

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. 159**

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

- (1) Can the Minister you provide more information on any planned actions to enhance urban wildlife corridors in Belconnen, particularly through initiatives like improving the median strip along Hayden (sic) Drive to facilitate wildlife movement between green spaces.
- (2) How will the Government work with local community groups and stakeholders to improve wildlife corridors and overall environmental quality in the Belconnen district.

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

- (1) The Government is progressing a range of environmental and biodiversity projects across the Belconnen area that will improve habitat and connectivity. These projects include:
 - improving rakali and platypus habitat around Giralang Wetlands.
 - assessing the effectiveness of fauna furniture in underpasses in the Umbagog District Park and Black Mountain Nature Reserve.
 - improving habitat structure in the Northen Woodlands area of Gungahlin.
 - improving riparian habitat along the upper reaches of Sullivans creek.
 - finalising tree planting locations for the autumn 2025 planting program. This will include planting in sites that will improve habitat and enhance wildlife corridors in urban open spaces and road verges in Belconnen.

Locations such as the median strip along Haydon Drive are considered to be generally too narrow to support the density of planting required for a wildlife corridor, particularly in light of the need to balance road safety considerations and the appropriateness of encouraging wildlife into a narrow median on an arterial road.



- (2) Local community groups are crucial in protecting and enhancing the ACT's environment. The ACT Government supports these efforts through programs like ParkCare, Urban Parks and Places, and Waterwatch, involving over 120 groups and 4,500 volunteers. The 2024-25 budget allocated \$1.314 million over four years to support these initiatives, including the Environment Grants program, catchment groups, and wildlife support.

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 2hrs 10mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$213.04.