



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
DR MARISA PATRSON MLA (CHAIR), MR ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS JO CLAY
MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

**Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and
Biodiversity**

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Business and Better Regulation

Reference: Hearing held 20 November 2023, Annual Report of CMTEDD

In relation to: Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Infringement Notices

Enforcement Actions CMTEDD Vol 1, page 351.

Why were there so many infringement notices this year? – the report shows 41 more than last year.

Minister Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The May 2022 report by the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on *The State of Lakes and Waterways in the ACT* highlighted sediment from building sites as a key risk to water quality.

The EPA took account of these findings in targeting additional compliance resources provided in the 2022-23 budget towards a building site inspection program. The program aimed to ensure builders are meeting their general environmental duty through the installation of erosion and sediment controls and have systems in place to ensure that construction materials are safely contained and not impacting on areas outside their site.

The building site inspection program was a large contributor to the 1,509 site inspections undertaken at building sites throughout the year (up from 891 such inspections in 2021-22). Appropriate enforcement action (including infringement notices) was taken when developers failed to comply with advice and other educational approaches did not result in environmental improvements.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:

Date: 29/11/23

By the Minister for Business and Better Regulation, Ms Tara Cheyne, MLA