

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 3****7 March 2025****Question No. 192**

MR CAIN MLA - To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water:

- (1) Can the Minister outline the Government's plans for enhancing the Belconnen Wetlands, particularly in terms of habitat restoration and planting initiatives in consultation with ecologists.
- (2) What is the timeline for improving amenities at the Belconnen Wetlands, including the provision of shaded seating and educational signage, to make the area more accessible and beneficial for the local community.
- (3) How does the Minister's directorate plan to ensure that plant and tree species used in Belconnen align with ACT habitat priorities and climate resilience goals and are there any reviews planned for the selection of appropriate species for local planting programs.

MINISTER ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Belconnen Oval Wetland is nearing completion and will be opened once the plantings are established. The original wetland plant list was created by an ecologist in the Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), with input from Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS), Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and an expert provided by the Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG). The plant list for the Belconnen Oval Wetland was updated in October 2023 at the request of the community. EPSDD amended the original plant list with inputs by GCG and the Emu Bank Landcare group.
- (2) The amenities around the asset comprise wide pathways around the perimeter, two crosswalks through the wetland, four bench seats (with backing), three rocks for sitting on and an educational sign.



- (3) Both aquatic and land plantings used in the detail design and incorporated in the final project delivery were investigated and guided by ecologists. Habitat priorities and climate resilience were criteria in this selection process.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 03/04/25

This response required 1hr 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$122.65.