



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management

Ref: Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan

In relation to:

1. Why aren't organisations/groups that contributed as part of the community consultation listed in the Canberra Urban Lakes and Pond Land Management Plan? Please provide list to the committee.
2. Why is there a 20-year gap between this report and the last Lakes and Ponds Management Plan from 2001?
3. Does that conflict with the Planning and Development Act? Has there been any reviews in the interim? Please provide copies of these reviews to the committee.
4. How does that comply with the Planning and Development Act, which says there must be a review every 10 years? Why was it so overdue?
5. Regarding the section of the Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan, page 5 community values/perspectives, how was the survey by Schirmer, Mylek and Dyer 2016 carried out? Can you please provide a copy of the survey/questions and the final report from the consultants? What year was this survey carried out? How much were they paid for this work?
6. There's quite a number of similarities between the 2001 and 2022 report. For example, the community values/perspectives, core lake and pond values and the policy framework are word for word the same. Are you telling me that the community and the directorate feel exactly, word for word, the same about our ponds and lakes, 20 years apart? Is it your view that the community values and perspectives regarding our lakes and ponds hasn't changed one skerrick in 20 years?
7. Did you consult the conservator and EPA in this review? What were their comments/input into the report? Please provide a copy to the committee.
8. Who was ultimately responsible for signing off/approving the Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan? Who then is responsible for the errors in the Plan?

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

1. Contributors are not listed as many are private individuals. Comprehensive information, with privacy protections, was provided to the Standing Committee in May/June 2021.
2. The previous Plan of Management for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds was prepared under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* (the Act). Under the Act there was no requirement for a review of plans of management (now known as land management plans). That Act was repealed in March 2008 following the commencement of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (P&D Act). However, under the transitional arrangements by the P&D

Act (s467) the plans of management prepared under the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 are taken to be land management plans under the P&D Act.

3. This does not conflict with the Act. Section 332A(4) of the P&D Act allows the Minister extend the time for conducting a review. An extension to complete the review was provided in 2016 by the then Minister for Planning.
4. Please see response to Question 3.
5. The *Water quality and the community: understanding the views, values and actions of residents of the ACT and surrounding region* report was completed in February 2016. The report is available on the ACT Healthy Waterways website and details the methods and approach taken.
6. The hierarchy of management objectives for areas of public land are set out in Schedule 3 of the P&D Act. These objectives have not changed.
7. Yes. As required under section 321 of the P&D Act, the Conservator, Planning and Land Authority and the Environment Protection Authority were consulted during the review process. Their responses are included in the Consultation Report provided to the Committee.
8. As detailed in the P&D Act the Minister for Planning and Land Management approves land management plans. Transport Canberra City Services as the land custodian is responsible for the plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature: 

Date: 16/3/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister Gentleman