



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Cain MLA

Addressed to: Icon Water

In relation to: Suburbs with the most watermain failures

Hearing: 27 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 26

Transcript provided: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 6 August 2026

Ms Yau took on notice the following question(s):

MR CAIN: Which suburbs experience the highest number of watermain failures during 25-26?

Ms Yau: I would not have that level of detail with me.

MR CAIN: Take that on notice?

Ms Yau: I am happy to, yes.

MR CAIN: Thank you. And what proportion of the ACT water network is now beyond its expected design life?

Ms Yau: I would not have that level of detail with me either. We can take that on notice.

Ms Yau: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Table 1 shows the Canberra suburbs that recorded the highest number of water main failures during the 2025–26 financial year.

Table 1:

Suburb	No of Water main burst in 2025-26	Suburb developed year
Kaleen	27	1974
Kambah	26	1972
Wanniassa	25	1975

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Watermain performance in these older suburbs is due to the type of material and design used in construction between 1965 and 1978. This is consistent with other water utilities in Australia. Another factor that contributes to watermain failures is Canberra's highly reactive clay soils, which expand and contract during seasonal dry-and-wet climate cycles.

As at July 2026, the proportion of the ACT water network that has exceeded its expected engineering design life or expected lifespan is 0.02% (representing 0.75 kilometre of the total 3,485 kilometre). The design life of watermains varies based on material and size. The figure of 0.02% takes into account both. Design life is an indicator only; with actual network performance, (e.g. number of breaks and other metrics) driving decisions regarding our renewal and preventative maintenance programs.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

Signature:

Date:

By the [Commissioner for/Official.....], [name of Commissioner/Official]