



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Leanne Castley MLA

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

Asked by MS LEANNE CASTLEY on 19 November 2021: Mr Sean Grimes took on notice the following question:

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 19 November 2021 - PAGE 46]

In relation to: 2019 SoER recommendation on budget allocation for biodiversity

MR SEAN GRIMES: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Recommendation 1 from the 2019 State of the Environment Report (SoER) was to *“Establish a sustainable funding model for the conservation of biodiversity, environmental protection, water management, the reduction of fire risks, and citizen science initiatives to assist in the planning, prioritisation and acquittal of programs and works.”*

This overarching Recommendation was Agreed by Government. In 2021, EPSDD provided an update that a new Natural Resource Management Investment Plan is currently in development, which will be used to investigate a sustainable funding model for improved environmental management in the ACT.

The Office believes that this is sufficient progress at this stage towards implementation of this recommendation, given its substantial nature. The Office is unsure of the source of the \$150,000 value towards biodiversity, environmental protection and water management quoted by Ms Castley. The Office believes that value would be unlikely to sufficiently meet the Recommendation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:

Date: 27 October 2021

By the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Sophie Lewis