



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Geoffrey Rutledge took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 9:

In relation to: Healthy Waterways Funding Breakdown

MS LAWDER: Of course. Yes. So the last year's budget paper had, you know, funding over a few years for Healthy Waterways. This year's budget paper, only \$90,000 was spent of the \$750,000 that was allocated for the year, in last year's budget.

And then in 2003-04, it is zero, according to this year's budget—

Mr Rattenbury: Just remind me which page you are on, quickly?

MS LAWDER: On page 26, budget paper E. It is table 27.

Mr Rattenbury: Yes, thank you.

MS LAWDER: Just comparing it to the previous year's budget, or is it just that these are variations? Just trying to understand why it might look like only \$90,000 was spent last year.

Mr Rattenbury: Yes, certainly. Perhaps the first point I could make is that this table specifically relates to—

Mr Rutledge: The mid-year budget—

Mr Rattenbury: Yes, the mid-year budget. Sorry.

Mr Rutledge: So, Ms Lawder. Yes. The budget line you are looking at is for the mid-year budget. And so, in that year budget, we got a little bit of money to complete some projects. And then some money for delivery in 22-23. And then there is actually—those projects, there will be a year of zero, which will be zero maintenance. And then some ongoing work, as you can see, in 24-25, 25-26.

The budget in this financial year that we are looking at—I am trying to find it. We have got additional funding for Healthy Waterways. So it is just a breakup of the projects.

So for clarity, I think probably rather than talk the committee through the papers live, why do I not put those together in a table for you on notice, Ms Lawder?

Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

There are two separate initiatives involved in the 2021-22 budget. One was granted as part of the normal budget process, and one was granted at the mid-year budget review. For budget review appropriations related to the budget year underway (2021-22), any new funding is disclosed in the estimated outcome column of the Appropriation Tables. These are additional funding and does not reflect expenditure on pre-existing initiatives.

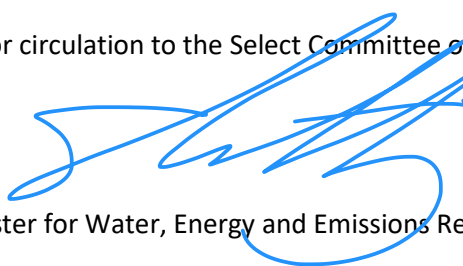
Details of the separate initiatives associated Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) funding for Healthy Waterways, can be found below:

	Budget paper reference	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Protecting Canberra's unique environment – Expanding Healthy waters	Page 33, 2021-22 Budget Statements E	730	870	903	937	
Protecting Canberra's unique environment – Expanding Healthy waters	Page 26, 2022-23 Budget Statements E	90	2,237	0	117	226
Total of two initiatives (CRP)		820	3,107	903	1,054	226

The original budget, as noted above, was \$730,000 in CRP funding. Following budget review \$820,000 was available in CRP funding for the year. Between the two initiatives a total of \$1,857,000 in capital was granted for the 2021-22 financial year.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

2/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Shane Rattenbury MLA



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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Geoffrey Rutledge took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 12
In relation to: Yarralumla Wetlands

DR PATERSON: Just because everyone else is asking about their electorates. I was wondering if I can ask about Murrumbidgee and what work is being done, particularly around the Yarralumla Wetlands, which—well, that kind of proposal, that I have asked about a few times over the last couple of years. I was wondering if there has been any progress or any further thought to that project?

Mr Rattenbury: I will go to my colleagues.

Mr Rutledge: I think we will take that one on notice, Dr Paterson. I have not got an update since we last spoke to the committee. But I will see if we have got any new information.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –
The ACT Healthy Waterways team has met previously with representatives from the Yarralumla community, who encouraged the ACT Government to consider building a water quality asset in the green space near where Yarralumla Creek enters Lake Burley Griffin.

The Yarralumla catchment was included in the recent Planning Phase for infrastructure to be potentially built in Stage 2 of Healthy Waterways - this was approved through a 2022 budget bid. Several assets were identified that could improve water quality in the catchment, but none were on the final list of assets to be built at this time. These assets will be reconsidered in future funding rounds for water quality infrastructure.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Shane Rattenbury", written over a horizontal line.

Date:

2/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA



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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Geoffrey Rutledge took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 13

In relation to: NSW Water Abstraction Charges

MS CLAY: Great. And how much of the water abstraction charge is coming from New South Wales?

Mr Rutledge: I can—we will take on notice the specifics of that. I know Queanbeyan, through their bulk water arrangement, do pay a water extraction charge. So it will be for Queanbeyan residents—

MS CLAY: Great.

Mr Rutledge: But I can take on notice the exact figure for that one.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

A break down of water abstraction charges coming from New South Wales (NSW) is provided below –

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) is Icon Water's only customer in NSW, and Icon Water pays a Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) to the ACT based on the total volume of water abstracted.

Under the agreement between Icon Water and QPRC there is a component of the fee that relates to the WAC, as outlined below:

- WAC component billed to QPRC in 2021/22 FY was \$2,324,130.90.
- WAC component billed to QPRC in 2020/21 FY was \$1,704,805.83.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mr Shane Rattenbury.

Date: 2/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Johnathon Davis MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 11:

In relation to: Lake Tuggeranong Water Aeration Research

Mr Rattenbury: Sorry, Mr Davis, just on that as well. I also do have advice that research has shown that aerating the water will not improve the conditions in Lake Tuggeranong, with regards to blue green algae. So we have had specific—people have looked at these things, and that is the advice that we have from the water team.

MR DAVIS: Okay. It might be a question then, more broadly for the water team, would that be evidence that the EPSDD would maybe help constituents who have got a couple of raised eyebrows. Is that something that we would be willing to share with people?

Mr Rattenbury: Of course.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In some circumstances, the aeration of lakes with bubblers effectively reduces the supply of nutrients from lake sediments to the water column, where they can be taken up by blue-green algae and promote the growth or 'bloom' of the algae.

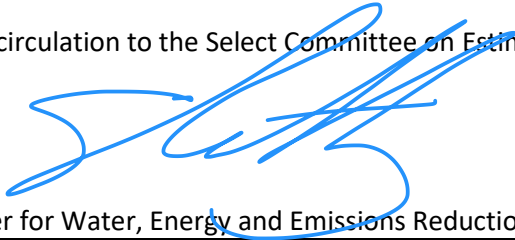
In Lake Tuggeranong, the ACT Government funded research by the University of Canberra that demonstrated blue-green algal blooms are being driven by the influx of nutrients from the catchment, which are annually 4-5 times greater than the flux of nutrients from the lake's sediments. Therefore, aeration of the lake water will do little to diminish algal blooms in Lake Tuggeranong until the supply of nutrients from the catchment can be significantly cut. Identifying and curbing the sources of nutrient pollution in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment is a focus of Stage 2 of the ACT Healthy Waterways program.

The report is publicly available here:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349832467_Title_Lake_Tuggeranong_Research_Project_Report_Stage_3.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

2/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA



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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Geoffrey Rutledge took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 20

In relation to: Isabella Pond Scour Hole

MS LAWDER: Is it your understanding that Isabella Pond, the one in Monash, that there is a scour hole that has developed which means the water sort of goes round and round vertically rather than around and around horizontally?

Mr Rutledge: I will take that on notice, Ms Lawder. I am familiar with the project but I have not got that in front of me so I will get back to you on that.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The two wetlands bordering Isabella Pond, which were built as a part of Stage 1 of the ACT Healthy Waterways, have recently been inspected by Transport Canberra and City Services operations and maintenance teams and no scour holes were noted. Residents can contact Access Canberra if they have concerns about possible damage to water quality assets.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Shane Rattenbury", is written over the signature line.

Date:

2/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

From: EPSDD DLO
Sent: Mon, 5 Sep 2022 11:03:03 +0000
To: LA Committee - Estimates
Cc: EPSDD DLO; EPSD Government Services
Subject: Response to QTON 205 - Healthy Waterways Funding Breakdown - Lawder
Attachments: 220905 - QTON 205 - Healthy Waterways Funding - Lawder.pdf

Good evening Adam,

Please find attached response to QTON 205 signed by Minister Rattenbury.
This is the last of the QTONs taken by Minister for EPSDD during the Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction session on 29 August 2022.

Thank you.

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Yvette Berry MLA | Office of Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA

Phone: (02) 6205 5591 or MS Teams | Email: michelle.o'donnell@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 4 Snow Gum, 480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 2 September 2022 11:20 AM

To: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDLO@act.gov.au>; LA Committee - Estimates
<LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOLLOWUP - EPSDD DRAFT QTONS summary - Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Session -29 August 2022

Provided to GS – 02/09

Hi Michelle,

Please find the QTON numbers for the 29 August estimates below. Apologies for the delay in getting these to you.

QTON Number	Hearing date	QTONs emailed to DLOs	Asked by	Directorate/Portfolio	Subject
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204	29/08/2022	30/08/2022	Lauder	Environment	Healthy waterways
205	29/08/2022	30/08/2022	Lauder	Environment	Healthy waterways
206	29/08/2022	30/08/2022	Patterson	Environment	whats been done about murumbidgee waterways
207	29/08/2022	30/08/2022	Clay	Environment	cost of water abstraction charge in NSW
208	29/08/2022	30/08/2022	Davis	Environment	how much has been contributed so far to governing agreement bit on healthy waterways program
209	29/08/2022	30/08/2022	Lauder	Environment	isabel pond - a scour developing - water going round vertically instead of horizontally

Kind regards,

Adam.

Adam Walker
Assistant Secretary

Committee Support Office
The Office of the Legislative Assembly
P (02) 6207 4843 | E adam.walker@parliament.act.gov.au



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From: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 1:30 PM
To: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOLLOWUP - EPSDD DRAFT QTONS summary - Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Session -29 August 2022

Great – thanks Adam.

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Yvette Berry MLA | Office of Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA

Phone: (02) 6205 5591 or MS Teams | Email: michelle.o'donnell@act.gov.au

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From: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 1:24 PM
To: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOLLOWUP - EPSDD DRAFT QTONS summary - Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Session -29 August 2022

Hi Michelle,

Not yet, but I am expecting that sometime this afternoon. I will let you know as soon as I have received the numbering allocations.

Kind regards,

Adam.

Adam Walker

Assistant Secretary
Committee Support Office
The Office of the Legislative Assembly
P (02) 6207 4843 | E adam.walker@parliament.act.gov.au



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From: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 1:15 PM

To: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOLLOWUP - EPSDD DRAFT QTONS summary - Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Session -29 August 2022

Importance: High

Hi Adam,

Thanks so much for this advice. Could you confirm please if there has been any numbering allocated to these QTONs yet so I can let the team know?

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Yvette Berry MLA | Office of Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA

Phone: (02) 6205 5591 or MS Teams | Email: michelle.o'donnell@act.gov.au

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From: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 1:09 PM

To: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au>

Cc: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOLLOWUP - EPSDD DRAFT QTONS summary - Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Session -29 August 2022

Hi Michelle,

I can confirm all are correct. Please see below comments:

TOPIC/QUESTION TEXT	ASKED BY	AREA
In relation to the healthy waterways funding. How much is in the budget for last financial year. Provide the breakup of projects in a table	Lawder	ENV
Stage 1 and Stage 2 Healthy Waterways Initiative - how much has been spent on initiatives for lake Tuggeranong?	Lawder	ENV
Yarralumla Wetlands Proposal. Been any progress or further thought?	Paterson	ENV
How much water abstraction charges is coming from NSW. What is the exact figure?	Clay	ENV
Provide the research for using a floating wetland on Lake Tuggeranong instead of other options that are available.	Davis	ENV
Healthy Waterways – PAGA 30 million over 4 years. How much is in this particular budget? This one was answered later in the chamber by Minister Rattenbury at 4:16pm	Davis	ENV
Healthy Waterways – Isabel Pond in Monash. Is it your understanding that in Isabel pond in Monash that there's a scour hole that's developed goes vertically instead of horizontally.	Lawder	ENV

Kind regards,

Adam.

Adam Walker

Assistant Secretary

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From: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 12:02 PM
To: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>
Cc: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOLLOWUP - EPSDD DRAFT QTONS summary - Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Session - 29 August 2022
Importance: High

Good afternoon

With the UPT having now been provided for yesterday's sessions, grateful please if the Committee could provide feedback on the DRAFT QTONs provided by EPSDD last evening and confirm the questions so we are best placed to meet the 5 day turnaround.

Thank you.

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

Office of Minister Yvette Berry MLA | Office of Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA

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From: LA Committee - Estimates <LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 11:33 AM
To: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: Uncorrected proof transcript-29 August 2022

Sent to gov services - CF

Good morning,

Please find attached an uncorrected proof transcript for Mr Rattenbury's appearance at yesterday's estimates hearing.

Kind regards,

Adam.

Adam Walker

Assistant Secretary

Committee Support Office

The Office of the Legislative Assembly

P (02) 6207 4843 | E adam.walker@parliament.act.gov.au



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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA on 29 August 2022: Mr Shane Rattenbury took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 29 August 2022 Page 9

In relation to: Lake Tuggeranong Stage 1 and 2 Healthy Waterways Funding Breakdown

MS LAWDER: Are you able to tell me, over the stage one and stage two, of Healthy Waterways initiative, how much has been spent specifically on initiatives for Lake Tuggeranong?

Mr Rattenbury: Why do we not take that one on notice as well? Yes, we can, is the answer. And we will provide a similar detailed table.

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

A total of \$35.79 million (excluding GST) has been spent to date, or committed to be spent, for water quality infrastructure and lake/catchment research in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment by the ACT Healthy Waterways program, comprised of:

- Stage 1 (original Commonwealth-ACT Government investment, 2014-2021) – \$25.85 million
- Stage 2 (Expanding Healthy Waterways, 2021-2023) – \$9.94 million

These figures do not include funding spent on activities such as water quality modelling, public education, or project and construction management, which are conducted across the ACT, including Tuggeranong.

The figures above consist of funding initiatives since the joint Commonwealth/ACT funded project.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mr Shane Rattenbury, is written over the signature line and extends into the date field.

Date:

5/9/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA