



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Andrew Braddock MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
26 October 2021

Asked by MICHAEL PETTERSSON on 26 OCTOBER 2021: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 26 October 2021, PAGE 47]

In relation to:

MR PETTERSSON: Are there parts of the city that experience more blockages than other parts of the city?

Mr Hezkial: Yes, is probably the short answer. I think what we see is based on condition of the infrastructure, the age of the infrastructure, the topography associated with the system, and that can be an indicator of spots that might require more maintenance than typically other areas.

Our asset management team have actually started moving into the more predictive space around sewer blockages. What we typically do is we use historical information to try and forecast where those hot spots might be, and we undertake quite an extensive program with them, proactive either pipe replacement, sewer mains cleaning or relining in certain circumstances.

So we try and stay ahead of it, but it is something that our teams are actually moving more into the predictive and analytical space to try and prevent.

MR PETTERSSON: You dodged my question. Where are the hot spots in the city?

Mr Hezkial: Where are they?

MR PETTERSSON: Yes.

Mr Hezkial: Okay. I do not have that information right at hand, but typically it is in the older suburbs. But I can certainly take that question on notice. A lot of our sewerage infrastructure was built around 1960s and 1970s, so as a grab bag, I can give you that explanation. But I can certainly come back with some of those areas.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Icon Water advises that the proportion of blockages in each suburb changes every year based on the volume of targeted cleaning, repair and renewal of sewer mains undertaken year on year. The table below shows the five suburbs with the highest rate of blockages in 2021-22. Of these suburbs,

Chifley is the only suburb that appeared in the top five in 2020-21 and has been targeted for direct intervention in 2021-22 to reduce the number of blockages within that suburb.

| Suburb | Failure Rate (Blockages/100km/year) |
|---------------|--|
| Macquarie | 157.76 |
| Chifley | 155.05 |
| Oxley | 147.88 |
| Beard | 147.81 |
| O'Connor | 140.89 |

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Signature: 

Date: 8.11.21

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA