



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
Minister for Skills
Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Questions on Notice Paper No 13
Friday 3 December 2021
Question No. 557

MRS LAWDER: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services—

- (1) Why isn't testing before and after sediment removal performed as well as downstream testing, for all ponds when cleaned
- (2) Has Fadden Pond been subsequently tested to determine what type of algal bloom it was and what may have caused it.
- (3) How can the pollutant load and composition of the pollutant be properly understood without testing them.

MR STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Health Protection Service, Environment Protection Authority and Transport Canberra and City Services monitor the environmental status of lakes, ponds and rivers and advise changes in water quality conditions in relation to cyanobacteria such as blue-green algae and other potentially hazardous conditions. General water quality parameters are also monitored in the lakes, rivers and ponds to pick up long term trends. Cyanobacteria testing prior to and after sediment removal will occur where visual inspections detect changes in colour of water, obvious algal blooms, appearance of surface scums and odours.
- (2) Low numbers of cyanobacteria such as blue-green algae are a normal in most waterways, including lakes, rivers, creeks and ponds. Water quality sampling and testing of the pond is scheduled to take place in January 2022, and the testing will include assays to determine cyanotoxins.
- (3) Water quality, pollutant load and composition can only be properly understood through sampling, testing and analysis. For example, where primary recreational activities are permitted, monitoring of water quality commences just before the main swimming season. Sampling frequency during the water recreational season is normally once per week and generally finish when seasonal conditions restrict the public from engaging in primary contact recreational activities.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.	
Chris Steel MLA Minister for Transport and City Services	Date:
This response required 225 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$379.75	

