



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
13 November 2018

Asked by MR MILLIGAN

In relation to: Molonglo river remediation.

MR MILLIGAN: And rowing. Okay and the Molonglo River was closed during most of 2017-18 due to debris. What remedial work has been done to ensure that the cleanliness of that stretch of water so that it can be operated and used for water skiing? Along the Molonglo—

Ms Sargent: Well, I would have to take that on notice. It has also been closed due to blue-green algae in the past as well.

Gordon Ramsay MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Powerboat use on the Molonglo River Water Ski Reach is managed jointly by the Environment Protection Authority and Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS).

Remediation efforts, involving the removal of debris, have achieved only limited short term success in making the area suitable for general waterskiing use. A substantial load of debris was deposited into the reach during the 2010 floods. Some of the debris is resuspended either after a high flow event or from time related decomposition of the material. This means new debris may appear in the River shortly after a removal activity. In addition the profile of the River has changed significantly after the floods and many areas are too shallow for unrestricted use. To change the profile would require substantial dredging and be a significant ongoing cost to the Government.

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

Signature:

Date: 22/11/18

By the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, Gordon Ramsay MLA