

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

26 September 2025

Question No. 678

Deborah Morris MLA: To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

1. Can the Minister break down the Budget allocation of \$327,000 in 2025-2026 to continue the Healthy Waterways project and maintain Office of Water staffing by (a) how much goes to staff costs versus on-ground works and (b) what roles are being funded.
2. How many Full-Time Equivalents are supported through the funding referred to in part (1), and what are their primary responsibilities in relation to Lake Tuggeranong.
3. What measurable improvements have been observed in Lake Tuggeranong's water quality because of the Healthy Waterways program to date.

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

1. All of the \$327,000 in the 2025-2026 budget allocation was for staff costs. This includes \$177,000 in new funds and a \$150,000 offset against existing funding and resourcing within the City and Environment Directorate. The staff funded through this initiative are in the behaviour change team, running the Healthy Waterways pollution prevention program.
2. There are two Full-Time Equivalents funded through the 2025-2026 budget allocation. They are implementing a program to enable and encourage residents to collect leaves later this summer and autumn. Leaves and grass clippings falling on driveways and roadside drains pollute stormwater with nutrients that stimulate algal blooms. The awareness raising elements of this program will occur across Canberra but other elements will be focussed on Tuggeranong.
3. Water quality models calibrated with monitoring data from the catchment estimate that the seven large wetlands, raingardens and ponds built by Healthy Waterways before 2021 are intercepting 13% of the load of phosphorus in stormwater destined for Lake Tuggeranong. Monitoring of one of the raingardens confirms that it is performing as modelled. The performance of the five assets built since 2021 has not been evaluated as most are small trials of innovations. In addition, the filtering waterplants in the one large asset have not yet become established and so performance assessment has not yet occurred for that particular asset.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 22/10/25

This response required 37mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$71.34