo, Lower Molonglo, West Belconnen, and Fyshwick. In-lake water quality improvement options for Lake Tuggeranong have also been considered.

Phase 1 investigations culminated in the submission to the Commonwealth, in February 2016, of a supplementary report. The Report identified water quality infrastructure for construction in Phase 2. Proposed improvements include bio-retention systems, ponds, channel naturalisation (swales) and wetlands.

The Commonwealth is currently undertaking a due diligence assessment of the supplementary report. A Ministerial decision regarding Phase 2 funding is expected in May 2016.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Date: 21/5/16

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman