

Agenda

Minister Rattenbury: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate Regular Meeting

MEETING DETAILS			
Date:	Friday, 11 November	Time:	9.45am – 10.45
Location:	via Microsoft Teams	Apologies:	Jim Corrigan Fiona Wright

MEETING BUSINESS			
Item	Name	Requested by	Action Officers
1.	Declaration of Interest*	EPSDD	All
2.	Standing Items: 2.1 Weekly Brief, Media Forecast, FOI Report and CCED Commitments Report 2.2 Action Items/Ministerials in Action 2.3 Cabinet and Assembly Business 2.4 Budget*	Minister's Office EPSDD	Ben Ponton Bren Burkevics Alex Magee
Water			
3.	Belconnen Healthy Waterways project	Minister's Office	Ben Ponton Bren Burkevics Alex Magee Dr Ralph Ogden
4.	Water Abstraction Charge – Magpies Belconnen*	EPSDD	Bren Burkevics Tom Nielson
5.	Queanbeyan- Palerang Regional Council Sewerage Treatment Plan Draft EIS - Update	EPSDD	Bren Burkevics Eliza Larson
Energy/Emissions Reduction			
6.	Budget one-liners*	Minister's Office/ EPSDD	Ben Ponton Bren Burkevics Alex Magee Ros Malouf Carolyn Goonrey

*Denotes no papers

Proposed Forward Agenda	
Title	Requested by

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions
Reduction

Tracking No.: 22/00037

Date: 10 November 2022

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 14 November 2022

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction .../.../...

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). This brief also includes matters scheduled to occur from 14 to 18 November 2022.

Out of scope

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Media and Communications Forecast

(As at 10/11/2022)

Rattenbury forecast	Blue shading = Priority identified by MO
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MEDIA, EVENTS AND PROACTIVE PITCHES

Date	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Communications Channel	Communications contact / Action officer	Comments
Post 14 November 2022	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Unit Titles Sustainability update (timing dependant on Min Standards announcement)	Email/letter to key stakeholders - distributed through networks of members of the Consultative Group. No external media.	Will Downing	Content is being drafted to share an announcement with the Unit Titles Consultative Group for dissemination through their own networks (i.e. newsletters and emails to organisation members/stakeholders). Letter will also share similar and complementary recent announcements (e.g. pathway to electrification). Letter is currently being cleared through relevant line area EBMs, and a complimentary social post is being developed.
w/c 28 November TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report	Web updates, social media, media release (TBC)	Jessica Oliver	Annual independent report on the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards achieving the ACT's emissions reduction targets.
w/c 28 November TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction Annual Report	Web updates, social media, media release (TBC)	Jessica Oliver	Annual report from the Minister outlining progress towards meeting the ACT's climate change and sustainability commitments.
Late November 2022 TBC	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Rattenbury	Water Strategy Report Card	Media release, website updates	Hannah Evans	Media release and web updates have been prepared. Information briefing process to determine launch date.

OPEN CONSULTATION AND UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT

Timeframes	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Channels / Region of Canberra / Engagement spend	Comms contact / Action officer	Comments
N/A						

CAMPAIGNS AND ADVERTISING

Campaign dates	Portfolio	Minister	Description	Channels / Target Audience / Spend	Comms contact / Action officer	Comments
20 October - 3 November 2022	Climate Change and Energy	Rattenbury	Sustainable Business Expo	Channels: social, radio Audience: small - medium businesses and entrepreneurs Budget: \$7,000.00	Main contact: Danielle Forner Portfolio Manager: Megan Baker	Campaign complete, initial report due 10 Nov. PCR due 15 Dec. As of 31 October social saw 16,900 impressions, 81 clicks with a click through rate of 0.48%.



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Meeting	Item	Actions	Due date	AO	In progress	Completed
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Out of scope

220930	Subsurface Wetland in Belconnen Oval and other Healthy Waterways Projects	EPSDD to send through the dates they are planning on doing consultation session for the Fadden healthy waterways project. Minister would like to attend some sessions.	ASAP	Bren Burkevics	The consultations for Fadden mini-raingardens were undertaken on 10:30am to 1:30pm on Wednesday 12 Oct and Sunday 16 Oct	COMPLETED
220930	Subsurface Wetland in Belconnen Oval and other Healthy Waterways Projects	Bio retention swales in Kambah Playing Field – Minister would like to visit with Ralph when they are ready	When ready	Bren Burkevics	Two of the four swales have been handed over so we can visit them according to the Minister’s schedule	COMPLETED

Ministerials in action – Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction (as at 10/11/2022)

Name	Minister	Due to Ministers Office	Status
21/86208 Ministerial-Information Brief - Rattenbury - Review of the realignment of Actsmart Business Recycling	Minister Shane Rattenbury	04/11/2022	With Directorate
22/137815 Ministerial-Correspondence- Rattenbury - EPSDD RESPONSE - Personal information - Energy ratings on ACT homes	Minister Shane Rattenbury	07/11/2022	With Directorate
22/135894 Ministerial-Correspondence - Rattenbury - Personal information - Solar Energy	Minister Shane Rattenbury	07/11/2022	With Directorate
DUE - 221107 - 22/143444 - DLO Request - Rattenbury - Personal information - Renewable energy in the ACT	Minister Shane Rattenbury	07/11/2022	With Directorate
22/141009 Ministerial-Correspondence - Rattenbury - Peter Cain MLA - Subsurface wetland roposal in Belconnen	Minister Shane Rattenbury	14/11/2022	With Directorate
22/137138 Ministerial-Correspondence - Rattenbury - Personal information - Belconnen Oval wetland proposal	Minister Shane Rattenbury	14/11/2022	With Directorate
DUE - 221114 - 22/147002 - DLO Request - Rattenbury - ADVICE FOR MO - Business Awards Process	Minister Shane Rattenbury	14/11/2022	With Directorate
DUE - 221114 - 22/145761 - DLO Request - Rattenbury - ADVICE FOR MO - Room - Electrification Pathway document	Minister Shane Rattenbury	14/11/2022	With Directorate
22/144499 Ministerial-Correspondence - Rattenbury - Personal information - Possible PPA for renewable electricity project when built in Victoria	Minister Shane Rattenbury	15/11/2022	With Directorate
DUE - 221117 - 22/148655 - DLO Request - Rattenbury - ADVICE FOR MO - Impact of increased retail electricity costs	Minister Shane Rattenbury	17/11/2022	With Directorate
DUE - 221118 - 22/138662 - DLO Request - Rattenbury - CALL CONSTITUENT - Personal informaton - Electric Vehicle Pilot	Minister Shane Rattenbury	18/11/2022	With Directorate
22/148511 Ministerial Correspondence - Rattenbury - Personal information - Emu Bank Wetlands		23/11/2022	
22/108215 Ministerial-Arrangements Brief - Rattenbury - Climate Choices School Awards 2022 - 8 December 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	01/12/2022	With Directorate
22/32635 Ministerial-Meeting Brief - Rattenbury - ACT Climate Council - 12 December 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	05/12/2022	With Directorate
22/138417 Ministerial-Meeting Brief - Rattenbury - Personal information - AER Chair - 19 December 2022	Minister Shane Rattenbury	12/12/2022	With Directorate
22/141959 Ministerial Information Brief - Rattenbury - Method Update for ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory	Minister Shane Rattenbury	20/01/2023	With Directorate
22/141961 Ministerial Information Brief - Rattenbury - ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2021-22	Minister Shane Rattenbury	20/01/2023	With Directorate
22/32632 Ministerial-Meeting Brief - Rattenbury - ACT Climate Council	Minister Shane Rattenbury		Awaiting Revised Meeting Date

Assembly and Cabinet Business

CABINET AND ASSEMBLY ITEMS

(As at 10 November 2022)

Title	CABINET DATE	ASSEMBLY DATE	Type	Current Status	DUE TO MO (EXP)	EXP TO CO	DUE TO MO (FINAL)	FINAL to CO
22/565 ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group Appointment ON HOLD *Pending outcome of Brief 22/111861	09/11/22	N/A	Appointment	FIN with AO			18/10/22	01/11/22
22/442 COSPONSORED: State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT - Government Response	21/11/22	29 November - 01 December	Submission	FIN with MO	Complete	Complete	Complete	11/11/22
22/738 Cabinet ACT Energy Delegation to Singapore	28/11/22	29 November - 01 December	ABP	FIN with AO	-	-	4/11/2022	18/11/2022
22/766 2021-22 Ministers Annual Report under the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2020	28/11/2022	29 November - 01 December	Paper for Tabling Only (Annual)	With TSY/PCD for agreement			11/11/2022	18/11/2022
22/696 Cabinet ECCB - Inquiry into Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Gas Transition) Amendment Bill 2022 - Government Response to Recommendations	1/02/2023		Submission	EXP with AO	30/11/2022	14/12/2022	9/01/2023	23/01/2023
The ACT's Greenhouse Gas Inventory		29 November - 01 December	Paper for Tabling Only (Annual)					
22/440 Government Response to Non-Potable Water Review	TBC	TBC	Submission	EXP with AO	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

QON/QTONS IN ACTION

No.	Member	Topic	Due to Assembly/Committee	Current status
936	KIKKERT	Belconnen Subsurface Wetland	14-Nov	With MO

Annual Report Hearing QTONs/QONs

No.	Member	Topic	Due to Assembly/Committee	Current status
ECCB QTON	CLAY	Electricity Reliability	UPT not received	sent to line area 7/11
ECCB QTON	LAWDER	Healthy Waterways Stage 2	UPT not received	sent to line area 7/11
ECCB QTON	LAWDER	Water sensitive Urban Design	UPT not received	sent to line area 7/11
ECCB QTON	CLAY	Website links - Flood and Healthy waterways website links	UPT not received	sent to line area 7/11

CABINET SUBMISSIONS ON CIRCULATION AS AT 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Cabinet Date	Cabinet No.	Title	Paper Type	Meeting Type	Minister	Current Action	Directorate
08/12/2022	CAB2022/186	Growing and Renewing Public Housing six monthly update (No.6) – December 2022	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Provide exposure comment	CSD
08/12/2022	CAB2022/517	Housing Affordability Work Update	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Provide exposure comment	EPSDD
28/11/2022	CAB2022/520	(ERC 10-11-22) Ginninderry Joint Venture Impacts from West Belconnen Capping Project	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Review final submission	EPSDD
21/11/2022	CAB2022/551	(ERC) RSPCA ACT – Relocation Package and Ownership Structure	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Transport & City Services	Review final submission	TCCS
15/12/2022	CAB2022/585	(ERC 5-12-22) ACT Government Response to the Counting the Costs report	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Families & Community Services	Provide exposure comment	CSD
21/11/2022	CAB2022/587	Report No. 5 of the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality – Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration - Government Response	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Planning & Land Management	Review final submission	EPSDD
15/12/2022	CAB2022/590	(ERC 5-12-22) Eminent Panel for Community Engagement and Healing	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Provide exposure comment	CSD
08/12/2022	CAB2022/608	Engineering Workforce Plan Update	Submission	Cabinet	Treasurer	Provide exposure comment	MPC
28/11/2022	CAB2022/613	(ERC 10-11-22) Ginninderry Joint Venture Land Use Improvement Proposal on West Belconnen Landfill Site	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Review final submission	EPSDD
08/12/2022	CAB2022/616	Delivering 70% of all new housing within the existing urban footprint	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Provide exposure comment	EPSDD
08/12/2022	CAB2022/618	Update on Public Transport Ticketing System	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Transport & City Services	Provide exposure comment	TCCS
25/12/2022	CAB2022/623	[ERC 8-12-22] (CABINET TBC 2023) Review of risks to development and delivery of the ILRP and risk mitigation strategies	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Planning & Land Management	Provide exposure comment	EPSDD
28/11/2022	CAB2022/633	Access Canberra Business and Regulatory Improvement Program – Progress Report	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Business & Better Regulation	Provide exposure comment	CMTEDD
15/12/2022	CAB2022/639	(ERC 05-12-22) National Electronic Conveyancing Data Standards Company (NECDS Co)	Submission	Cabinet	Attorney-General	Review final submission	CMTEDD
15/12/2022	CAB2022/640	Government Response – Auditor-General’s report No. 5 / 2022 - Procurement and Contracting Activities for the Acton Waterfront Project	Submission	Cabinet	Chief Minister	Provide exposure comment	EPSDD
28/11/2022	CAB2022/641	Government Response to Petition 5-22 - Inclusion of off-leash dog area on regular mowing schedule and addition of bins in the area	Assembly Business	Cabinet	Minister for Transport & City Services	Review final submission	TCCS
21/11/2022	CAB2022/642	(ERC 03-11-22) 2020-2025 ACT NSW Bilateral Cross Border Agreement	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Health	Review final submission	Health
08/12/2022	CAB2022/645	ACT Government Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Inquiry into the Capability and Culture of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Disability	Provide exposure comment	CSD

08/12/2022	CAB2022/667	Cybersecurity – ACT Government Essential Eight Compliance and Future Requirements	Submission	Cabinet	Special Minister of State	Provide exposure comment	CMTEDD
28/11/2022	CAB2022/669	(ERC 03-11-22) (RESTRICTED) Post Implementation Review of Margaret Hendry School project	Submission	Cabinet	Chief Minister	Review final submission	CMTEDD
08/12/2022	CAB2022/690	Reforming health care for people who have variations in sex characteristics – Options and revised policy approval for final draft legislation	Submission	Cabinet	Chief Minister	Provide exposure comment	CMTEDD
15/12/2022	CAB2022/694	(RESTRICTED) (ERC 5-12-22) Growing and Renewing Public Housing - Expression of Interest –Section 57 Block 1 Whitlam.	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Housing & Suburban Development	Provide exposure comment	CSD
28/11/2022	CAB2022/697	Draft City Plan and Urban Design Framework	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for Planning & Land Management	Provide exposure comment	EPSDD
15/11/2022	CAB2022/703	Inclusive Education Strategy	Discussion Paper	Human Services Sub	Minister for Education & Youth Affairs	Review final submission	EDU
28/11/2022	CAB2022/728	ACT Government Submission to the Commonwealth - Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee - EPBC Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2022 [No. 2]	Submission	Cabinet	Minister for the Environment	Review final submission	EPSDD



Meeting date: 11 November 2022

Agenda item: **Belconnen Subsurface Wetland – Alternative Options**

Key Points

- Based on the outcomes from the community consultations about the Belconnen Sub-surface wetland, the Healthy Waterways (HWW) Team is currently examining the feasibility of several modifications or alternative designs.
- The Project Manager estimates that this process will take up to six months to complete with the further rounds of community consultation that are required. These timeframes, in addition to approvals (6-12 months) and construction (9 months) no longer make it possible to complete the project within current timeframes for this round of infrastructure.
- Whilst it is proposed that the design work continue and an agreed design be the main deliverable for this stage of the project, the Project Manager has suggested that the construction funding that was allocated for the Belconnen Sub-surface wetland can be redirected to other HWW projects, such as a subsurface wetland project in Holden in a less sensitive area.
- The HWW team is seeking the Minister’s preliminary feedback on the proposal above, to be formalised in due course through a brief.

Matters Still to be Addressed

Water quality impacts

1. The long-term cumulative impact to downstream water quality remains understated.
2. The expected increased population of the Queanbeyan urban region will align with negative impacts to ACT water quality from QSTP discharge. Although permitted discharge concentrations of pollutants from QSTP may remain relatively unchanged, the annual loading of kg/L of undesirable nutrients to Molonglo River and Lake Burley Griffin will increase as volume of discharges increase over time and this is expected to contribute to blue-green algae blooms and resultant lake closures.

Murray-Cod

3. There is a resident population of Murray Cod adjacent and downstream of the QSTP outflow, which is indicated by ACT fish monitoring data. It is likely that these fish may breed in the adjacent Molonglo River as there is sufficient structural habitat and flowing water. Impacts to Murray Cod and appropriate mitigation measures have not been fully explored.

Detailed Feedback

2.2.2 Average Dry Weather Flow

The proponent has responded “A value of 12 ML/d was selected as a reasonable basis given the range in the data for the scenarios being considered (see figure below).” Examination of the figure provided clearly demonstrates the value of 12ML/Day as baseline flow from the QSTP is not realistic.

The median value is much closer to 9ML/Day. As such, modelling of the baseline is over-representing pollutant load by ~ 25%, greatly distorting the interpretation of the modelling they have performed. The response provided is not considered adequate.

2.2.3 Median values

The proponent has not addressed why the QSTP median values in report T3 (Table 5) and report T2 (Table 7) differ.

As it stands, the two tables describe two very different levels of performance for the proposed upgraded plant. Due to this inconsistency (and the issue associated with 2.2.2 Average Dry Weather Flow), the modelling outputs provided in report T3 are not trustworthy due to this substantial discrepancy in reported values. The response provided is not considered adequate.

2.2.4 Change in overflows and long-term rainfall data

The extension of rainfall data to 1995 (the middle of the Millenium drought) is not an adequate extension of data for realistic assessment of overflow risk.

Given that rainfall data for Canberra airport extends back over 100 years, these data should have been considered. Furthermore, the proponent has not considered how climate change (including how increased rainfall intensity) may increase the risk of overflows, or the likelihood of overflows when the plant is operating at 75000 EP under a future climate of increased intensity of storm events. The response provided is not adequate.

2.2.6 Murray cod

The proponent's response incorrectly presents likelihood of occurrence (based on Atlas of Living Australia data) as 'Possible'. This is incorrect.

ACT Government survey records demonstrate that the species is 'Present' in sufficient numbers and demography to potentially represent a breeding population (though not confirmed) of this nationally and locally listed species. Flow and habitat is sufficient to support a population of this species in the Molonglo River upstream of Lake Burley Griffin. The ACT Government offered to provide this data. As such, the impacts of poor water quality (including but not limited to endocrine disrupting chemicals) needed to be addressed.

Modifications to the residual risk table (Table 5.8.27) from water quality from *low* to *medium*, and for microplastics, EDCs and other non-organic contaminants from *negligible* to *low* without further commentary or justification lacks transparency. The response provided is not considered adequate.

2.2.7 Additional feedback

The proponent's response to Feedback (1) and Feedback (2) states that Appendix T3 values are a more detailed assessment of the receiving water quality impact and include a more detailed assessment of the likely increase in total phosphorus and total nitrogen load.

The proponent further states the data in Appendix T2 was not updated retrospectively with this more accurate assessment. By not updating it, a significant inconsistency in documentation remains. Given other inconsistencies in the EIS have been consistently rectified, it is not clear why this inconsistency would be left to remain. As it stands, the information presented in T2 and T3 are not consistent, leaving considerable ambiguity and leaves presented results as untrustworthy. The response provided is not considered adequate.