



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2019-2020

Ms Candice Burch MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair), Mrs Giulia Jones MLA,
Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Nicole LAWDER MLA: To ask the Minister for City Services; Minister for Roads

Ref: TCCS, Budget Paper 3, Page 129. Budget Statement H, Page 30.

In relation to Healthy Waterways

- 1) Why has an additional \$4.6 million been allocated for maintaining and operating Stormwater Quality Improvement System sites?
- 2) What will this additional funding mean for the Stormwater Quality Improvement System? i.e. More / upgraded sites, systems, equipment, technology? (please provide details).
- 3) Does nearly doubling the funding for the stormwater quality improvement system mean that the system was previously under resourced?

Mr Chris Steel: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- 1) The 2019-20 annual recurrent increase is specifically to fund operation and maintenance of new water quality improvement assets delivered by EPSDD under the Commonwealth funded Healthy Waterways project. The funding agreement stipulated that capital funding was conditional on the ACT Government committing to appropriate recurrent operation and maintenance funding. Additional investments to future proof our stormwater infrastructure was identified as the number one priority of the Better Suburbs Program.
- 2) The increased funding is associated with the creation of new water quality infrastructure including bioretention systems and in-pond wetlands. In addition to maintenance activities (i.e. repairing damaged assets) these types of water quality infrastructure assets require active operation, involving cleaning of debris to ensure the assets achieve their intended function.
- 3) The increased funding is associated with further operation and maintenance required, resulting from the creation of new Commonwealth funded infrastructure.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2019-2020

Signature:

Date:

8/7/19

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA