



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

EPSDD Ref No.: 23/98375

Response to DLO Request

*** All information provided should be factual.**

EGM clearance email to be saved in the Objective file and forwarded to the EPSDD DLO inbox and copy in the relevant EO.

Subject: DOT POINTS FOR MO – Fadden Pond – Water Quality

Professor Xiao Hua Wang has written to the Davis office about the Filamentous bloom in Fadden Pond. The constituent is urging the government to utilise funding for improvement of Water Quality in Lake Tuggeranong to address the water quality issue at Fadden Pond. Minister Rattenbury's Office has asked for some dot points that can be provided to the Davis Office.

Response:

- Filamentous algae in Fadden Pond prospers when the pond water becomes enriched with nutrients.
- High levels of nutrients are a result of both high inputs to the urban stormwater system that flows into Fadden Pond and the low levels of filtering in the system above the pond.
- Two sources of nutrients in the stormwater flowing into Fadden Pond comes from leaves and grass sitting in drains and fertilisers leaking from gardens.
- In August 2023, the government updated the Assembly on steps it is taking to reduce the volume of leaves and grass entering waterways, including changes to street sweeping, mowing regimes, use of air blowers, removal of cut vegetation and staff training.
- The ACT Government has delivered the Leaf Collective in Tuggeranong, including Fadden, which encouraged residents to remove the leaves and grass from their blocks so they do not enter the drains.
- The government is also planning a program to find ways to reduce fertiliser use in the Tuggeranong catchment (and elsewhere in Canberra).
- Working with the community can support water quality assets such as wetlands which can be built in existing suburbs to filter nutrients from stormwater.
- While the government is trialling several such assets in Tuggeranong, none are planned at this time for the Fadden Pond catchment.



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- A catchment plan for managing water quality in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment, including the Fadden Pond catchment, is currently being prepared and will be made available for community consultation in 2024.