

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 8****27 June 2025****Question No. 510**

MS CLAY MLA - To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water:

- 1) How much water was released from Lake Ginninderra in 2025 to achieve desired flows at Ginninderra Falls for Netflix movie filming, with the total broken down by each individual release.
- 2) After each water release referred to in part (1), what was the water level at Lake Ginninderra.
- 3) What water level at Lake Ginninderra is optimal for (a) habitat health, (b) water quality, (c) species health and (d) amenity, including smell, recreation and appearance.
- 4) What water quality monitoring was undertaken at Lake Ginninderra preceding the water releases referred to in part (1).
- 5) What water quality monitoring has been undertaken at Lake Ginninderra following the water releases referred to in part (1) and what are the results.
- 6) Has there been any breach of Environmental Protection Authority standards for water quality at Lake Ginninderra in 2025? If so, please provide details of breaches.
- 7) Has the ACT Government observed a decline in water quality, habitat quality, or any observable impact on lake species following the water releases referred to in part (1).
- 8) How long did it take for Lake Ginninderra to restore to desired water levels following the water releases referred to in part (1).
- 9) What is the estimated financial cost of water releases referred to in part (1) undertaken at the request of Netflix.
- 10) Were any costs or charges associated with the water releases referred to in part (1) charged to Netflix.



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

1. The volume of water released from Lake Ginninderra is estimated to be approximately 297 megalitres for the first and 66 megalitres for the second release, respectively.
2. The lake water level was reduced from the full level by 0.31m and 0.36m after the first and second releases, respectively.
3. The ACT Environmental Flow Guidelines (2019) provide guidance that ACT urban lakes should be managed to within 0.6m of their full level to maintain functional assemblages of macrophytes, protect waterbird breeding habitat, maintain healthy ecosystems in terms of biota and maintain populations of native fish in urban impoundments where stocking occurs.
4. Routine water quality monitoring is undertaken as part of the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch program. Waterwatch took one sample from Lake Ginninderra on 19 January 2025.
5. ACT waterwatch undertook one sample on 15 February 2025. Data is as follows:

Parameter	Value
Water temperature (degrees C)	23
pH (pH units)	7
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	6.5
Phosphorus (mg/L)	0
Nitrate (mg/l)	0
Electrical conductivity (µS/cm)	280
Turbidity (NTU)	9

6. The Environment Protection Authority advised that there have been no breaches of water quality standards in Lake Ginninderra during 2025.
7. There have been no observed impacts on water quality, habitat quality or any observable impact on lake species following the water releases.
8. Lake Ginninderra refilled to full level early on 10 February 2025, approximately 4.5 days after the second water release.
9. The only identified costs associated with water releases referred to in part (1) is the time of ACTPS staff involved in facilitating the release of water. Trying to estimate this cost would require considerable resources to calculate due to the efforts required across multiple directorates.
10. No costs or charges associated with the release of water was charged to Netflix.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 28/07/25

This response required 1hrs 18mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$131.67