LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 42

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING TRANSPORT AND CITY CERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mark Parton MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Nicole Lawder MLA:

In relation to: Cleaning of Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs)

1. How often are roadside sumps, pipes and GPTs cleared/cleaned under the stormwater maintenance contract?
2. What information is collected about the makeup or actual quantities of material that is removed or cleaned?
3. What analysis have you done on optimised cleaning frequency?
   a. Please provide copies or links.
4. If data is collected:
   a. Where is this information publicly available?
   b. What are the major pollutant load types?
   c. How much has been removed per month, per site around Lake Tuggeranong? In other words, how much have you saved from entering Lake Tuggeranong?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Ideally, stormwater infrastructure is designed to be self-cleaning and to minimise the requirement for regular clearing/cleaning maintenance. Stormwater maintenance activities can vary significantly year to year due to wet weather, leaf load and scheduling variations. Preventative and reactive clearing and cleaning activities are carried out within the available stormwater maintenance budget.

   At a minimum, biannual inspections of general gross pollutant traps and quarterly inspections of ACT Healthy Waterway gross pollutant traps and sediment forebays are undertaken.

2. The volume and weight of material collected is recorded. Material collected and removed from the stormwater network is deposited at approved drying sites and then transported to the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre. Contaminated or hazardous material is classified, transported and disposed of in accordance with legislative requirements in an appropriate manner.

3.
   a. Stormwater infrastructure cleaning activities are optimised based on historical cleaning requirements, forecasted cleaning requirements and optimised street sweeping studies. This information informs preventative stormwater cleaning activities. The aim of optimisation is to improve water quality through reduction of organic pollutant loads, nitrogen and phosphorous entering ACT waterways.

4.
   a. Maintenance program planning is undertaken with reference to data held in the TCCS Asset Management System (AMS) database, which is not in a form that can be made public.
   b. The major pollutant load types are: sediment, debris, sand, gravel, soft plastics and organics mostly in the form of leaf litter.
   c. Data collated to include all interception activities, by specific catchment, is not readily available.

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

Signature: _____ Date: 4/11/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA