



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

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

In relation to: Street sweeping in Tuggeranong

Hearing: 31 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 51–52

Transcript provided: 4 August 2026

Answer Due: 11 August 2026

Mr Keiran Lawton took on notice the following question(s):

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Okay, and moving from that element of the plan into something that is going to be, I think, certainly observed a lot within the community, and it is the street sweeping or the increase in street sweeping. What is, how is that going to be deployed and targeted around Tuggeranong, the extra or more street sweeping activity?

Mr Lawton: Okay, so the plan is to gradually accelerate over the next three years. And we will target the areas of the catchment that we understand to have—so there is more work to do, so I guess there is an adaptive management approach to this. So we will step this up and as we understand more about where there is greatest leaf fall and what seasons, so there has been a lot of good work done on this, but we will continue to collect data as we go. But the idea would be to step up the street sweeping and target the areas and the seasons that have the greatest leaf fall.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Do you have an idea of timing or timing frequency and locations that will be looked at?

Mr Lawton: I would have to take that on notice at the moment, yes.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Yes, so what locations will be targeted and the timing as well?

Mr Lawton: Yes, so I will take the fine detail on notice. I can say that we will be stepping up and we will be spending that money in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment but if you want finer detail on that, I will have to take it on notice.

Ms Orr: I think Mr Werner-Gibbings, if I can just add to that, in putting forward this plan, there was an approach or it was determined we would take an approach of we will scale up so that we can continue to evaluate and test the assumptions that have gone into the various measures that we are putting out. So while we have done trials of street sweeping and we know it works well, in stepping it up and making sure that as we increase it, we are seeing what we want to see and that we are directing it to the places that we want to direct it to so that we can continue get learnings and feed those into our response. And certainly, with the street sweeping as well I think when we look at some of the more leafy suburbs which have got deciduous trees of a European nature, they are very much autumn and winter focus for dropping leaves but other trees will drop stuff during summer so it will end up being year-round but the focus will be different depending on what trees are in the area.

Ms Wright: And if could just build a little bit further on, Mr Lawton, from the Minister's answer. Sorry, I should say Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change, Energy, Water and Waste. I have read and acknowledge the privilege statement. So as the Minister said, we already undertake the routine street sweeping all across Tuggeranong so the additional sweeping is going to start in the summer of this year over 26-27 over a four-month period and that is to target when the eucalypt leaf fall is at its highest peak to reduce the amount of the organic matter entering the drains and waterways and it will targeted at specific areas of the Tuggeranong catchment so we will provide that level of detail on notice as Mr Lawton has already said. And we have got a current working group that is identifying those priority areas where the increased sweeping will provide the greatest water quality benefits. So as the planning is underway, we do not have the final locations as yet and we have not identified the sweeping frequencies quite as yet. So the program will be progressively scaled up as Mr Lawton said.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government has committed \$2.7 million over four years from 2026-27 to 2029-30 to commence implementation of the Lake Tuggeranong Healthy Waterways Plan. Funding for increased street sweeping will be \$126,000 in 2026-27, \$180,000 in 2027-28, \$435,000 in 2028-29 and \$681,000 in 2029-30.

The ACT Government already undertakes routine street sweeping across Tuggeranong. Additional street sweeping will commence in summer 2026-27 over a four-month period, when eucalypt leaf fall is at its highest, to reduce the amount of organic matter entering drains and waterways.

The additional sweeping program will be delivered in targeted areas of the Tuggeranong catchment, rather than uniformly across all suburbs. The Implementation Working Group is currently identifying priority areas where increased sweeping will provide the greatest water quality benefits, and how to embed monitoring and evaluation as part of this.

As planning is still underway, the final locations and sweeping frequencies for the Lake Tuggeranong catchment have not yet been determined. The program will be progressively scaled up over the four-year funding period in line with the budget allocation.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small 'h'.

Signature:

Date: 13/08/26

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