



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management

Ref: Planning and Land Management

In relation to: Geotechnical Drilling in Richardson:

1. Why is there geotechnical drilling at the land adjacent to 19 Clift Crescent Richardson? A resident who spoke to the driller was told it was geotechnical drilling conducted by EPOCA Constructions.
2. Are there plans for a development on this land? EPOCA Constructions has told the resident they were drilling to find the water table.
3. What is the purpose of drilling to find the water table? What will the information about the water table be used for?

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

This matter falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction. I have consulted the Minister and can advise that:

1. This site is one of 17 groundwater monitoring bores in the Tuggeranong catchment that the Healthy Waterways Program is establishing to provide site specific groundwater information about whether and where a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) scheme is feasible. In a MAR scheme, stormwater in drains is diverted, cleaned (for example with a water quality asset) and injected or infiltrated into aquifers.
2. The drilling is to provide hydrogeological information related to the MAR and is not related to any development of this land.
3. The bores will spatially characterise groundwater levels and the aquifer storage capacity within the Lake Tuggeranong catchment and improve the conceptual understanding of the local aquifers. This information will be used to assess the potential benefits of 'leaky' wetlands and stormwater recycling schemes.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

Date: 8/9/2022

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA