



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

Response to question taken on notice

Question Time
24 September 2025

Laura Nuttall MLA: To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

MISS NUTTALL: My question is to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water. Minister, an FOI reveals that, in February, you approved not one but two big water releases to help a Netflix movie crew film at Ginninderra Falls. I understand that this approval happened despite the concerns raised by the City and Environment Directorate about water quality, fish deaths and amenity. Reports from people who visited the site after the Netflix was there said that they did not even clean up after themselves, with tape, rubbish and sandbags left at the site. Briefs included in the FOI showed there was uncertainty as to the legality of the water release. Minister, what follow-up and due diligence have you done to ensure that those water releases were within the bounds of your powers under the Water Act?

MS ORR: A lot of advice was put to me. It was a quite novel situation. Advice was updated as the request and the issues went on. As to the question on the follow-up that was done, I asked the directorate to ensure that there was monitoring and also meetings around lessons learnt, given that it was a novel situation, and to follow up on any further considerations. I can take the substance of the question on notice as a range of areas across government worked on this. For completeness, I will see whether there is anything further to add.

SUZANNE ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Public Service provided advice that section 11 of the *Lakes Act 1976* (the Act) provides for the Minister to authorise this kind of release for the purpose of maintenance, testing and preservation of associated works. Before authorising the release of water from Lake Ginninderra, the Minister ensured that consultation with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had occurred, as required by section 11(3) of the Act.

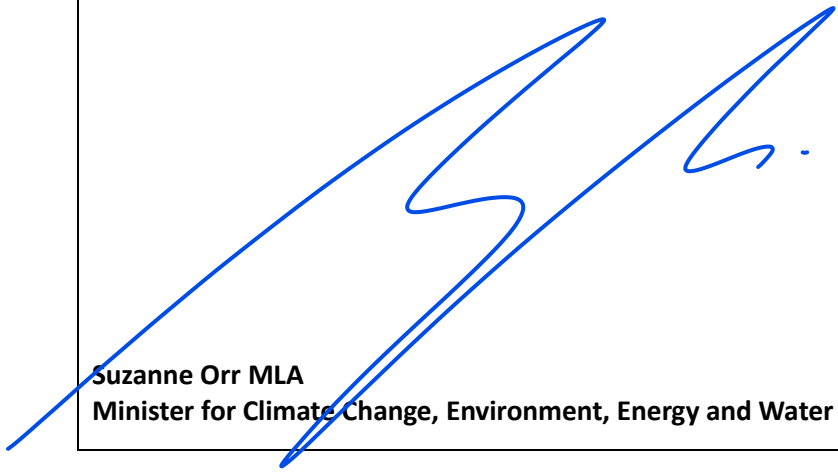
The Act is silent on, and does not explicitly prohibit, raising or lowering the level of water in a lake for other purposes.

A post-action review meeting was held across the agencies involved in this matter, which included regulatory and legal considerations. It was acknowledged that this was a novel situation and unlikely to occur again in the foreseeable future. No environmental impacts were identified in either Lake Ginninderra or the downstream creek. Water quality sampling conducted by EPA confirmed that the water quality released from Lake Ginninderra did not pose environmental concerns. The lake naturally refilled 4.5 days after the second release.

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The matter of land management at Ginninderra Falls is not a matter for ACT Government, as the site is privately owned and located in NSW.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 30/10/25