



## Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

### Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by **Ms Nicole Lawder MLA**.

Reference: Hearing on 7 November 2022, Annual Report of Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

**In relation to: Office for Water**

(1) What consideration has been given to the powers the Office for Water will have, particularly in relation to enforcement and dealing with other ACT Government Directorates? Please elaborate on any suggested changes.

**Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–**

The Office of Water will consolidate planning and policy responsibilities, and include program delivery for example - Healthy Waterways, to provide a holistic and coordination approach to water management.

The role of the Office of Water is to lead on new initiatives and facilitate coordination of cross-Directorate water management issues, for example delivery of the Government's response to the *State of the Lakes and Waterways Report* (Office of the Sustainability and Environment, 2022).

The Environmental Protection Authority will retain the regulatory enforcement responsibilities under the Water Resources Act 2007. The separation of institutional arrangements for water management and regulatory enforcement is consistent with the National Water Initiative and considered best practice governance.

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

Signature:

Date:

24/11/22

By the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Shane Rattenbury MLA