



Shane Rattenbury MLA

Attorney-General
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction
Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

Our ref: 24/25480

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Member for Murrumbidgee
ACT Legislative Assembly
paterson@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear ~~Dr Paterson~~ *Marisa*

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 March 2024 about the proposal from the Yarralumla Resident's Association for a channel re-naturalisation project and wetland adjacent to Yarralumla Bay.

The sub-catchment entering Yarralumla Bay was one of seven locations investigated for possible infrastructure projects as part of the latest round of the ACT Government's Healthy Waterways program. The design team considered a suite of assets for Yarralumla including two raingardens (bioretention cells), a gross pollutant trap upgrade in and around the green spaces adjacent to Loftus St and the Yarralumla oval, and finally three creek naturalisation/chain of ponds assets that were located in the open spaces near Yarralumla Bay bound by Alexandrina Dr, Schlick St and Hopetoun Cct.

The options considered for Yarralumla Bay had great merit for improving water quality and local amenity, however they were considered a lower priority in comparison to other projects. This is in part because there was a strong focus in the latest round of Healthy Waterways program on building infrastructure in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment due to more pressing water quality issues there, and in part because the proposed infrastructure for Yarralumla Bay did not score highly on innovation. Innovation, and the extent to which projects would expand the program's knowledge of new water treatment options, was a factor in prioritisation of projects.

It is worth noting that the initial investigations identified challenges to working at this location including the presence of services, such as sewer pipes, and the site having ecological overlays. These issues do not preclude works in the area but would add some complication and cost to any project located there.

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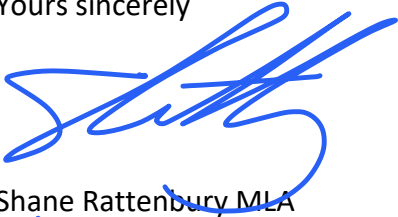
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Community support is essential to enable the re-naturalisation of the ACT's stormwater system. I am very pleased that the Yarralumla Resident's Association continues to promote the idea of replacing concrete channels with more natural water bodies. I appreciate the Yarralumla Residents' Association's ongoing commitment to improving water quality. I recently met with them to discuss this proposal.

Thank you for representing their interests to me.

Yours sincerely



Shane Rattenbury MLA

13/5/24