

## Request for Costing an Election Commitment

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| <b>Name of proposal:</b>         | Repairing waterways   |
| Person requesting costing:       | Shane Rattenbury MLA  |
| Date of request:                 | 8 October 2020  |
| Summary of proposal:             | <p>This wetlands and water quality package will ensure a healthy aquatic environment across the ACT. It includes a \$30 million infrastructure investment to restore ACT's waterways and to build new wetlands, rain gardens and swales to improve the health of Canberra's water catchments.</p> <p>The commitment to establish an ACT Water Office to ensure a coordinated approach to water issues is also part of the Repairing Waterways package, but has been costed separately to this proposal.</p> <p>More information is available at <a href="https://greens.org.au/act/repairing-waterways">https://greens.org.au/act/repairing-waterways</a>.</p>  |
| Issue the proposal will address: | <p>Canberra is a beautiful city, having been planned around a sustainable water catchment for the ACT over a century ago. These waterways make our city a great place to live and provide critical water and habitat for the hundreds of thousands of plants and animals that form our urban ecosystems.</p> <p>However, poor urban planning and an outdated view that treats water as a waste product has led to murky, unhealthy and polluted aquatic environments in many areas.</p> <p>Recent work, through the Healthy Waterways program, to build wetlands and restore waterways has demonstrated the environmental and social benefits of this approach. The \$93.5 million Healthy Waterways project has now concluded.</p> <p>This proposal would continue the Healthy Waterways project, injecting a further \$30 million into rolling out similar infrastructure across Canberra's catchments. The Healthy Waterways work already conducted has identified a range of suitable projects that have not been funded.</p> |

### What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

**Note:** The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

- EPSDD Information brief 20/43736 provides indicative costs of various healthy waterways projects. This initiative would cover a range of similar projects:
- Large scale wetlands – the average cost to construct large wetlands, as part of the Healthy Waterways project was \$4.5 million.

- Large scale raingardens – the average cost to construct large raingardens, as part of the Healthy Waterways project, was \$4 million for a swale of approximately 3000sqm.
- The average cost to construct a large swale around an athletics field, as part of the Healthy Waterways projects, was \$1.3 million.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

|                               | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Total   |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                               | \$'000  | \$'000  | \$'000  | \$'000  | \$'000  |
| <b>Revenue<sup>(a)</sup></b>  |         |         |         |         |         |
| <b>Expenses<sup>(a)</sup></b> |         |         |         |         |         |
| <b>Capital</b>                | -1,000  | -9,000  | -10,000 | -10,000 | -30,000 |
| <b>Depreciation</b>           |         |         |         |         |         |

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?

No

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

Capped

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?

Federal Government funding would be sought for the Healthy Waterways project in addition to this funding.

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

No

Who will administer the proposal?

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

How will the proposal be administered?

Project management costs are included in the capital expenses for the Healthy Waterways project. Community groups, such as catchment groups and new local groups formed for this purpose, will be engaged to assist with planting around constructed wetlands and raingardens, and will be able to assist with ongoing maintenance (weeding etc) costs.

Is the proposal part of a broader package?

Yes, Repairing Waterways. The commitment to establish an ACT Water Office to ensure a coordinated approach to water issues is also part of the Repairing Waterways package but has been costed separately to this proposal. Other elements are either costed in the

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| Repairing the land or Neighbourhood forests packs.  |
| Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?</li> <li>– If yes, please specify the key assumptions.</li> </ul> |
| Yes. Staffing costs are included.   |
| Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?  |
| No  |
| Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? Will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?   |
| No  |
| What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?  |
| Community members will benefit from improved local parks and wetlands which provide recreational space and improve local amenity.   |
| Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?  |
| No  |
| What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?   |
| Early 2021 to start scoping the projects, and start construction in the 2021-22 year.   |
| When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.  |
| Mid 2021  |
| Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?   |
| June 2024   |
| Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?  |
| No  |