



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Nuttall, Laura MLA

Addressed to: Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

In relation to: Tuggeranong suburbs contributing to green waste impacting waterways.

Hearing: **14 February 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **UPT 14/02/2025, pp 43-44.**

Transcript provided: **19 February 2025**

Answer Due: **26 February 2025**

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water took on notice the following question(s):

Mr Rutledge: Yes. So leaf collective was sort of our trial, and that is where we did employ some social researchers, and we went through—what we found, though, is I think what will—where that will morph into is less so much the leaf collective model but certainly ongoing advertising, ongoing you know distribution of leaf litter bags, ongoing encouragement of people to use their green waste bins.

I think that is where we are headed. The other thing that we are thinking about because, as I said, we know which suburbs have more impact and which—on waterways, so whether or not we need to target our messaging, you know really localised messaging for some of that, yes.

MISS NUTTALL: Are you able to share those suburbs or is that still being processed?

Mr Rutledge: I will take it on notice. I will share what I can. It is just because I am trying to work out how it would be best implemented.

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The University of Canberra carried out research on water quality in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment, funded via the Healthy Waterways program. They did not design the sampling program to distinguish between water quality arising from the 19 suburbs in Tuggeranong. Rather, they looked for trends in water quality in six tributaries to Lake Tuggeranong and 29 sites across five sub-catchments to the lake. They chose sampling sites within the sub-catchments to gauge the contribution to stormwater pollution of rural areas, recreational areas, sporting fields, urban centres and residences.

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The research found that there was no significant difference between sub-catchments in the concentration of pollutants during storm flows. There are some patterns of pollution during baseflows, but since storm flows convey 99% of the pollution to the lake, these are not material.

The pollution appears to be coming from all parts of the urban footprint in Tuggeranong; rural areas and recreational reserves have cleaner water. Areas downstream of sporting fields had slightly more polluted water, but the conclusion is that pollution mitigation needs to focus on all urban areas in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment.

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

Signature:

Date:

25/02/25

By Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water