

**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 16**

**8 May 2022**

**Question No. 702**

**LEANNE CASTLEY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) On what dates has ACT Health tested the water quality in Yerrabi Pond since 2016 and can the Minister provide a copy of all test results and analysis since 2016.
- (2) Does ACT Health conduct regular scheduled testing of Yerrabi Pond; if so, when; if not, why do ACT Health test Yerrabi Pond infrequently.
- (3) Does ACT Health conduct regular testing of catchments and lakes in the ACT.
- (4) Has ACT Health ever determined that the water quality in Yerrabi Pond could have a negative impact on health; if so, (a) what date was ACT Health made aware of the poor water quality, (b) what policy/solution did ACT Health propose to improve water quality, (c) how much did the policy/solution cost and (d) when was the policy/solution implemented.

**RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The management of recreational activities in lakes and water bodies is in accordance with the ACT Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality 2014 (the Guidelines). Primary contact recreation where there is direct contact with the water, such as swimming, requires regular sampling during the swimming season of October through to April.

As swimming and other primary contact recreation is not permitted at Yerrabi Pond or similar Neighbourhood Ponds, water quality testing does not occur at these sites.

The Guidelines are publicly available via the ACT Health Directorate website:

<https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-09/ACT%20Guidelines%20for%20Recreational%20Water%20Quality.pdf>

- (2) See response to question 1.
- (3) ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) undertakes sampling and analysis of designated primary contact recreational (swimming) sites for microbiological analysis. These are undertaken to manage risks to human users of the sites and results are assessed against the Guidelines.

ACTHD undertakes weekly sampling and analysis of primary contact recreational sites across ACT lakes and rivers during the recreational season (October-April). These include sites in Lake Ginninderra, Lake Tuggeranong, Molonglo Reach and along the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee river corridors.

Results of weekly sampling are published on the City Services website:

[www.cityservices.act.gov.au/news/news-and-events-items/water\\_quality\\_in\\_our\\_lakes\\_and\\_ponds](http://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/news/news-and-events-items/water_quality_in_our_lakes_and_ponds)

- (4) As Yerrabi Pond is not a designated primary contact recreational site, it has not been subject to ACTHD testing. The Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan 2022 (the Plan) sets out a Vision for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds and a framework for the sustainable development and management of urban lakes and ponds, while meeting the management objectives as defined under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.

The Plan is publicly available via the ACT Legislation Register:

[www.legislation.act.gov.au/View/di/2022-10/current/PDF/2022-10.PDF](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/View/di/2022-10/current/PDF/2022-10.PDF)

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Minister for Health**

Date: 25/4/22

This response required 95 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$139.97.