



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

In relation to: Water policy and Water abstraction charge

Hearing: 1 August 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 7

Transcript provided: 06 August 2025

Answer Due: 13/08/2025

Suzanne Orr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MS CASTLEY: Minister, did you take advice from anyone other than Treasury before signing off on this year's charge?

Ms Orr: Ms Castley, I would need to, out of an abundance of caution, take that on notice to go back and check exactly what input was provided to any advice, given that advice, while it may come from one particular area, usually is consulted across government informing that advice.

MS CASTLEY: Great, so take it on notice.

THE CHAIR: Yes, just noting that was taken on notice. Mr Rattenbury

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Water Abstraction Charge is made by the ACT Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water through a determination under Section 107 of the *Water Resources Act 2007*. The current Water Abstraction Charge is made in the *Water Resource (Fees) Determination 2025*.

The City and Environment Directorate (CED) prepares the proposed fee determination, in consultation with Treasury, for the Minister's consideration. CED areas that reviewed the proposed 2025 determination include the Finance and Legal teams; the Environment, Land and Technical Regulation Branch of Access Canberra; and policy areas with responsibility for environment and water.

In general, fee increases are made in line with the ACT Government's 'Fees and Charges Policy and Guidelines'.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several sweeping, connected strokes.

Signature:

Date: 12/08/25

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA