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Agenda

Minister Orr: City and Environment Directorate Regular Meeting

BRIEFING DETAILS			
Date:	Monday, 15 September 2025	Time:	1pm – 2pm
Location:	via Teams	Apologies:	Nil

BRIEFING BUSINESS				
Item	Name	Timing	Requested by	Action Officers
1.	Declaration of Interest*			All
2.	Standing Items 2.1 Weekly Brief, Media Forecast and FOI Report 2.2 Ministerials in Action and Action Items 2.3 Assembly and Cabinet Business			Dave Peffer Sam Engele Bruce Fitzgerald Fiona Wright Bren Burkevics Alex Magee
3.	Enterprise Agreement Bargaining		MO	

Climate Change and Energy				
4.	Monthly update for Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme (VHESS)		CED	Dave Peffer Sam Engele Fiona Wright Ros Malouf
5.	25/222 Healthy Waterways		CED	Dave Peffer Sam Engele Fiona Wright David Clapham
Proposed Forward Agenda				
9.	Waste Policy	5	MO	Dave Peffer Bruce Fitzgerald
10.	Other Business	10	MO	All

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Ministerial Brief

To:	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Tracking No.: 25/0000218
Date:	11/09/2025	
From:	Deputy Director-General, City and Environment Directorate	
Subject:	WEEKLY BRIEF - Commencing 15 September 2025	

- DDG, 12/9/25

Purpose

To provide you with a summary of the current work from the City and Environment Directorate (CED). The brief also includes matters scheduled to occur from 15 to 19 September 2025.

KEY ISSUES

Climate Change, Energy and Water

Water

Refining joint science and monitoring projects for the 'Restoring the Upper Murrumbidgee' Program

The Water Information Services (WIS) team is working closely with their counterparts in NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to develop the scope of science and monitoring projects that will be undertaken to ensure consistency across the Upper Murrumbidgee River catchment. Research will consider a range of topics including river health, water quality, fish and other aquatic fauna and hydrology. The development of a collaborative procurement process and a Memorandum of Understanding are underway to support this highly integrated and collaborative program.

On-ground investigations of runoff dams in the ACT

The WIS team is working closely with the ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) and the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) to facilitate a small-scale trial of drone-operated bathymetric surveys of farm dams, which will be used to inform a Murray-Darling Basin Authority business case. Recent investigations have identified that there is considerable uncertainty in estimating the volume of runoff dams. This pilot study aims to evaluate if drone-based measurements can be a cost-effective method. The Office of Water (OoW) and NRM will aim to facilitate access to large rural dams around the ACT for this trial. On-ground measurements are anticipated for October to November 2025. This work is of considerable

interest to the OoW given the current work on modelling the effects of runoff dams on surface water hydrology.

First Nations Engagement and Facilitation Program: Phase 2

Hosted by the OoW and facilitated by Paul Knight, consultation sessions with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians took place on 30 and 31 August 2025 under Phase 2 of the OoW's Engagement and Facilitation Program. This phase is intended to support development of several important policies and programs:

- a. the draft refreshed ACT Water Strategy;
- b. the draft refreshed ACT and Region Catchment Strategy;
- c. the development of ACT Environmental Flow Guidelines and a Long-term Watering Plan; and
- d. the development of a Healthy Waterways Tuggeranong Catchment Plan.

Sessions with the Elected Body Chair have been scheduled for 8 September 2025, followed by Ngambri Traditional Custodians on 10 September 2025.

At the completion of all sessions, Paul Knight will develop a draft Phase 2 Listening Report, which will be tested by the community before being finalised for internal and external use.

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