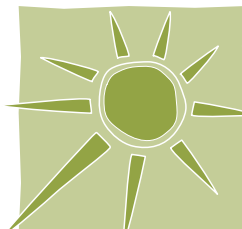
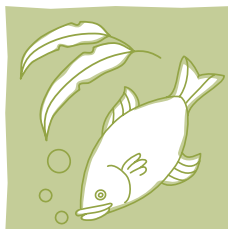




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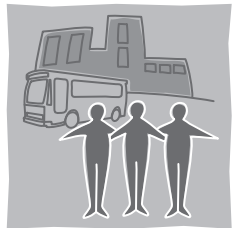
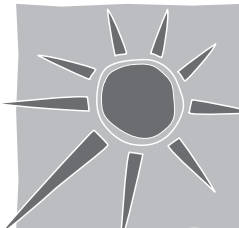
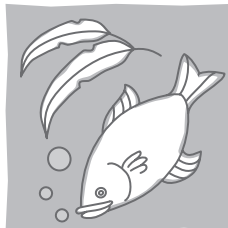
annual report 2011-12





Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment

annual report 2011-12



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Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment

TRANSMITTAL CERTIFICATE

Mr Simon Corbell, MLA
Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report of the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment for the year ended 30 June 2012. This Report has been prepared under section 6(1) of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* and in accordance with the requirements referred to in the Chief Minister's 2011-2012 Annual Report Directions. It has been prepared in conformity with other legislation applicable to the preparation of the Annual Report by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

I hereby certify that the attached Annual Report is an honest and accurate account and that all material information on the operations of the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment during the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 has been included.

I also hereby certify that fraud prevention has been managed in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standards, Part 2.

Section 13 of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* requires that you present to the Legislative Assembly a copy of the report within three months of the end of the financial year.

Yours sincerely

Mr Robert Neil
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

30 August 2012

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This Office is independent of, but funded by, the ACT Government.



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A.1 The organisation

Our role

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is an expansion of the role of the Commissioner for the Environment, created under the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993*.¹ The Commissioner is accountable and responsible to the Legislative Assembly through the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development in relation to the role's operations. This Office exists to support the Commissioner's role.

The Act specifies that the Commissioner shall:

- produce 'State of the Environment' reports for the ACT;
- investigate complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a territory authority;
- conduct investigations as directed by the Minister;
- initiate investigations into actions of an agency where those actions would have a substantial impact on the environment of the ACT; and
- make recommendations for consideration by government and include in its annual report the outcomes of those recommendations.

Recent Government amendments to the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993* came into force on 29 May 2012.² These amendments changed the name of the Act to the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* ('the Act'). The amendments also give the Commissioner power to investigate complaints about issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the ACT,³ and they expand the scope under which a person may make a complaint to the Commissioner. That scope now explicitly includes issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the ACT.⁴

The amendments also introduced an 'objects' clause that sets out the intent of the legislation and a framework for how the Act is to be interpreted. The objects of the Act, (stated in Section 2B) are to:

- a. ensure regular and consistent reporting on matters relating to the condition and management of the environment in the Territory; and
- b. ensure regular reporting on progress towards ecologically sustainable development by the Territory and territory authorities; and
- c. encourage decision-making that facilitates ecologically sustainable development; and
- d. enhance knowledge and understanding of issues relating to ecologically sustainable development and the environment; and
- e. encourage sound environmental practices and procedures to be adopted by the Territory and territory authorities as a basis for ecologically sustainable development.

These objects are influential in guiding the interpretation of the legislation and in guiding the administration of the legislation, directing administrators to goals they should pursue.

The objects also direct that advocacy and awareness with respect to ecologically sustainable development and environmental issues are key parts of the expanded role of the Commissioner and the Office of the Commissioner.

The amendments also require that all the Commissioner's reports to the Minister (State of the Environment and special reports) are tabled in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days after the day on which the Minister receives them, and that the Minister responds to all the recommendations made in the report within a six-month timeframe.

Our vision

The vision of the Office of the Commissioner is 'Living Sustainably'. The vision captures our commitment to help the community and government act in ways that advance sustainability and good management of the environment. We achieve that vision through advocacy, independent scrutiny, reporting and advice.

¹ On 21 November 2007, the Legislative Assembly noted 'that the Government will amend the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993* to expand the role of the Commissioner to include responsibility specifically for sustainability and will consult widely with the Government, business and the broader community on the scope of legislative change'.

² Given these recent legislative amendments, for the purposes of this Annual Report all references will be to 'the Act' to avoid confusion to pre and post 29 May 2012.

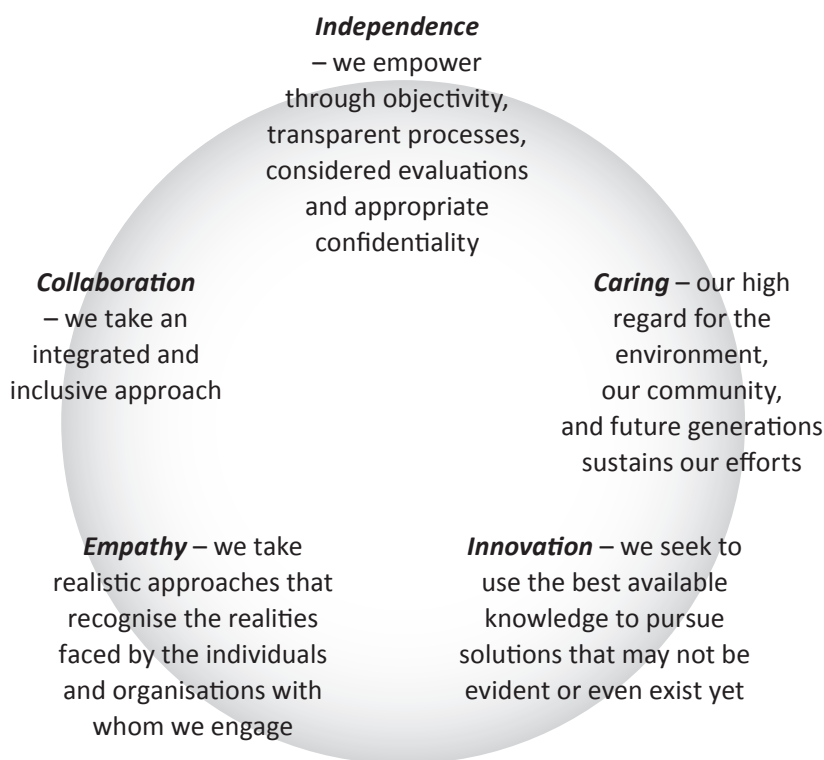
³ Section 12 (1) (a) (ii)

⁴ Section 13 (1) (b)

Our mission

Our mission is advancing sustainability and environmental security through advocacy, independent scrutiny, reporting and advice.

Our values



Our objectives

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has four main objectives.

- **Investigation and resolution:** to enhance understanding and providing guidance by investigating and resolving complaints.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** to advance sustainable practices and better management of the environment through independent monitoring, analysis and reporting.
- **Engagement and advocacy:** to be an independent voice that advocates for, and raises awareness of, sustainable practices and environmental matters.
- **Capability:** to foster a collaborative culture built on professional expertise and networks.

Our structure

The Office comprises a full-time Commissioner, two Senior Managers (SOG B equivalent), two Project Officers (Class 2) and one Office Manager (APS 5).

Our clients and stakeholders

Our work is relevant to all members of the ACT community, specifically:

- the ACT Government and all other members of the Legislative Assembly;
- the community, including future generations;
- ACT Government directorates;
- environment and sustainability interest groups;
- business and industry;
- academics;
- professional bodies and interest groups;
- media;
- Councils of the Australian Capital Region;⁵ and
- the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

⁵ The Australian Capital Region includes the ACT and the 17 surrounding New South Wales local government areas: Bega Valley, Boorowa, Bombala, Cooma–Monaro, Cootamundra, Eurobodalla, Goulburn–Mulwaree, Gundagai, Harden, Palerang, Queanbeyan, Snowy River, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Upper Lachlan, Yass, Young.

A.2 Overview

Organisational environment

The Commissioner is a statutory office holder and our Office operates as an independent statutory body. Our staff members are employed under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and observe the ACT Public Service Code of Ethics.

The ACT Government Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate and Treasury Directorate provide corporate support for matters such as accommodation, financial reporting, recruitment and other personnel services. Shared Services ICT (in the Treasury Directorate) provides information management and information technology support.

Significant organisation change

In late 2007, the ACT Government decided to expand the Commissioner's role to explicitly include, among other things, sustainability as related to environmental issues. The Commissioner was requested to consult widely on the scope of the legislative change needed to support the expanded role. This was undertaken and a report, *Expanded Role of the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment*, was submitted to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water on 24 September 2009. Some of the amendments to the Act, which took effect on 29 May 2012, include increasing the functions and scope of the Commissioner's role.

Administration of legislation or other regulatory activities

The *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* amended the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993*. The amendments, which took effect on 29 May 2012, include an objects clause (2B) which states that the objects of Act are to:

- a. ensure regular and consistent reporting on matters relating to the condition and management of the environment in the Territory; and
- b. ensure regular reporting on progress towards ecologically sustainable development by the Territory and territory authorities; and
- c. encourage decision-making that facilitates ecologically sustainable development; and
- d. enhance knowledge and understanding of issues relating to ecologically sustainable development and the environment; and
- e. encourage sound environmental practices and procedures to be adopted by the Territory and territory authorities as a basis for ecologically sustainable development.

This Office administers no other legislation and has no other regulatory activities.

A.3 Highlights

Our achievements during 2011–12 cover our key functions, both statutory and advocacy.

Statutory

ACT State of the Environment Report

- Finalising and releasing the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*.

Complaints

- Responding to eight complaints covering a range of issues including water management, urban trees, biodiversity and development matters including the planning process (access to information and effective participation in the decision-making process).

Investigations

- Submitting the *Report on Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation*.
- Submitting the *Report on the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin*.
- Noting progress in Government responses to, and tabling of, previous investigations.

Advocacy

- Progress via the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Sustainability Working Group.
- Continued engagement with the Young People Ambassadors group.
- Engagement with local Councils in the Australian Capital Region on environment and sustainability issues, including 'State of the Environment' reporting.
- Presentations on the key messages and findings of the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*.

Statutory

ACT State of the Environment Report

The reporting period for the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* (SoER) was 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2011. The SoER assesses change in all aspects of the environment including atmosphere, biodiversity, land, water and human settlements and was delivered to the Minister by 31 December 2011. The SoER was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 1 May 2012.

This SoER adopted a framework of headline indicators, themes, indicator clusters and indicators to assess and report on the condition, pressures and impacts on the ACT environment. It outlined key actions being undertaken to alleviate pressures or improve the condition of the environment.

The framework is reported under five themes: Land and Water, Biodiversity, People, Climate and Air. This SoER also included for the first time a section on driving forces which presents information on demographic, social and economic developments exerting pressure on the environment. The driving forces identified are: population, land use and transport systems, climate and consumption.

The SoER includes twenty-two recommendations for the ACT Government to consider. These are spread across the five themes and aim to provide guidance on ways in which the local environment can be managed, protected, enhanced and strengthened for the future.

The ACT Government tabled its response to the SoER on 5 June 2012. The response supported eleven of the recommendations; eight other recommendations were supported in principle and the remaining three recommendations were supported in part.

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment welcomes the timely response from the Government to the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*. This SoER highlights the need for vigilance and action to maintain the health and integrity of our environment now and for future generations.

In financially uncertain times, the Commissioner recognises the need for responsible and efficient use of resources. However, it is essential that in this setting we continue to recognise that the environment underpins our social and economic wellbeing, and that we invest appropriately for the future of our city, our community and our ecosystems.

The Commissioner acknowledges the work being done by the Government in developing policies on key issues such as climate change, water and sustainable transport for the ACT. He looks forward to the finalisation of these policies along with timeframes and work plans for implementation of actions.

A number of recommendations, in particular related to data collection and management, a whole-of-catchment approach to water management, land health and indoor air quality, have also been recommended in past ACT State of the Environment reports. It is heartening to see that the Government supports the need for improved outcomes in these areas. The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment looks forward to following progress on these issues.

The Office will continue to track and report on the implementation of recommendations via our Annual Reports. The Government response will be discussed in detail in the Office's 2012–13 Annual Report. The complete *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* and response are available at the website of the Office.⁶

Investigations

Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves), Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation

On 13 October 2009, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, directed the Commissioner to undertake an investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves), Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores ('the Canberra Nature Park Investigation'). The Minister established eight terms of reference to guide the investigation. The report,

which was released on 18 October 2011, focuses on several central issues, including:

- the high value placed on our nature reserves by the public, and the conflicting views on purpose, appropriate usage and expectations held by the public;
- the challenges in managing and maintaining the condition and ecological values of nature reserves;
- the development of an appropriate management framework; and
- what is needed to best position the region's nature reserves for the future, including addressing the impacts of climate change.

The Commissioner made six key recommendations comprising twenty-nine sub-recommendations. The six key recommendations are:

- strengthen community awareness and involvement;
- improve the condition and resilience of our nature reserves;
- better direct and inform the management of the nature reserves;
- strengthen the management framework and strategically position our nature reserves;
- integrate community health and wellbeing with nature-reserve protection; and
- increase the protection and restoration of our nature reserves by sourcing new funding.

The Government response to this report was tabled on 5 June 2012. The government agreed to eleven recommendations, agreed in part to four, recommendations, agreed in-principle to thirteen recommendations and noted one recommendation. Where a recommendation was agreed to in-principle, the response generally pointed to uncertainty around the availability of funding and/or resources to allow implementation.

The implementation of these recommendations will be tracked by the Office over the next year and reported upon in its 2012–13 Annual Report.

⁶ www.envcomm.act.gov.au

Investigation into the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin

On 27 May 2011, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, directed the Commissioner to investigate the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin including:

- possible improvements for managing water quality and the appropriateness of the current protocols for lake closures;
- identifying the causes of lower water quality, including possible resource implications of addressing them;
- jurisdictional implications for water-quality management of the lake; and
- the implication of these findings for the ACT's other major recreational waterways, such as Lake Ginninderra and Lake Tuggeranong.

The final report on the investigation into the state of watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on Thursday 10 May 2012.

The report focused on several main areas including the values of the lake (use values, water-resource management values and natural-heritage values); water quality in the lake including the main threats to water quality and the main causes of poor water quality; management of the lake and its catchments; and lake-closure protocols.

Seventeen recommendations were made in order to address the issues identified in the report; they included four recommendations on lake-closure protocols; two on in-lake management to improve water quality; six on management of urban and rural catchments; two on sewage management; one on river-flow management; one on the management of other ACT recreational waterways; and one recommendation on improving the coordination of catchment management. The full report can be viewed on the Office's web site.⁷ The Government is yet to respond to this report.

Response to the investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest

On 3 December 2009, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, directed an investigation into the Government's tree management practices and renewal of Canberra's urban forest ('the Tree Investigation'). The report was submitted to the Minister on 3 March 2011.

Some of the central issues raised in the Tree Investigation included:

- communication and community engagement;
- tree management practices and programs;
- coordination of tree activities between units and agencies;
- greater recognition of green infrastructure throughout Canberra, particularly in strategic documents; and
- consideration of trees in greenfield planning.

The final report on the Tree Investigation was released on 30 March 2011 and contained twelve recommendations, or forty-three in total including sub-recommendations. These recommendations focus on the better protection and management of Canberra's urban trees, in particular those street and park trees for which the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD) is the custodian.

The Government response to the Tree Investigation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 16 February 2012. In their response the Government agreed to seven recommendations, agreed in-principle to thirty-three recommendations and in-part to one further recommendation. They did not agree to two of the recommendations put forward in the report.

Implementation of these recommendations will be tracked by the Office over the next year and reported upon in the 2012–13 Annual Report.

⁷ www.envcomm.act.gov.au

Tabling of the audit/assessment of the ACT Government agencies' environmental performance reporting

The Commissioner's audit of ACT Government agencies' reporting of environmental performance was tabled in the Assembly by the Minister in December 2011, having been submitted to the Minister on 22 October 2010. The report presents findings relating to environmental resource management, data collection and coordination, and resource-use reporting, and it makes recommendations to assist the ACT Government and government agencies.

Advocacy

Young People Ambassadors group

The Office aims to be kept aware of young people's views via its Young People Ambassadors program. The program, initiated in 2010, involves 12–25 year-olds in particular. During 2011–12, as well as undertaking strategic planning around the program, the Office has continued its discussions with the Young People Ambassadors. Topics have included ways to engage with young people in the region, and how to make the work of the Office more accessible.

Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Sustainability Working Group

One of the key actions under *Weathering the Change — ACT Climate Change Strategy 2007–2025*, is pursuing carbon neutrality in government buildings. To help achieve this, our Office initiated the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Sustainability Working Group. The group focuses both on the building itself and on working with the staff to promote and encourage a reduction in resource use, and to highlight actions that address climate change and sustainability.

This year the working group introduced a battery recycling trial and has progressed the Resource Management Plan for the building. The building's occupants are achieving strong results in reducing its environmental footprint, with data collected from the building showing that we are on-target for reductions in electricity and gas usage and in our waste to landfill.

The group first gained ACTSmart Office accreditation for the building in 2010 and has been able to retain this accreditation for the current year. Future plans for the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry building include considering waterless urinals, external building cladding and solar-powered water heating.

State of the Environment reporting in the Australian Capital Region

Changes to NSW reporting legislation (via the *Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009 No 67*) have changed the way that Councils report on the state of the environment. As a result, it was decided that the scheduled comprehensive Regional State of the Environment Report would not be undertaken this year.

The Office has, instead, been working with Council groups such as the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO) and with individual Councils to assist them with their reporting on the environment under the new legislative requirements. By attending meetings and workshops, the Commissioner and staff of the Office have remained engaged in this reporting process.

Key messages and findings of the ACT State of the Environment Report 2011

The 2011 ACT State of the Environment Report was released by the Minister on 19 April 2012. From this point OCSE was able to begin putting in place the planned advocacy and communication strategy for the Report. Strategies enacted prior to 30 June included:

- a mail out of the executive summary and a full CD version of the Report to all contributors in the preparation of the Report;
- offers of briefings on the key findings of the Report to MLAs, Directorates, as well as contributors and participants from business and community groups ;
- presentations to university, professional and community groups on key findings of the Report.

A.4 Outlook

During 2012–13 the Commissioner will continue to undertake the functions and roles mandated in the Act.

Statutory

Our Office will:

- investigate complaints about management of the Territory's environment by the ACT Government and/or its agencies;
- undertake investigations as directed by the Minister or arising from complaints received by the Office; and
- begin gathering and collating data and information to feed into the next ACT State of the Environment Report.

Advocacy

Our Office will:

- continue to engage with the Councils of the Australian Capital Region to ensure a regional approach to State of the Environment reporting;
- deliver presentations and talks to community and interest groups;
- engage with young people, including through student projects and presentations at schools and universities; and
- continue with plans to produce a paper or papers related to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) in the ACT, in line with the amendments to the Act and our new objects. The paper may centre around what ESD means for the community and how is it integrated and incorporated into Governmental thinking, planning and decision making.

A.5 Management discussion and analysis

Our Office commissioned Oakton (a consulting and technology company) to perform a probity audit which was undertaken in March 2011. The results of this probity audit indicated that our Office has an appropriate framework in place for procurement, records management and security. This framework is reflected in our 'Procedures Manual' which documents our processes for a range of office activities including file management, procurement, inquiries and complaints.

Our 'Procedures Manual' is reviewed annually to ensure procedures and processes are up to date and relevant.

The Office is making progress towards becoming a paperless office and has recently implemented electronic data management, using *Objective Electronic Data Management* (EDM) software, as part of this process.

A.6 Financial report

The ACT Government appropriation for the Office in 2011–12 was \$1,712,000, comprising a base budget of \$1,247,000 plus \$465,000 in rolled-over funding for the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* and Investigations.

The financial transactions for our Office are formally reported in the consolidated financial statements of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report as part of 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

A.7 Statement of performance

The statement of performance for our Office is included in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report as 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

The Commissioner reports outputs against accountability indicators in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate portfolio report. The report for 2011–12 is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Accountability indicators for the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

Accountability indicators ^(a)	Original target 2011–12	Actual result 2011–12	Variance from amended target
Report on uptake of recommendations on the <i>ACT State of the Environment Report 2011</i> and special reports	June 2012	June 2012	0%
Completion of Ministerial-initiated investigations in accordance with Minister's direction ^(b)	100%	100%	0%
Completion of Commissioner-initiated investigations in accordance with terms of reference	100%	n/a	n/a
Completion of complaints-generated investigations in accordance with terms of reference	100%	n/a	n/a
Report on complaints about management of environment by Territory or a territory agency	June 2012	June 2012	0%

Notes:

(a) Accountability indicators were examined by the ACT Auditor-General's Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and the Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2008.

(b) This is the Lake Burley Griffin Investigation.

A.8 Strategic indicators

Our Office is not required to present strategic indicators.

A.9 Analysis of agency performance

This section of the report complies with the Act; specifically:

- Section 14(8), which requires reporting of complaints received which did not proceed to a full investigation, and the reasons for the decision;
- Section 20(a), any special factor that the Commissioner believes had a significant impact on the environment during the year;
- Section 20(b), measures taken during the year by, or for, the Territory in relation to implementation of any recommendations in a State of the Environment Report under Section 19 or a special report under Section 21; and
- Section 23, information to be included in agency annual reports.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993

— Section 14(8) requirements

Our Office received two complaints, nine fewer than the previous year. Our Office closed five complaints, of which two were lodged in 2009–10 and three in 2010–11. The Office has one unresolved complaint. Complaints are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 and detailed in Tables 4–7.

Table 2: Summary of complaints and investigations

Complaints	
Complaints on hand at end 2010–11	6
Complaints received during 2011–12	2
Complaints closed during 2011–12	5
Complaints pending	1
Investigations directed by the Minister	0
Investigations on hand at end 2010–11	2
Investigations commenced in 2011–12	0
Investigations closed during 2011–12	2
Investigations initiated by the Commissioner	0
Investigations initiated in 2011–12	0

Table 3: Summary of broad subject area of complaints

Broad subject area	No of complaints
Air quality	0
Biodiversity	2
Water	1
Trees	3
Waste	0
Planning process and decisions	1
Other	1

Table 4: Complaints lodged in 2008–09

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Complaint	Comment	Month closed
June 2009	Water	Constraints on water re-use innovation	<p>The complaint raised complicated policy issues involving many agencies as well as the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC). The Office has been in contact with ACT Government agencies and the ICRC in regard to the issues raised in the complaint. A paper, 'Water Reuse Innovation in the ACT' was written by Office staff to progress the response to this complaint.</p> <p>The ICRC has recently released a draft report on secondary water use and regulated water and sewerage services in the ACT. The final report was expected by the end of June 2012. A further report on regulated water and sewerage services is due by 1 May 2013.</p> <p>The terms of reference and some of the key questions posed in the inquiry into secondary water use indicate that many of the issues raised in the complaint may be addressed by these inquiries. Work being undertaken as part of the <i>Think water, act water</i> Review may also address some of the issues raised.</p> <p>The complainant has been informed of the ICRC inquiries and the <i>Think water, act water</i> Review.</p>	June 2012

Table 5: Complaints lodged in 2009–10

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
February 2010	Trees	Tree in McKellar blocking solar access, and management of this by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD)	<p>Two independent arborists undertook an assessment of the tree. The first recommended the following actions be implemented:</p> <p><i>The declining branches will be pruned back to a safe location with consideration to maintaining the structural integrity of the tree.</i></p> <p><i>Further pruning will also be undertaken to thin parts of the crown and reduce weight on the ends of the major braches. Pruning will be in accordance with AS4373-2007 where no more than 25% of the live crown is removed.</i></p> <p><i>The wound in the upper trunk will be inspected at the time of the works to ensure structural integrity of the crown. This may result in further work.</i></p> <p><i>The tree will be periodically assessed over time so that future maintenance works can be indentified and scheduled.</i></p> <p><i>A sample of the tree will also be tested to determine the reasons for its rapid decline ... Residents will be notified about this testing.</i></p> <p>TAMSD undertook some pruning in April 2011. This work, and the tree, were later assessed by a second independent arborist who recommended further pruning to focus on safety and solar access while ensuring integrity of the tree. TAMSD agreed to these recommendations and in August 2011 advised that the tree had been pruned to the Australian Standard as agreed. This has been confirmed by the second independent arborist.</p>	August 2011

Table 6: Complaints lodged in 2010–11

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
December 2010	Other	Possible asbestos in redevelopments in Kingston and appropriate management of its removal	The OCSE investigated the complaint and received confirmation that the appropriate management was undertaken for the removal of asbestos. The complainant was informed of the management requirements and process undertaken at the sites.	July 2011
March 2011	Trees	Removal of a tree as part of a Development Application	<p>Appropriate approvals to remove the tree were granted. However, ambiguity was identified on the form, regarding the presence of native nesting sites. The Commissioner recommended that systems be revised to ensure that identification of habitat can be clarified where necessary, or that any ambiguity is conveyed in the Tree Assessment Report Form and in any advice to the Chief Planning Executive made by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.</p> <p>The Conservator has advised that the following actions have been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment officers have been reminded of the need to be vigilant when undertaking inspections, and to indicate potential nesting sites or habitat activity; • Assessment officers have been reminded of the requirement to relay information from assessments regarding whether a tree is being used as a nesting site to the Authority, along with a statement that the removal of the tree requires a licence to interfere with a nest; and • TAMSD assessment forms have been amended to include a tick box to remind the assessing officers of the licensing requirements when preparing advice. 	August 2011

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
March 2011	Planning process and decisions	Development of Molonglo and the impact on the environmental values of the Molonglo River Corridor	<p>The complaint raises a range of complex and interrelated issues with regard to this development: in particular, the planning process, and community engagement in relation to the consistency of the planning information provided and transparency in consideration of matters of national environmental significance. Matters of habitat protection and connectivity, particularly regarding the offset process and ongoing conservation management issues including appropriate corridor management strategies and location of asset protection zones for fire management, were also of key concern.</p> <p>The Office undertook a range of research and meetings across directorates in 2011. Towards the end of 2011 the complainant lodged an application with the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) for a review of an ACTPLA planning decision. During this period the Commissioner stopped further activities in relation to this complaint. This ACAT review process was resolved by the parties at the mediation stage, with a consent order being signed in March 2012.</p> <p>In April the Commissioner met with the complainant to further determine the direction of the complaint: in particular, the lack of consideration of environmental matters at an earlier stage in the planning process and the status of the environmental advice from the Conservator. Since that time, further investigation has taken place and it is expected that recommendations will be made shortly.</p>	On going

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
June 2011	Trees	Removal of a tree for a development in City West	<p>It was determined that the Conservator of Flora and Fauna made a legal decision to remove the tree and that no appeal period was required between the decision not to register the Tree and its removal.</p> <p>With respect to the Planning Decision and Advice it was found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTPLA's advice of 27 July 2010 contradicts its advice of 17 August 2010. The OCSE was unable to determine why this occurred. • Given the context of the City West Master Plan it would be reasonable for the Development Application to have required replacement plantings. There is no reference to replacement trees in the Conditions of Approval listed in the Notice of Decision on DA201017931*. • No evidence has been provided to the OCSE of future tree plantings to achieve a replacement for the Tree, in line with directions in the City West Master Plan. It is recommended that replacement plantings should be pursued. • No evidence was provided to the OCSE that retention of the Tree was the subject of a design option. Given that the Tree was on the Interim Tree Register, and ACTPLA's contradictory advice, it would have been reasonable for a design option that included the Tree to have been presented for consideration. <p>In complex situations involving trees on the Interim Tree Register and the Tree Register, it is recommended that, where a tree is potentially adversely affected by the development, ACTPLA and the Conservator seek independent inter-disciplinary advice regarding design options. Reasons for decisions, using a triple bottom line approach, should be fully documented, including trade-offs considered.</p>	March 2012

*Notice of Decision for DA201017931 26/08/2010

Table 7: Complaints lodged in 2011–12

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
July 2011	Biodiversity	The culling of kangaroos in Canberra Nature Park	<p>Information provided by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate confirms that the number of kangaroos targeted in the June 2011 cull was aimed at achieving densities of 1 kangaroo/ha or fewer and thus was consistent with the Kangaroo Management Plan. However, these estimates of 'grassland conservation density' for kangaroos are based on research findings which are 'an initial approximation that requires further refinement'.</p> <p>The ACT Government has agreed to undertake adaptive management of grassland sites. To allow for adaptive management, there needs to be monitoring not just of kangaroo numbers but also of ground-layer vegetation. However, the intermittent approach to monitoring of herbage mass and composition, as undertaken to date, is not sufficient to allow for adaptive management.</p> <p>As a result, the following has been recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that it is appropriate for further research into this matter to be undertaken, and for the results of this research to inform the review of the Kangaroo Management Plan; • that a long-term program monitoring the effects of the culling program on herbage mass and other species be introduced at key sites in ACT nature reserves. 	March 2012
April 2012	Biodiversity / grassland management	Non compliance with land-management agreements in the Glenloch rural lease, and associated deterioration of conservation values on the lots	The Office is in the process of gathering information in order to validate the complaint and guide further actions as necessary.	Pending

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993

— Section 20(a) requirements

The *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* highlighted that while Canberra remains a very liveable city there is a need for vigilance and action to maintain the health and integrity of our environment, now and for future generations. In particular the headline indicators specify:

- the size of the average ACT resident's ecological footprint was 9.2 global hectares. This has increased by 8 per cent in five years and nearly 25 per cent in ten years;
- waste generation per person has increased 28 per cent faster than the population growth of 5.5 per cent, over the reporting period;
- greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, with ACT emissions increasing by 7 per cent between 2005 and 2009;
- generally, river water quality at Halls Crossing (where the Murrumbidgee River exits the ACT) is similar to that at Angle Crossing (where that river enters the ACT);
- urbanisation is having an impact on a number of indicators of water quality; and
- during the reporting period, three new nature reserves were added to our conservation reserves, while three additional species were listed as vulnerable.

Several key environment and sustainability draft policies have been released and/or finalised in the past year. These include:

- *Weathering the Change Action Plan 2* (Draft Action Plan 2), December 2011;
- *Draft ACT Planning Strategy*, October 2011;
- *ACT Sustainable Energy Policy 2011–2020*, September 2011;
- *Transport for Canberra 2012–2031* policy, March 2012; and
- *ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011–2025*, December 2011.

It is critical that implementation, monitoring and reporting on these strategies and policies remains a strong priority.

In financially uncertain times, there is a need for responsible and efficient use of resources. However, it is essential that in this setting we continue to recognise that the environment underpins our social and economic wellbeing and we invest appropriately for the future of our city, our community and our ecosystems.

Driving forces of environmental change

The *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* identified four driving forces that exert pressure on our environment: climate, consumption, population, and land use and transport.

Climate

Climate change is a global phenomenon that will bring additional pressure to the Territory's water resources and biodiversity, and may significantly change the patterns of bushfire and extreme weather events. Long-term weather trends in the ACT appear to reflect the impacts of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events: El Niño events tend to produce hotter summers (as occurred in 2008–09) and La Niña events produce cooler summers in the ACT (as occurred in 2010–11). Long-term trends are also consistent with climate-change predictions of hotter and drier conditions, along with more extreme climate events.

The impacts of climate change will also place pressure on infrastructure, including health care systems, water and electricity infrastructure, and green infrastructures such as nature parks, urban trees and open spaces, which will in turn lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is also likely to place increased pressure on leaseholders and land management authorities to ensure a buffer against more extreme weather events. With careful planning and management, climate change may bring some opportunities for the ACT. For example, rural land might be a focus for carbon sequestration activities such as planting more trees, restoring and extending native grasslands, assimilating organic waste from urban areas, and capturing environmental and economic benefits of increased soil carbon.

Consumption

Canberrans are, on average, the most affluent people in Australia, with relatively high disposable incomes allowing the purchase of luxury goods and services. Reflecting this consumptive lifestyle, our waste generation per person has increased by 28 per cent since 2007–08, while population has increased by only 5.5 per cent.

In 2008–09 the size of the average ACT resident's ecological footprint was 9.2 global hectares. This has increased by 8 per cent in five years and nearly 25 per cent in ten years.

The impacts of the ACT's high consumption are predominantly felt outside our borders. ACT consumption of food requires large areas of land for crops, pasture and forest — elsewhere in Australia or elsewhere in the world. This results in land clearing and modification, placing pressure on ecosystems outside the ACT.

Local impacts of ACT consumption include the loss of open space and agricultural land to housing development, and increased traffic congestion or increased time spent on shopping for goods from a growing number of retail outlets.

In the longer term, our consumptive lifestyle plays a role in generating global impacts, driving climate change through greenhouse gas emissions, reducing and polluting water supplies and depleting global biodiversity.

It will be a complex process to reduce our ecological footprint, and it will require balancing competing priorities, making trade-offs and challenging our personal attitudes and values. There is no single approach or single actor who can make these changes. Collaboration between citizens, governments, business and other non-government sectors is essential in addressing this challenge.

Population

Projected population growth and demographic change may provide benefits such as additional professional and technical skills and knowledge for the community. It also poses some serious challenges.

A growing population will require additional housing and associated transport, energy, water and waste infrastructure, along with educational, medical, retail, recreational and other services. This can place extreme pressure on our natural resources, as well as limit the ability of government to provide required infrastructure, services and support.

Land use and transport

Changes in the type and intensity of land use over time place pressure on the environment and on all species, including people living within this natural environment. Land-use changes can be very visible, such as vegetation clearing, soil erosion and exotic weed infestation, or more subtle, such as contamination of soils and groundwaters. Since 2007–08, the urban footprint of the ACT has increased by about 9 per cent. However, we still have a large system of protected areas and open space, with about 58 per cent of ACT land zoned for conservation purposes.

Land-use practices and urban development, both within and upstream of the ACT, have had impacts on the health of rivers and streams in the ACT. In particular, water quality has been diminished by increased loads of sediments and nutrients, decreased oxygen concentrations, higher water temperatures, reduced flow, and more frequent algal blooms.

The way land is used in urban areas also affects people's quality of life, influencing the amount of privacy, space, natural amenity and noise experienced by the residential population, with potential human health effects. Over time, our urban development and transport habits have changed, with increasing density, decreasing use of public transport and a progressive reduction in size of single residential blocks.

Our nature reserves, together with our street and park trees, form a major part of Canberra's green infrastructure. It provides essential ecosystem services and supports our economic and social systems as well as biodiversity. Protecting biodiversity and enhancing green infrastructure are essential parts of establishing a future liveable city.

Balancing the needs of future generations of both human and other species in the ACT will require innovative ideas and planning for all sectors of the community.

Emerging issues for the ACT environment

The *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* identified a number of emerging issues for sustainability and the environment in the ACT. In particular, the two largest challenges are:

- reducing our consumption;
- balancing urban development with the protection of ecosystem values and services.

Further, the 'Time to Talk: Canberra 2030' community consultation found that most Canberrans want a green and sustainable city that limits urban sprawl.

A sustainable city is arguably one that balances environmental, social and economic needs. Residents should have access to appropriate, affordable housing, in proximity to work and recreational opportunities along with community facilities such as schools, shops, medical and other services. Also, a sustainable city offers an integrated transport network that allows people to move between energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings.

While this may seem daunting, there are many examples of positive action by government, community and businesses in the ACT which we can build on. These are highlighted in 'Sustainability Stories' in the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*. They include development of community gardens, the bottle-free zone at University of Canberra, community groups, government, business and other organisations working together to improve river health, and helping vulnerable people in the community while providing waste management through OzHarvest Canberra (now called The Yellow Van).

Horizon scanning

During the year, this Office undertook a horizon-scanning consultation project as part of State of the Environment reporting. The project aimed to identify emerging issues in particular fields early, so as to help direct research, policy and practice. The project included two workshops, the first of which was held on 15 June 2012. This initial workshop generated thoughtful dialogue by participants drawn from many different sectors of the community. A wide array of ideas and questions about possible futures and issues was generated. Some ideas, such as moving the seat of government from Canberra, creating artificial meat, or needing to accommodate mass migrations of climate refugees, seem unlikely to materialise. Others are present and emerging opportunities and challenges for the community: for example, emerging health issues linked to our modern, largely urban, lifestyles; preservation, monitoring and advocacy regarding our local biodiversity; and new forms of urban development and property ownership, which might emerge from the current challenge of housing affordability and can respond to changing demographics and environmental demands.

A discussion paper summarising ideas from the first workshop was prepared and distributed to a wider group of participants who met in a second workshop in July 2012. Processes such as horizon scanning, which encourage discussion of some of the otherwise unexpected futures, can help us as a community to take action now and into the future.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993

— Section 20(b) requirements

As required by Section 20(b) of the Act, this Office reports on progress made by the ACT Government Directorates in implementing any recommendation made in a State of the Environment Report under Section 19 or in a special report under Section 21. Special reports are those arising from any investigation initiated by the Minister or the Commissioner, including in response to complaints.

This Annual Report outlines progress in implementing recommendations in relation to the *2007–08 ACT State of the Environment Report*, the Grasslands Investigation, the Tree Investigations, and two complaints in 2010.

First, we present the Commissioner's assessments made in a new audit of past recommendations (Tables 8–11). Then, separate from the audit, Tables 12–14 summarise measures taken during the year by, or for, the Territory to implement other recommendations in the State of the Environment Report of 2007–08, and the Grasslands and Tree investigations.

The information in Tables 12–14 is as advised by the relevant ACT Government Directorates.

Audit of past recommendations

During 2011–12, the Office undertook a more thorough audit of past recommendations. The process involved selecting recommendations arising from past investigations, complaints and the *2007–08 State of the Environment Report*, and examining their implementation. For this audit, the Office asked two Directorates — Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD), and Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) — to provide detailed information on work that has been, or will be, undertaken to implement recommendations.

The help and assistance provided by these Directorates and their staff is greatly appreciated.

The Commissioner's assessment of progress is presented in Tables 8–11, with his comments. His assessment is based on information gained from the Directorates' written responses (provided in full at Appendixes 3(a), 3(b)), and from meetings between Directorate staff and the Office to discuss progress on recommendations and view relevant documentation.

In summary, there has been progress made on many of the recommendations. However, it is clear that improved record-keeping would assist in tracking implementation of the recommendations and improve the ability to monitor and report on changes to our environment.

The audit process has highlighted that a small number of recommendations, that Directorates had previously advised have been implemented, still contain gaps or are partly implemented.

The following investigations and reports were audited:

- Complaints in August and October 2010 (Table 8): Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve; Hazard reduction actions at Mulanggari Nature Reserve;
- Grasslands Investigation (Table 9);
- Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Removal Program (Table 10); and
- *ACT State of the Environment Report 2007–08* (Table 11).

Table 8: Audit responses to recommendations from Complaints

Audit responses to recommendations from complaints			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1, 2 and 4</p> <p>1. That the tour be progressed as a pilot, and in so doing:</p> <p>a. approvals and permits are to be obtained prior to the tour commencing. This includes, but is not limited to approval from the Conservator as required under Section 67 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>;</p> <p>b. monitoring of environmental, social and heritage impacts should occur, as proposed by Territory and Municipal Services; and</p> <p>c. a strategy for monitoring and managing cumulative impacts should be developed and implemented before any future tours are approved.</p> <p>2. The policy for commercial activities outlined in the <i>Namadgi National Park Plan of Management 2010</i> should be applied to tour operators operating in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve until the Tidbinbilla Plan of Management 2011 is finalised.</p>	<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>a. Partially implemented;</p> <p>b. Partially implemented;</p> <p>c. Not implemented; however, future tours have not been approved.</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Partially implemented</p>	<p>1. a,b,c. While TAMS response indicates that monitoring has been undertaken by staff, no formal records of monitoring activity exist. The lack of formal record keeping hinders the ability of TAMS to track the impacts that may occur from the commercial tours.</p> <p>2. There have been no further tours in Tidbinbilla; as such, there was no necessity to refer to the <i>Namadgi National Park Plan of Management 2010</i>. The draft Tidbinbilla Plan of Management was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services in 2011. The Committee's report included recommendations regarding monitoring and assessment of tourism impacts. The final Plan of Management is being considered by Government.</p>	<p>1. As well as the written responses from ESDD and TAMS, the Office spoke to relevant staff and was provided with a copy of the Conservator's letter of consent and a copy of a document looking at potential risks associated with the tours and mitigating strategies designed to address these risks.</p> <p>2. The Office has sighted the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services report on the Inquiry into the Tidbinbilla Draft Plan of Management, dated April 2012.</p>

Audit responses to recommendations from complaints

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 continued</p> <p>4. A comprehensive policy for commercial operations on land zoned as National Parks, Nature Reserves and the Googong Foreshore should be developed. This policy should be supported by guidelines for assessing any tourism applications and have protocols for communication, especially with the community.</p>	<p>Recommendation 4: Partially implemented</p>	<p>4. An overarching plan has not been developed; however, some plans are in place for individual sites that contain a framework for how these activities should be undertaken, including measures to manage visitor impacts to the sites.</p> <p>The Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water is conducting an inquiry into current and potential ecotourism in the ACT and region, which may assist the development of a comprehensive policy for commercial operations.</p>	<p>4. General guidance on undertaking commercial activities and operations within land zoned as National Parks, Nature Reserves and the Googong Foreshore is included in some of the relevant plans of management viewed by the Office; for example, the Draft Tidbinbilla Plan of Management.</p>
<p>Hazard reduction actions at Mulanggari Nature Reserve and its impacts on threatened species and ongoing research in the reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1–3</p> <p>1. The 2009–10 Bushfire Operations Plan — Ecological Guidelines Specified Conservation Actions, outline a minimum grass height of 10 cm be retained when slashing, while the Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) Fuel and Fire Suppression Guidelines outline a minimum grass height of 20 cm be retained when slashing. It is recommended that this inconsistency be addressed so that these documents align and, further, are also consistent with the National Action Plan for Striped Legless Lizard.</p>	<p>Recommendation 1: Fully implemented</p>	<p>1. The height inconsistency has been addressed by Conservation, Planning and Research (CPR) within ESDD by updating the <i>2011–12 Bushfire Operational Plan Ecological Guidelines</i> that are provided to TAMS, to specify a minimum grass height of 20 cm to be consistent with Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) Fuel and Fire Suppression Guidelines for the ACT (2008).</p>	<p>1. The 2011–12 Bushfire Operational plan was sighted by the Office.</p>

Audit responses to recommendations from complaints

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Hazard reduction actions at Mulanggari Nature Reserve and its impacts on threatened species and ongoing research in the reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1–3 continued</p> <p>2. Monitoring of the area burnt in the Outer Asset Protection Zone and any future areas burnt in the Mulanggari Nature Reserve may increase the knowledge of fire impacts on lowland native grassland management. It is recommended that this occur.</p> <p>3. TAMS' proposed burn had the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national significance. Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands is listed as an endangered ecological community under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). The Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. TAMS therefore appropriately undertook an assessment to inform a decision on whether or not to refer the 'action' (proposed burn) to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Although all correct procedures have been implemented, it is recommended that, given that the ACT does have a Conservator of Flora and Fauna whose role is to consider and act on high-level conservation issues within the ACT, it would be appropriate that this person make the decision as to whether or not the assessment warrants a referral under the EPBC process.</p> <p>This same principle should apply to all actions proposed by ACT Government Agencies that potentially affect threatened or vulnerable communities under ACT legislation or areas of ecological significance in the ACT.</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: Not implemented</p> <p>Recommendation 3: Not implemented</p>	<p>2. ESDD did not monitor the Mulanggari burn because of the size and timing of the burn. It is not clear why this did not occur. If this area is identified for burning in the TAMS 2012–13 Bushfire Operational Plan (BOP), ESDD have advised it will be monitored by them.</p> <p>3. Not implemented; however, measures are in place to seek the views of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna in relation to impacts of the proposed burns on areas of ecological significance. Under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> (EPBC Act) it is the proponent who must (decide whether or not to) refer the action; in this case, this is TAMS.</p> <p>It is appropriate that any action that may impact on an area of ecological significance be referred to the Conservator for their expert advice and to determine whether the decision warrants a referral to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act. If the Conservator advises that a referral is required then TAMS as the proponent will seek this EPBC referral.</p> <p>It is understood that ESDD will consider this process as part of the current review of the Nature Conservation Act 1980. ESDD will continue to review the annual TAMS BOP to provide information on potential ecological impacts. This review includes the EPBC-listed species and communities that occur within the ACT.</p> <p>Should potential ecological impacts be identified they would be included in this review.</p>	<p>2. Not applicable, refer to Appendix three for the Directorate's written response.</p> <p>3. The Office has sighted the Conservator's assessment on the potential for impacts on conservation values associated with the Bushfire Operational Plan.</p>

Table 9: Audit responses to recommendations from the Grasslands Investigation

Audit responses to recommendations from the grasslands investigation			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
Recommendation 3: As part of the current review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> (ACT), ensure that lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland ecosystems, are protected by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna having powers to direct, when necessary, that land management actions be undertaken.	Implemented	Whilst the review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act</i> is yet to be completed, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna already has the power to direct that land management actions be undertaken under Section 60 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> . The Conservator's directions can only be made in relation to native plants, native animals and native timber. Broader ecosystems and ecological communities are not specifically covered. The review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> should consider this matter.	The Office has examined Section 60 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> to verify this.
Recommendation 9: Amend the <i>Canberra Nature Park Management Plan</i> (1999) to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan No. 28, <i>ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy</i> (2005); • the new nature reserves of 'Callum Brae' (part JE02), Jerrabomberra West Reserve (JE03), Jerrabomberra East Reserve (JE05). 	Not implemented	There were some inconsistencies in the responses received from TAMSD and ESDD. Whilst both indicated that the review of the plan is a priority, TAMSD suggested that it will follow the completion of other plans currently under review and is subject to resourcing. ESDD indicated that they are working closely with TAMSD on a program of review for all plans of management for public land areas in the ACT, and that Canberra Nature Park is considered to be a high priority and it is anticipated that the review of the plan is likely to commence in 2012. New nature reserves such as Callum Brae and Jerrabomberra West are expected to be included when the Plan is reviewed. The inconsistency may be resolved with the formation of a steering group of ESDD and TAMS officers to progress the review in 2012/13.	Not applicable, refer to the Directorates responses at Appendix three.
Recommendation 19: Undertake experimental ecological burns on selected sites to determine the appropriateness of a wider application for managing lowland native grassland sites in the ACT.	Partially implemented and ongoing	Since the Investigation's completion in 2009, only one experimental ecological burn (for <i>Swainsona recta</i> , Small purple pea, in Kambah in 2011–12) has been undertaken. The species response will be monitored in the upcoming (2012–13) flowering season. The Commissioner notes that <i>Swainsona recta</i> habitat was registered on the ACT Heritage Register in March 2011.	Parks Conservation and Lands Management report that the <i>Swainsona recta</i> 2010 survey states that controlled burning was planned as a management action in autumn 2011. No monitoring information on the burn was provided; however, as noted, monitoring will be undertaken during the 2012–13 flowering season (see Directorate's response at Appendix three).

Audit responses to recommendations from the grasslands investigation			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Recommendation 21:</p> <p>Improve the ecological condition of sites that are in a critical condition, or approaching this state, by reducing current threatening processes of weed invasion, inappropriate mowing and overgrazing by stock, rabbits and kangaroos as a matter of urgency. Specifically:</p>		<p>It is noted that the ACT Government is not responsible for the management of grasslands on all sites; some of these sites are managed by the Commonwealth Government or the National Capital Authority. The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will write to the Commonwealth agencies in the 2012–13 financial year seeking a response to the recommendations relevant to those agencies. Not all the measures on sites managed by the ACT Government have been undertaken.</p>	<p>Various documents were provided to the Office relevant to Recommendation 21.</p> <p>In relation to weed control the Office received The ACT <i>Environmental Weed Control Operational Plan</i> (eWOP) 2011–2019 and other Invasive weeds data including documents outlining expenditure on invasive plant control generally and in the areas covered by the recommendation.</p>
<p>In Majura Valley</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the number of kangaroos on 'Malcolm Vale' (MA04) and Majura West (MA06). There is also a need to continue to manage kangaroos on the Majura Training Area (MA01) while not detrimentally affecting adjacent native woodland. strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits on Majura West (MA06). <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Majura Training Area (MA01) and 'Malcolm Vale' (MA04).</p> <p>(Strategically located temporary kangaroo-management fencing should be considered for placement around Campbell Park (MA05) and possibly parts of Majura West (MA06) if the stock and kangaroo densities in this general area are not reduced within the next six months. This is a temporary measure to protect the Grassland Earless Dragon habitat.)</p>	<p>Majura Valley:</p> <p>Partially implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>The Office was advised that in some instances the response of the grassland to removal of stock has reduced the need to manage other sources of grazing pressure (e.g. Majura West and 'Cookanalla').</p> <p>However monitoring evidence to support this has not been provided.</p>	<p>In relation to mowing of Native Grass Sites the Office received a copy of the the TAMSD Contract Performance Monitoring System Horticulture and Cleaning Contracts, for the Woden/Weston and Inner North Regions, requiring mowing performance and native grass sites to be monitored on a twice-yearly basis. However monitoring evidence to support this has not been provided.</p> <p>The 2011 Native Grass Land Sites Inspection Sheet for Woden/Weston was provided which included sites on Lady Denman Drive.</p> <p>The <i>Native Grass Sites</i> booklet 2001 was supplied to the Office, the booklet outlines appropriate mowing practice for native grasslands sites.</p> <p>Native grass sites mowing maintenance and mowing frequency directive (November 2011) was also sighted by the Office.</p>

Audit responses to recommendations from the grasslands investigation			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Recommendation 21: continued In Jerrabomberra Valley</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the number of kangaroos on Jerrabomberra East Reserve (JE05); strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits on 'Cookanalla' (JE08). <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Harman Bonshaw South (JE06) and Harman Bonshaw North (JE07).</p>	<p>Jerrabomberra Valley: Partially implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>No information was provided on reducing kangaroo numbers in Jerrabomberra East Reserve. The Office was advised that in some instances the response of the grassland to removal of stock has reduced the need to manage other sources of grazing pressure (e.g. Majura West and 'Cookanalla').</p> <p>No information provided on rabbit control, or reducing kangaroo numbers.</p>	
<p>In Gungahlin</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced on Crace Nature Reserve (GU03) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the number of kangaroos; strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits. <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Crace Nature Reserve (GU03), at Wells Station Road (GU07) and Nicholls (GU08).</p>	<p>Gungahlin: Partially implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>TAMSD have a comprehensive <i>Environmental Weed Control Operational Plan</i> that sets out the areas for weed abatement treatment. Weed control work was undertaken in 2011–12 at Crace and Wells Station Road.</p> <p>No information was provided on destocking and rabbit control.</p>	<p>Weed control and mowing documentation as noted above.</p>

Audit responses to recommendations from the grasslands investigation

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Recommendation 21: continued In Belconnen Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and reducing the number of kangaroos and controlling rabbits on Dunlop Nature Reserve (BE02) and 'Jarramlee' (BE03); • reducing the number of kangaroos on Ginninderra Experimental Station (BE01); • reducing the number of kangaroos and controlling rabbits on Caswell Drive (BE10). <p>Given the size and location of this site, it may be necessary to reduce the number of kangaroos on land in the vicinity of this site rather than concentrating only on this site.</p> <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Umbagog Park North (BE04 (b)), and in the areas of Lawson Territory (BE07) that may affect the Lawson Commonwealth – Belconnen Naval Transmission Station (BE08 (a)) site.</p>	<p>Belconnen: Partially implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>No work has been undertaken to reduce kangaroos or rabbits on Dunlop Nature Reserve or Jarramlee and no kangaroo control has occurred on Caswell Drive.</p> <p>A licence to cull kangaroos was issued for Ginninderra Experimental Station.</p> <p>Weed Control Works were carried out at Umbagog Park.</p>	<p>In relation to work undertaken in the Belconnen region, the Office has received a copy of the licence to cull kangaroos at Ginninderra Experimental Station and the information on weed control as noted above.</p> <p>Weed control and mowing documentation as noted above.</p>

Audit responses to recommendations from the grasslands investigation			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Recommendation 21: continued In Canberra Central</p> <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on York Park, Barton (CC05); Yarramundi Reach (CC06); Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); and Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09).</p> <p>Mowing regimes should be revised to enhance grassland conservation for Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); and Black Street, Yarralumla (CC11).</p>	<p>Canberra Central: Partially implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>Weed control works in Yarralumla, were undertaken for Chilean Needlegrass, Serrated Tussock and African Lovegrass at Dudley St, Yarralumla 2011–12. Chilean Needlegrass control work has been undertaken at Guilfoyle St Yarralumla in 2011–12.</p> <p>Native grass site were mown to 300 mm, in February 2012 at Dudley St and Guilfoyle Streets in Yarralumla. Lady Denman Drive Yarralumla was assessed by Parks and Conservation Service and scored through the biodiversity triage developed by NSW DPI. The biodiversity triage showed the site to be of lower priority than other sites and it did not reach the funding threshold for works in 2011–12.</p> <p>The ecological values factored into the mowing regime are outlined in the <i>Native Grass Sites</i> booklet (NGS). The Office has been advised that the NGS is constantly revised; however, the mechanisms for implementing and recording the revisions are unclear. It is unclear whether the mowing regime has been revised; however, a directive from the manager detailing requirements for mowing native grassland sites indicates that changes have been made to the mowing practices. TAMS also advise that urban native grass sites for contract mowing are performance-monitored twice a year.</p> <p>Unrelated to the Yarralumla sites, there has been additional work done in the Bass Gardens native grasslands site.</p>	<p>Weed control and mowing documentation as noted above.</p>

Audit responses to recommendations from the grasslands investigation			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
<p>Recommendation 22:</p> <p>The ACT Government and the Australian Government commit to taking a strategic approach to protecting lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland, threatened-grassland species, and fostering sustainable development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> giving priority to protecting all Category 1: Core Conservation Sites that contain Natural Temperate Grassland and key threatened-grassland species, and ensuring that these areas are not affected by development proposals; placing in a reserve, where appropriate, Natural Temperate Grassland sites in Category 1: Core Conservation Sites. If this is not possible, these grassland areas and associated species should be conserved and managed as if they were in a reserve. integrating conservation values with development considerations for all Category 2: Complementary Conservation Sites and Category 3: Landscape and Urban Sites and ensuring connectivity is retained or enhanced; developing an offset policy (that includes identification of offset restoration sites) for loss of lowland native grassland, particularly Natural Temperate Grassland, due to development. 	Partially implemented	<p>This recommendation is largely implemented, although part 5, the development of an offsets policy, has not been completed. Whilst the development of this policy is currently underway through a national process, the given recommendations related to offsets in both the <i>Report on the investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves), the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores</i>, and the <i>State of the Environment Report 2011</i>. Finalisation of the policy or an interim policy is strongly encouraged.</p> <p>It is noted that half of the Category 1 sites are now conservation areas. The only significant loss of Category 1 has occurred at the airport with Commonwealth Government approval. A strategic environment assessment seeking to protect all core 1 and 2 Natural Temperate Grasslands is expected to be undertaken in the Jerrabomberra Valley.</p>	Not applicable, see Appendix three for Directorate responses.
<p>Recommendation 29:</p> <p>Assess the ecological values of Evatt Footbridge; Wells Station Road (GU07); Nicholls (GU08); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); Belconnen Pony Club (GU06); Lawson Commonwealth – East (BE08(b)); and Mitchell (GU05).</p>	Progress on this recommendation is unclear as no evidence was provided.	The Office was advised that some ecological assessments have taken place and assessments of remaining sites are ongoing and occur seasonally in optimal conditions. However, monitoring evidence has not been provided to support this.	Nil see Appendix three for Directorate responses.

Table 10: Audit responses to recommendations from the Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Removal Program

AUDIT RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INTERIM REPORT ON THE DANGEROUS AND HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
Recommendation 1: It is recommended that a tree replacement policy for streets and parks be developed and adopted by TAMS.	Not implemented	A tree replacement policy for streets and parks is under development and will form part of the ACT Government Tree Management Policy. It is expected that policy will be finalised late 2012.	Not applicable, see Appendix three for Directorate responses.
Recommendation 4.6: Publishing the policies and procedures on the TAMS website as soon as possible and keeping them up to date with future changes.	Not implemented	2009 is the latest information on the website. However a TAMS overhaul of all website material is currently underway.	Not applicable see Appendix three for Directorate responses.
Recommendation 7: That the TAMS tree assessment form be modified to include information relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retaining a tree, or part of a tree in a park, for habitat; and • replanting options. 	Fully Implemented	The TAMS in-house online tree assessment form has been modified. It now includes drop down menus to identify the trees that are to be retained but require habitat pruning and those that will be removed and require replanting options.	The Office has viewed the tree assessment form used by TAMS officers.

Table 11: Audit responses to recommendations from the ACT State of the Environment Report 2007–08

AUDIT RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2007–08			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
Recommendation 4: Conserving biodiversity Improve the scientific knowledge of managers and custodians of the ACT nature conservation estate by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. continuing existing research, monitoring and evaluation programs; b. ensuring threatened species and communities, and river biodiversity are the subject of research and monitoring programs, with results from these informing management actions; c. monitoring and evaluating fire fuel management effectiveness and its effects on ecological and catchment conditions. A central and uniform source of information on all ACT fuel reduction activities, research, monitoring and evaluations should be created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implemented and ongoing b. Partially implemented c. Not implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. While existing monitoring programs for many threatened species continue, not all threatened species, communities and river biodiversity are monitored. 	The Office has received copies of monitoring reports for the following threatened species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Spider Orchid; • Brindabella Midge Orchid; • Button Wrinklewort; • Tuggeranong Lignum; • Ginninderra Peppercress; • Tarengo Leek Orchid; and • Small Purple Pea. 4. b., c. see Appendix three for Directorate responses.
Recommendation 1b: Catchment quality Monitoring the effects of urbanisation on the ACT region's water catchment and using the information in developing and implementing strategies in response to specific issues (for example, development of greenfield sites).	Not implemented	It is noted that there is a proposed new catchment management strategy which will focus on monitoring and water quality improvement. However, no timeframe for its completion has been provided.	Not applicable see Appendix three for Directorate responses.
Recommendation 2b: Resource use Amending the Territory's <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> to include greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and/or carbon neutrality targets for the transport sector, and specific efficiency targets, such as energy efficiency per person or persons per kilometre travelled.	Partially implemented	The <i>Transport for Canberra</i> strategy includes new measures to report on emissions from the Transport Sector as part of the annual <i>Transport for Canberra</i> report card. It is expected that sector-specific targets will be considered as part of the finalisation of the Government's 'Weathering the Change Action Plan 2'.	The Office viewed the <i>Transport for Canberra</i> strategy.

AUDIT RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2007–08

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Documentary support
Recommendation 4b: Resource use Progressing a domestic and business organic waste collection system.	Implemented	Some progress has been made on the provision of domestic and business organic waste collection through the ACTSmart program which is funded through to 2014. However, the outcome of studies into the effectiveness and efficiency of domestic organic waste collection indicate that this will not go ahead.	The Office has viewed the ACTSmart <i>Business</i> and ACTSmart <i>Office</i> programs map. Ministerial Press Release 15 December 2011.
Recommendation 4f: Resource use (ii and iii) Establishing an ACT e-waste consortium, including Australian and ACT Government agencies, universities and CIT, CSIRO, businesses, industry and other major e-waste generators to: (ii) raise awareness about e-waste; (iii) develop e-waste minimisation and management strategies.	Not implemented	Whilst the recommendation has not been implemented significant progress on e-waste management has occurred. The ACT became the first jurisdiction to divert all computer and televisions (e-waste) from landfill by introducing mandatory recycling for televisions in 2011, complementing the mandatory recycling for computers introduced in 2005. More focus needs to be placed on raising awareness and management strategies.	Not applicable, see Appendix three for Directorate responses.

Recommendations in State of the Environment reports

This year, the Office released the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011* for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2011, with twenty-two recommendations. The Government's response to the report, tabled on 5 June 2012, supported or supported in-principle nineteen of the recommendations, and gave in-part support for Recommendations 7, 10 and 19. The Government response is too recent for any measures taken by, or for, the Territory to

implement these recommendations to be reported in this Annual Report. The Office will report on implementation of the recommendations in the 2012–13 Annual Report.

This year's Annual Report focuses on the continued implementation of recommendations made in the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2007–08*.

Table 12 summarises measures taken during the year by, or for, the Territory to implement these recommendations, excluding those examined in the audit above which are reported in Table 11.

Table 12: Progress in implementing recommendations from the State of the Environment Report 2007–08

Recommendation	Progress
Climate change	
1. Ensure an effective response to climate change by:	ESDD has provided the following advice:
a. giving a high priority to implementing the ACT Government's 'Weathering the Change' strategy and action plan;	a. The ACT Government has commenced development of 'Weathering the Change Action Plan 2' (AP2). A community consultation process was held on a draft document, with AP2 expected to be finalised for release in 2012. AP2 will guide the ACT in meeting its legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets.
b. the Commissioner's Office annually assessing the progress made in implementing 'Weathering the Change'; in particular, the ACT Government's progress towards carbon neutrality;	b. ESDD reports progress in its annual report. The Commissioner may review this progress consistent with the objectives of its Act.
c. the Commissioner, working with the ACT Government and key environmental and business groups, advocating climate change actions and community involvement; and	c. The ACT Government welcomes such initiatives as consistent with existing practices.
d. asking the Australian Government to establish a new weather station in the ACT and ensuring data is adequately correlated with previous data from the weather station at Canberra International Airport.	d. The Bureau of Meteorology confirmed in 2010–11 that a new weather station has been established at the Canberra International Airport.
Air quality	
1. Make outdoor air quality data and information available to the public through an annual air quality report prepared by the Environment Protection Agency.	ESDD has provided the following advice: 1. The Environment Protection Authority prepares an annual air quality report which is publicly released by 30 June following each reporting year.

Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. Gain a better understanding of indoor air quality to inform building design, maintenance and use by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. monitoring selected public and private buildings with the results being made public and used to inform management of the buildings; b. providing information to the community on the importance of regularly introducing fresh air into buildings; c. advising occupants of new or renovated buildings and those with new furniture and fittings (such as carpet and underlay) to air the house as much as possible in the first few days following installation. 	<p>2. a,b,c.</p> <p>Indoor air quality in the workplace is an occupational health and safety issue which is the responsibility of the Office of Regulatory Services.</p> <p>The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging has a publication dealing with this issue, which is referenced in the Indoor Air Quality indicator.</p>
Conserving biodiversity	
<p>1. Strengthen the nature conservation estate by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. completing the Territory's nature conservation estate by protecting the few remaining areas of high conservation value, including Natural Temperate Grasslands (in the Majura and Jerrabomberra valleys), Yellow Box–Red Gum Grassy Woodlands (at Kinlyside, Kama–Molonglo Valley) and the Snow Gum–Candlebark Tableland Woodland. This must include full assessment and recording of the location and condition of remaining examples of Snow Gum–Candlebark Tableland Woodland. b. protecting lands identified for nature conservation under the Territory Plan in a timely manner. Priority should be given to Jerrabomberra East native grassland nature reserves. c. considering Gorooyarroo and Mulligan's Flat nature reserves (Yellow Box–Red Gum Grassy Woodlands) for designation as a national park. It may be that Gorooyarroo–Mulligan's Flat should be part of a network of areas considered for designation as a national park or be given additional protection and recognition by some other overarching designation. 	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>1. a,b.</p> <p>ESDD has advised that work is about to commence on production of a detailed vegetation community map for the ACT. Recording the locations of Snow Gum–Candlebark Tableland and Box Gum Woodlands at these sites is a priority. Preliminary results should be available by the end of the 2013–14 financial year.</p> <p>Jerrabomberra East is currently protected and managed as if it were a nature reserve. The draft Territory Plan variation process has yet to be commenced.</p> <p>The Eastern Broadacre Planning process has identified that the grasslands at West Majura should be added to the reserve estate, and they are currently managed as such. All other Natural Temperate Grasslands in the Majura Valley are on Commonwealth land. Detailed investigations to inform forward planning for parts of the Symonston area in the Jerrabomberra Valley are currently underway, with grasslands and threatened species habitat recognised as major constraints to development. Prior to any development occurring, a Territory Plan variation and amendment to the National Capital Plan will be required.</p> <p>The Government is committed to establishing a new woodland reserve at Kinlyside and this woodland is already being managed for conservation. The Territory Plan has yet to be varied to reflect the woodland reserve. Kama has been a reserve since 2005. Residential development within Central Molonglo has been removed in perpetuity from being considered as a future urban area.</p> <p>c. ESDD has advised that this recommendation has been implemented.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. Strengthen partnerships by:</p> <p>a. ACT Government agencies working with qualified community groups (such as the Canberra Ornithologists Group) to ensure data collected are made available for use in planning and managing the Territory's natural resources.</p> <p>b. ACT Government and Australian Government agencies, and private landholders responsible for managing native grasslands cooperating with the scientific community and community groups in developing management actions that will ensure survival of threatened grassland communities and the species they support.</p>	<p>ESDD and TAMSD have provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. The Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) continues to provide data to the Conservation Planning and Research Unit in ESDD for use in planning and managing ACT natural assets. Wildlife data has been made available by COG to inform the Jerrabomberra Draft Master Plan. COG are also working to provide data related to avifauna of the Kama Nature Reserve and surrounds. A report is expected in 2012.</p> <p>b. The Government, in partnership with Greening Australia (Capital Region) and with assistance from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative is engaging with rural landholders in the ACT to protect and enhance threatened grassland communities on rural leased land. This is supported by a sophisticated native seed collection and management system run by Greening Australia (Capital Region), CSIRO Plant Ecology, the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the ACT Government. This program includes development of seed production areas to grow seed for grassland species as well as trials in the establishment of these species in order to restore more complete diversity to areas. This work on conservation of grasslands is also supported by an extensive community-based monitoring program working in partnership with the ACT and NSW Governments and surrounding local governments. The ACT Government, as a partner in the Kosciuszko to Coast collaboration, is working to develop a Grasslands Conservation Network for south-eastern NSW, including the ACT and the Monaro. This project is supported by the Myer Foundation.</p>
<p>3. Achieve effective nature conservation management by:</p> <p>a. finalising, implementing and monitoring management plans, with all stakeholders participating and progress being publicly reported, particularly for:</p> <p>(i) Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve Management Plan;</p> <p>(ii) Lower Cotter Catchment;</p> <p>(iii) Namadgi National Park; and</p>	<p>ESDD and TAMSD have provided the following advice:</p> <p>(i) <i>Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve Plan of Management</i> was finalised in 2010 and implementation is ongoing;</p> <p>(ii) No advice was provided on the implementation of this recommendation;</p> <p>(iii) <i>Namadgi National Park Plan of Management</i> was finalised in 2010 and implementation is ongoing;</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>3. a. <i>continued</i></p> <p>(iv) Googong Foreshores;</p> <p>b. finalising, implementing and monitoring the ACT Weeds Strategy;</p>	<p>(iv) Googong Foreshores Plan of Management is expected to be finalised by mid-2012 and approval and publication are expected in 2013. 2012 will also likely see the finalisation of the Tidbinbilla Plan of Management. Additionally, work is well progressed in developing a statutory management plan for the Molonglo River Park, and work has commenced on the renewal of the Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management.</p> <p>b. The <i>ACT Weeds Strategy</i> was finalised in consultation with the community; implementation began in April 2009. Progress has been made on the three key goals of the strategy, which are to prevent new weed problems, reduce the impact of priority weeds and enhance the capacity and commitment to solve weed problems. Prompt action by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (ACTPCS) has contained new weed incursions into the Territory.</p> <p>Each financial year the ACTPCS produces an Environmental Weed Control Operations Plan, which prioritises weed control across the Territory. The highest priority is to control the most invasive weeds that threaten high conservation-value areas. The ACTPCS has produced <i>Environmental Weed Management Guidelines</i> for all the commonly controlled invasive weeds in the Territory. These guidelines are updated annually to reflect new information about control methods, such as the availability of new herbicides.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>3. continued</p> <p>c. maintaining and enhancing connectivity between core nature conservation areas. This needs to be given a high priority in planning greenfield and urban renewal developments and major infrastructure projects.</p> <p>d. developing and implementing an interim policy to allow for limited commercial seed collection on selected unleased sites, pending completion of the review of the Nature Conservation Act;</p> <p>e. assessing and implementing mitigation actions on the potential impact of illegal fishing on the remnant population of the threatened Macquarie Perch (<i>Macquaria australasica</i>) in the Cotter Reservoir and the Cotter River between the reservoir and Pierces Creek junction;</p> <p>f. finalising, implementing and monitoring the kangaroo-management plan for the whole Territory. Consultation with the community is to occur at the planning stage.</p>	<p>ESDD and TAMSD have provided the following advice:</p> <p>c. A connectivity analysis that identifies key woodland and forest habitat, the functioning links between them, and how connections and wildlife movement can best be maintained and enhanced is nearing completion. Initial results are already being utilised in the planning of new greenfield development across Gungahlin and in major infrastructure projects such as the Majura Parkway, and solar farm proposals. Results from the analysis will shortly be available on ACTmapi.</p> <p>The Australian National University's Fenner School was commissioned to undertake a study to address 'Action 34: Develop an ecosystem connectivity map of the climate change strategy'. The report, <i>Ecological connectivity for climate change in the ACT and surrounding region</i>, provides information on the areas that should be targeted by restoration activities to enhance connectivity and habitat value, and will also identify key linkage and habitat areas that should be protected. Further connectivity studies have been undertaken.</p> <p>Improving connectivity is a key aim of the woodland restoration program, which was granted \$1 million over four years in the 2010–11 budget.</p> <p>ESDD has been successful in securing Commonwealth grant funding through the Biodiversity fund over six years for 'Building restored resilient landscapes in the ACT and greater Goorooyarroo'. This project will consolidate and connect the largest remaining Box–Gum Grassy Woodland landscape in Australia (60,000 ha), enhancing a biodiverse and carbon-storing landscape, resilient to climate change. In addition to the Woodlands Restoration Program, this project will focus on restoring landscapes around and between reserves.</p> <p>ESDD and TAMSD have provided the following advice:</p> <p>d. An interim policy on seed collection in the ACT was signed by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna in October 2008. This policy has been implemented through the licensing process under the Nature Conservation Act. These licences allow for commercial seed collection on selected sites according to the conditions of the policy.</p> <p>e. Macquarie Perch populations in the Cotter Dam and River are monitored annually. The population is continuing to expand its range into the upstream areas of the Cotter River. The fishing exclusion zone on the lower Cotter River is due to be expanded to take into account the increased Cotter Reservoir size after the dam enlargement.</p> <p>f. The ACT Kangaroo Management Plan was finalised in 2010 and extensive community consultation was undertaken during preparation of the plan.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
4. See Table 11 above	
5. Effectively control pest plants and animals to minimise adverse affects on nature conservation by:	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>ESDD is working with TAMSD to consider the impacts of climate change on weed distribution.</p> <p>ESDD is currently working with TAMSD to develop a Pest Animal Management Plan for Rabbits.</p> <p>TAMSD advised our Office that existing programs to control pest animals have continued or been enhanced including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fox baiting at Googong, Rob Roy and Gigerline nature reserves, and around the perimeter of Mulligans Flat Sanctuary to reduce predation on native species; • in cooperation with adjacent landholders baiting is also undertaken at East and West Jerrabomberra Grassland and Callum Brae before lambing; • foxes are also effectively controlled in border areas of Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve where 1080 baiting is conducted for wild dog control; • ongoing management of wild dogs/dingoes for protection of livestock in cooperation with ACT and NSW landholders, and NSW land management agencies; • following a review of its wild dog baiting activities TAMS' monthly 1080 baiting program now targets 347 bait stations. The full-time wild dog trapper is also retained. • wild dog baiting using M44 injectors was introduced at two sites in Namadgi National Park; • the annual Namadgi National Park feral pig management program is undertaken each May with 1080 grain baiting conducted over 11 broad areas encompassing most of Namadgi; • feral horse controls in Namadgi — there are currently no known feral horses in Namadgi; however, monitoring remains in place to detect horses that might move into the Park. <p>Funding for rabbit control has fluctuated but was boosted in 2011–12 by an additional \$200,000.</p> <p>Since 2007–08, an average of \$1.8 million has been spent per annum on priority environmental weed infestations in high conservation-value areas. In 2011–12, expenditure was increased to \$2.5 million, due to new initiatives to cope with the spread of weeds and willow debris from the summer floods. In addition, an average of 5058 hours per annum of Park Ranger time is spent on environmental weed control. This is the equivalent of having two rangers working full-time on invasive weed control.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>5. continued</p> <p>a. continuing existing programs to manage known pest animals (foxes, dingoes/wild dogs, pigs, rabbits, feral horses) and plants (Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort, Chilean Needlegrass, African Lovegrass). Given the significant increase in rabbits, existing rabbit control programs may need to be enhanced.</p> <p>b. monitoring and controlling emerging pests, such as European wasps and deer. Given that European wasps affect humans as well as biodiversity there is a need to give priority to this species.</p> <p>c. evaluating the effectiveness of pest animal and weed control programs in achieving pest control, biodiversity conservation and catchment management objectives. This information should be used in the ongoing management of such programs, and be made public.</p>	<p>TAMSD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>c. All vertebrate pest management conducted by ACTPCS has ongoing operational and performance monitoring built into the programs.</p> <p>The impacts of pest animals on biodiversity are interrelated with many factors and are generally difficult to quantify. Performance monitoring of pest programs therefore mainly relies on measurement of indices of pest abundance, for example sand-pad monitoring of foxes, spotlight counting of rabbits, and plots to measure ground-rooting by pigs. Feral horse impact is monitored from fixed photo-points at sphagnum bogs and grassy flats, while wild dog impact is monitored from collated reports of livestock losses.</p> <p>Monitoring results are reported in the ACTPCS Vertebrate Pest Management Annual Report, which is available to the public.</p> <p>An ACT-wide snapshot of environmental weed cover abundance was done in 2009–10 to compare with the 2019 targets. Another snapshot will be done in 2013–14. The 2009–10 snapshots showed where additional resources were needed and contributed to the large increase in weed control expenditure in 2011–12.</p>
Catchment quality	
<p>1. Improve catchment management by:</p> <p>a. developing an ACT integrated water supply catchment management policy and strategy to guide, among other things, coordination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) scientific research; (ii) data collection; (iii) monitoring and reporting (including public information); <p>b. (see also Table 11 above) monitoring the effects of urbanisation on the ACT region's water catchment and using the information in developing and implementing strategies in response to specific issues (for example, development of greenfield sites);</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. ESDD has advised that both the Review of <i>Think water, act water</i> and the revised Draft Strategy stemming from that Review have made significant reference to an increased focus on integrated catchment management in the ACT. That focus incorporates the points highlighted by the Commissioner.</p> <p>b. The revised Strategy is currently undergoing internal review.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>3. continued</p> <p>c. monitoring the effectiveness of the Gross Pollutant Trap network (including its supporting maintenance program) to identify ways to improve its overall effectiveness in protecting surface water quality;</p> <p>d. determining the sources and loads of salts entering the wastewater treatment networks and using the information to develop strategies to reduce salt discharges to the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee rivers;</p> <p>e. ensuring the key indicators in the <i>State of the Environment Report, Natural Resource Management Plan</i> and other relevant ACT Government reports are reviewed and aligned.</p>	<p>c. ESDD (Water Policy) has indicated a more comprehensive and strategic monitoring program across the ACT as part of the revised draft Strategy. TAMS (Roads) continue to be responsible for the maintenance program of the Traps, while EPA will continue to undertake the regulatory function associated with surface water quality.</p> <p>d. A revised and more strategic monitoring program will identify the sources of increased salt loading, and will lead to the development, where required, of strategies to reduce the discharges. EPA through its licensing and enforcement duties will report on the required standards.</p> <p>e. ESDD has advised that this recommendation has been implemented.</p>
<p>2. Further progress restoration efforts in the Lower Cotter Catchment by:</p> <p>a. continuing the science-based approach to management, with an emphasis given to monitoring and publicly reporting on recovery of this catchment;</p> <p>b. further reducing water turbidity in streams through targeting areas of greatest vulnerability that have high rehabilitation potential;</p> <p>c. clearly defining recreational activities, with protection of water being the highest priority.</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. The revised draft Water Policy (ESDD Water Policy) emphasises the importance of a scientific-based approach to integrated catchment management, including the Lower Cotter. EPA will continue to undertake the role of enforcing environmental standards and approvals that enhance the catchment recovery efforts.</p> <p>b. Water Policy, in conjunction with responsible line areas, will identify strategic areas of turbidity and greatest vulnerability for rehabilitation. EPA will concentrate on enforcement of turbidity standards with an increased focus on the agreed standards and source points of the problem.</p> <p>c. Water Policy will work with appropriate line areas and ACTEW to determine the appropriate recreation activities across the catchments of the ACT. EPA will enforce the standards set and report and take the appropriate regulatory action on breaches of the standards.</p> <p>The <i>2010 Namadgi National Park Plan of Management</i> identifies the ecological and hydrological integrity of the water catchment as a primary management objective. Acceptable recreational activities are linked to management zones, with the protection of the water catchment assuming highest priority.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
Resource use	
<p>1. Use resources more wisely by:</p> <p>a. developing and implementing a sustainability community awareness program(s) on:</p> <p>(i) waste minimisation and/or avoidance that emphasises this as the fundamental first step (before re-use, recycling or disposal) in effective waste management;</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>(i) The Government released the <i>ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011–2025</i> in December 2011. The strategy has ‘less waste generated’ as its first objective, with education and awareness-raising campaigns to encourage waste avoidance and product reuse as the first action under that objective.</p> <p>The ACT already has a substantial suite of activities occurring in the realm of waste and sustainability education. ACT NOWaste education initiatives are estimated to reach over 10,000 people each year. The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative is now active in 128 ACT schools. The ACTSmart programs target businesses and households with initiatives around waste management, energy and water use efficiency: http://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/.</p> <p>The ACTSmart <i>Business</i> and ACTSmart <i>Office</i> programs provide assistance and accreditation to businesses and offices in the ACT to encourage and support the adoption of efficient waste management and recycling. This recommendation forms part of the <i>ACT Sustainable Waste Strategy</i>.</p> <p>To date, 493 sites across the Territory are participating in these programs, including major shopping centres, fast food outlets, Canberra Stadium, Manuka Oval, Calvary Health Care and the Tuggeranong Hyperdome. Currently 85 sites are accredited, meeting the recycling standard set by the programs. Over 27,000 staff have access to the programs.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>1. a. <i>continued</i></p> <p>(ii) prudent and smart use of water and energy;</p>	<p>(ii) As at 30 June 2012, 37,956 households had received advice from the Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT); 6,295 had audits completed on their homes; and 2,980 had received rebates as part of the ACT HEAT energy audit program.</p> <p>Following a successful trial program, an expanded Outreach program to assist low-income households was implemented in June 2011. With new funding announced in the 2011–12 Budget, this program will continue until the end of 2014–15.</p> <p>The Outreach program assists low-income residents to improve the energy and water efficiency of their homes, reduce their energy and water consumption bills, and contribute to reducing greenhouse emissions. Working through community welfare organisations, it provides energy-efficient essential home appliances, assessments, education and retrofits to low-income households.</p> <p>Approximately 1,112 low-income households were assisted by the program in 2011–12.</p> <p>In 2011–12, the Water and Energy Savings in the Territory (WEST) program, which is an ongoing partnership between the Directorate, YWCA, Housing ACT, ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Sustainability Advice Team Pty Ltd, was administered as part of the Outreach program.</p> <p>52 commercial businesses have signed up to the Commercial Bathroom Retrofit Program since it commenced in February 2009. Matching funding of up to \$20,000 per building was available to participants for the replacement of single-flush toilets and installation of water-efficient tapware, urinals and showerheads. 22 rebates have been provided. A review of the program in 2011–12 has resulted in its closure with the funds being redirected to a trial energy and water efficiency program for small businesses in 2012–13.</p> <p>The ToiletSmart and ToiletSmart Plus programs assist ACT homeowners to replace their single- or older dual-flush toilets with 4-star water-efficient dual-flush toilet suites. ToiletSmart Plus options include a free home water audit and some additional low-cost water saving fixtures and repairs. Pensioner Concession Card holders are eligible to receive one free toilet suite and one free water-efficient showerhead. At 30 June 2012, 7,048 toilets had been replaced with 4-star efficient toilets through the program since it commenced in May 2008. Of these, 2,229 had been supplied and installed free of charge to holders of pension concession cards.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>1. a.(ii) <i>continued</i></p>	<p>The GardenSmart program educates and assists participants to implement long-term, water-efficient and sustainable gardening practices by providing a free garden advisory service and a \$50 water-efficient garden product rebate. Since the start of the program in January 2005, 6,857 have participated in GardenSmart, with 2,336 claiming the rebate.</p> <p>The IrrigationSmart program assists Canberra residents improve the performance of their automated (programmable) irrigation system. The program includes a home visit by an IrrigationSmart Assessor and access to a \$100 rebate for improvements to the irrigation system. During the service, the irrigation specialist assesses the condition and effectiveness of the household's programmable irrigation system and provides advice about how to operate and program the system efficiently. Participants receive a report which includes the recommended watering schedule for each season, advice on improvements for their system, a maintenance checklist, fact sheets and a free rain gauge. Since the program commenced in February 2012, 183 IrrigationSmart visits have been conducted.</p> <p>The rainwater tank rebate program, which closed on 30 June 2012, has provided 2,018 rebates for the installation of rainwater tanks with an internal plumbing connection and 72 rebates for the installation of the plumbing connection to an existing tank, since it commenced in 2004.</p> <p>The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative in the ACT (AuSSI ACT) helps schools understand and reduce their energy and water use and waste production as well as enhancing biodiversity. At 30 June 2012, all 128 ACT schools had registered with the initiative. This accounts for 66,000 students.</p> <p>Since commencement of AuSSI ACT in 2007, 110 schools have received a comprehensive water audit. Work is continuing in schools to implement the recommendations of the completed indoor water audits.</p> <p>The AuSSI also works collaboratively with the ACT Education and Training Directorate in the delivery of an energy efficiency program. All government schools (with the exception of the two schools opened in 2011 (Gungahlin College and Namadgi School) have received a comprehensive energy audit. AuSSI staff have delivered the energy audit reports to every school, discussed recommendations and delivered the AuSSI ACT Energy Best Practice Guide. AuSSI ACT also supports the delivery of the energy efficiency program through teacher professional-development workshops.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>1. a. <i>continued</i></p> <p>(iii) better building design, particularly for energy and water efficiency; and</p> <p>(iv) the relationship between i, ii, iii and climate change and sustainability, including the effect on the natural environment.</p> <p>(iv) the relationship between i, ii, iii and climate change and sustainability, including the effect on the natural environment.</p> <p>b. requiring all ACT Government agencies to report annually on their use of water, energy consumption, waste generation, and actions they propose undertaking to use resources more efficiently;</p> <p>c. ensuring sustainability criteria are used to guide the assessment, planning and management of new uses for buildings no longer needed for school purposes (as per the <i>Towards 2020: Renewing Our Schools</i> program) and any other buildings disposed of as surplus to Government requirements.</p>	<p>(iii) No advice provided.</p> <p>(iv) Nonetheless, the Government recognises more can be done in this area and new initiatives in the area of waste and sustainability education are currently being developed. A number of programs and campaigns, including AuSSI, have sought to explain the links between individual actions and climate change more broadly. New campaigns will target messages to be as effective as possible.</p> <p>b. All government agencies report on these matters in their annual reports.</p> <p>The Commissioner's Report, <i>An Audit/Assessment of ACT Government Agencies' Environmental Performance Reporting 2010</i>, submitted to the Minister on 22 October 2010, examined agencies' environmental resource-use reporting, including the accuracy of data reported, and made recommendations to help the ACT Government and government agencies.</p> <p>The Government is yet to respond to that report.</p> <p>ESDD has provided the following advice.</p> <p>ESDD is establishing a Sustainability Data Management System (SDMS) that will support the provision of complete, consistent and accurate resource-use data across Government. The SDMS includes provision for additional sub-meters to more accurately collect data, and a program of specific training for Directorates.</p> <p>ESDD and the Economic Development Directorate (EDD) have provided the following advice:</p> <p>c. The Government's <i>Real Estate Policy</i> includes <i>Evaluation Guidelines for Properties Identified as Potentially Surplus</i>. These Guidelines set out the triple-bottom-line criteria to be used in the evaluation of all properties declared as potentially surplus. In 2011–12, three former school sites (Urambi Primary School site in Kambah, Village Creek Pre-school site in Kambah, Higgins Primary School site) were evaluated using triple-bottom-line criteria.</p> <p>The 2012 version of the <i>National Construction Code</i> with all amendments has been adopted through legislation. The ACT has committed to national consistency in building standards. The <i>Building Code of Australia</i>, which forms part of the <i>National Construction Code</i>, now requires minimum 6-star energy ratings. The <i>National Construction Code</i> has also incorporated the national plumbing code which is contributing to implementation of sustainable water-efficiency measures.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. Progress sustainable transport by:</p> <p>a. continuing to implement and support the Territory's <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) finalising and implementing a Territory parking strategy (with supporting actions) for ACT lands and those in the parliamentary triangle (it will be important to ensure that the Australian Government supports this strategy); (ii) developing a pedestrian action plan, in consultation with the community, to foster walking, particularly for commuter trips; <p>b. (see also Table 11 above) amending the Territory's <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> to include greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and/or carbon neutrality targets for the transport sector, and specific efficiency targets, such as energy efficiency per person or persons per kilometre travelled;</p> <p>c. developing and discussing with the community a paper on long-term innovative sustainable transport options for the Territory. Pending the results of this work, update the Territory's <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> to include any government-adopted options. An independently chaired, multidisciplinary taskforce should be charged with developing options, consulting the community and reporting to government.</p> <p>d. (see also Table 11 above) the Commissioner's Office annually assessing the progress made in implementing the <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i>;</p> <p>e. the Commissioner working with the ACT Government and key environmental and business groups to advocate that the community travels in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. ESDD has advised that the Government's <i>Transport for Canberra</i> policy was released on 19 March 2012, and it replaces and updates the <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i>. <i>Transport for Canberra</i> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a strategic parking framework, including a commitment to continue to work with the Australian Government to progress pay-parking in the parliamentary zone; and (ii) an active travel policy, which aims to promote walking and cycling for commuting and all trips as the healthier, more sustainable travel options. <p>b. <i>Transport for Canberra</i> includes a monitoring and reporting framework that will include greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. The ACT's legislated greenhouse gas emission reduction targets include a goal of carbon neutrality by 2060, which is not sector-specific. The pathway to short- and long-term emissions reductions will be established in 'Weathering the Change Action Plan 2'.</p> <p>c. <i>Transport for Canberra</i> was developed based on community feedback from 'Time to Talk' and formal consultation on the draft policy in late 2011, including more than 60 submissions from peak bodies, community groups and individuals.</p> <p>d. The new policy and action plan, <i>Transport for Canberra</i>, replaced the <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> on 19 March 2012 and will be the foundation for transport planning for the next 20 years. The plan includes a range of actions to be undertaken over the next 2–10 years. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the MyWay ticketing system; • actively planning for transport options such as light rail or bus rapid transit in new public transport infrastructure planning and design; • continuing to provide and promote bike racks on buses; and • the release of a low emissions vehicle strategy by June 2013. <p>e. <i>Transport for Canberra</i> includes a commitment to promote sustainable travel options across the ACT community. Programs including active travel to school are already underway.</p> <p>Our Office continues to advocate that the community travels in a sustainable manner through its <i>What can I do?</i> Campaign.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>3. Manage land effectively by:</p> <p>a. continuing to implement the <i>Canberra Spatial Plan</i>, particularly focusing on achieving higher densities and maintaining ecological corridors;</p> <p>b. undertaking a Territory-wide land degradation assessment of erosion and soil salinity, and mapping the results;</p> <p>c. determining the long-term use of all forestry land burned in the 2003 bushfire (some significant areas have already had their long-term land uses defined).</p>	<p>EDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. The ACT Government continues to focus on achieving a balance between greenfield and infill (particularly for higher density residential development) as articulated in the <i>Canberra Spatial Plan</i>. This is demonstrated through its land-release approach, as described in its <i>ACT Indicative Land Release Programs 2012–13 to 2015–16</i>.</p> <p>The ACT Government continues to maintain ecological corridors (as articulated in the <i>Canberra Spatial Plan</i>) as demonstrated through its work, in coordination with the Australian Government, through the strategic environmental assessment under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) in Molonglo, and other referrals in other parts of Canberra including Belconnen and Gungahlin.</p> <p>In addition, work continues within the ACT Government to coordinate land release in the remaining development areas of Gungahlin, to ensure that EPBC Act matters and critical ecological corridors in the ACT are protected.</p> <p>ESDD has advised that the <i>Canberra Spatial Plan</i> will be subsumed as Canberra's Strategic Plan when the ACT Planning Strategy is finalised and approved. The draft final ACT Planning Strategy provides a focus on these recommendations.</p> <p>b. ESDD has advised that soil monitoring kits, developed for use by the Catchment Management Authorities in New South Wales, will be deployed in projects that the Natural Resource Unit (in ESDD) is undertaking.</p> <p>c. TAMSD has advised our Office that the long-term uses for many significant areas have already been defined. Areas to the east of the Murrumbidgee have been defined as residential, community, recreational or for the arboretum. Areas to the west of the Murrumbidgee that lie within the Cotter Catchment have been set aside for water catchment and are being replanted with native plants. Some of the remaining areas of as-yet-undetermined land use have been replanted with pine to retard erosion until the ACT Government determines the future of forestry and the land it occupies. The new ACT Planning Strategy will address the future growth of the city, but at present there are no proposals to change the existing uses of land currently zoned for forestry.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>4. Further advance waste management by:</p> <p>a. developing and implementing a waste minimisation/avoidance action plan with specific measurable performance measures; No Waste would be an appropriate inspirational goal rather than being used as a target (for example, <i>No Waste by 2010</i>);</p> <p>b. <i>See Table 11 above</i></p> <p>c. developing and implementing a Business Waste Reduction Strategy that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) reducing waste; (ii) recycling and reusing waste; (iii) collecting and reporting on data; (iv) holding a business waste forum to encourage innovative and cost-effective approaches for reducing waste; <p>d. increasing community education and promotion to further reduce recyclables in potential landfill waste;</p> <p>e. providing more facilities for recycling in public places and at major events.</p> <p>f. <i>See Table 11 above</i></p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. ESDD has advised that an implementation plan for the ACT Waste Management Strategy is currently under development. It will include specific and measurable performance measures. The strategy includes the target of full resource recovery by 2025 — this is estimated equate to less than 10% of waste generated going to landfill. The strategy also includes the target of reducing the growth in waste generation to below population growth by 2020.</p> <p>c. (i),(ii) The ACTSmart <i>Business</i> and <i>Office</i> recycling programs target recycling of waste as well as waste reduction.</p> <p>(iii) ACT NOWaste conducts an annual survey of business recycling rates. ACTSmart <i>Business</i> and <i>Office</i> participants also report their waste and recycling data for accreditation purposes.</p> <p>(iv) Over the last 24 months three business waste forums have been held by NOWaste, promoting innovation and collaboration in reducing waste, increasing recycling and improving waste management in the ACT. Another is scheduled for 2012.</p> <p>d. See response to Recommendation 1a., above.</p> <p>e. A trial ACTSmart Public Event recycling program commenced in 2011 to assist organisers implement recycling facilities for their event and to provide the public the opportunity to recycle at that event. As at June 2012, 33 events have participated in the program, including Floriade, The Multicultural Festival, the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show, school fetes and sporting events. The TAMSD advised our Office that the 2011–12 budget provided funding for public place recycling that was implemented in Civic in early 2012. The Public Place Recycling Program will be evaluated by 2014 with a decision made on the possible expansion of public place recycling by 2015. ACTSmart Public Events initiated a 12-month trial in 2011 providing recycling facilities at public events. Furthermore, Manuka Oval and Canberra Stadium are members of the ACTSmart Business program and have implemented recycling for all sporting events held at these grounds.</p> <p>The ACTSmart <i>Business</i> recycling program has supported the implementation of recycling facilities in a number of public spaces, including Canberra Stadium, Manuka Oval, Tuggeranong Hyperdome, Questacon, Calvary John James Hospital and Calvary Health Care.</p> <p>The Government is also trialling public-place recycling in Civic.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
Community wellbeing	
<p>1. The community is kept informed and engaged in progressing the implementation of key government community strategies including:</p> <p>a. <i>Affordable Housing Action Plan</i>;</p>	<p>EDD and the Community Services Directorate (CSD) have provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. During the reporting period, the Economic Development Directorate (EDD) released the second <i>Affordable Housing Action Plan</i> progress report. This report is available publically on the EDD website and outlines progress against the 84 initiatives in that Action Plan. EDD has advised the Office that 55 of these have been completed and 26 are ongoing or underway.</p> <p>The third phase of the <i>Affordable Housing Action Plan</i> was recently released and the documents are available on the EDD website. Phase 3 introduced 14 additional actions to the Action Plan and focuses on four main areas: increasing the supply of rental accommodation; better utilising existing sites; relieving the blockage to affordable purchasing; and releasing more sites for short term accommodation.</p> <p>In 2011–12 the Community Services Directorate introduced two schemes that are designed to deliver affordable housing options to older Canberrans. Under these schemes, properties are made available on a rental or long-term lease basis to eligible older people. At 30 June 2012, 23 properties have been signed up on the Affordable Rental scheme. The Lease/Licence scheme is a long-term lease option which provides ‘affordable home ownership’ for older people who own their homes and are facing housing affordability issues. Six applications have been received to purchase a property under the Lease/Licence scheme. At 30 June 2012 no properties have been purchased under this scheme.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. Community wellbeing and safety is strengthened by:</p> <p>a. encouraging community health programs, particularly those aimed at exercise, healthy eating, mental wellbeing and minimising excessive alcohol consumption;</p>	<p>The Health Directorate has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. The Health Directorate has initiated a number of measures to improve community health in line with this recommendation.</p> <p>These include localised support for the Australian Government's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure Up — 'Swap it, Don't stop it' social marketing campaign, which encourages people to make sustainable, incremental changes in their lifestyle choices; • Go for 2 & 5[®] social marketing campaign, which promotes the importance of fruit and vegetable intake in a healthy diet; • Find 30 Every Day[®] social marketing campaign to increase awareness of the need for regular exercise; • Kids at Play Active Play and Eating Well Early Childhood Project, which provides organisations responsible for early childhood services with support to promote the five key messages for early childhood healthy habits: breastfeeding; switching to active play; reducing screen-based recreation time (i.e. TV and computer games); drinking tap water (and limiting sweet drinks); and consuming fruit and vegetables; • SmartStart for Kids Program, funded to screen children for health-risk factors and provide a school-based program for higher-risk children; • Healthy Food at Schools project, including support for schools to implement the National Schools Canteen Guidelines in partnership with Nutrition Australia; • Healthy Food at Children's Sports project in partnership with Sport and Recreation and local sporting organisations; • Active Travel to Schools project to support the development and implementation of local school-based solutions; <p>and participation in national initiatives such as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Protect your child from swine flu' campaign; • Better General Health program for people with mental illness, which provides clients who have chronic mental health issues with a range of general health interventions such as immunisations, health screening and prevention messages; • Tap into Water social marketing campaign, which promotes water as the drink of choice; this was supported by the design and construction of portable water-dispensing units during 2011–12, which are now available for loan at community events; and

Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. a. <i>continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding of the Heart Foundation's 'Active Living' agenda: Heart Foundation Walking, Heartmoves, a gentle exercise program for adults with risk factors for chronic disease, and also advocacy of the inclusion of Active Living urban-planning design principles into local planning processes to promote active transport and active recreation; and • provision of a free information and telephone-based health coaching service, the Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service® to assist adults to identify and reach their health goals; and • implementation of Phase 1 of the Australian Government's Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI), which focuses on reducing the prevalence of overweight and obesity in at-risk adults who experience relatively high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage (e.g. unemployment) by increasing access to and involvement in registered healthy lifestyle programs and initiatives; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —activities to date include, but are not limited to, the delivery of a number of nutrition education events in collaboration with Community Health dietitians, Nutrition Australia and the Red Cross Foodcents program, lifestyle modification programs to the ACT and engagement in BEAT It, which targets diabetes. <p>Also, implementation of a variety of workplace health promotion activities, including the Health Directorate's Smoke-Free Workplace policy; and development and piloting of a number of resources to support workplace health and wellbeing programs. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My health—the Health Directorate's new staff health and wellbeing program, which provides its employees with increased access to information and programs that support healthy lifestyle change in areas such as physical activity, nutrition, smoking and emotional health and wellbeing; • Obesity and Injury Prevention Management: the Health Directorate is taking the lead to facilitate a whole-of-government response to two specific health problems: obesity and physical injury; • Dry July initiative, which benefits the ACT by raising funds for oncology services at the Canberra Hospital from people who give up alcohol for the month of July; the program also provides details of the benefits of stopping, or at least minimising, alcohol consumption; • under the Australian Government National Binge Drinking Strategy, the rolling out of the Early Intervention Pilot Project (EIPP) across all jurisdictions as an initiative coordinated by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and state and territory health services, to divert young people under 18 years caught intoxicated, or in possession of alcohol, into health services;

Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. a. <i>continued</i></p> <p>b. implementing an ongoing awareness program aimed at preventing vehicular collisions with kangaroos;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Program (YDAP), which provides a service to young people with complex alcohol and other drug issues; the program provides a high-level service to young people with complex needs requiring long-term support and psychotherapy, both within the justice system and to those who self-refer; • a chlamydia awareness campaign to target young people at risk of developing chlamydia and related sexually transmitted infections through a range of social marketing and peer education strategies; • funding of a range of community organisations to provide mental health wellbeing programs, community education in relation to mental illness, crisis management and suicide prevention education, mental health education for schools, support for mental health advocacy services and mental health psychosocial rehabilitation services. <p>These campaigns are supported through information on the Health Directorate website and through a range of media, including television, radio and print advertising.</p> <p>TAMSD advised our Office that an ongoing awareness program is pursued through media alerts and media releases at times of the year, such as winter, when the likelihood of collisions with kangaroos is highest. Areas at high risk of vehicular collisions with kangaroos are signposted. This is considered sufficient to maintain driver awareness of the risk of kangaroo collisions.</p>
<p>3. Noise management is improved by:</p> <p>a. informing the community, at point of sale, of ways to mitigate the noise impacts from air conditioners with external fans (information on energy consumption should also be supplied at point of sale);</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. ESDD is actively engaged in the development of the Noise Labelling Scheme for noisy domestic articles including air conditioners through the Noise Labelling Working Group since 2008. The option — Community and installer education programs — is considered to be critical for the effectiveness of the scheme in the draft Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement. The Noise Labelling Working Group is consulting further with the air-conditioner industry before finalising its recommendations on air conditioners.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>3. continued</p> <p>b. ensuring entertainment venues provide appropriate noise attenuation. In so doing they will need to meet planning and environmental conditions. The effectiveness of conditions that the Planning and Environmental Protection agencies impose should be monitored.</p>	<p>b. This recommendation is being considered in light of planning policies for commercial zones in the review of Territory Plan.</p> <p>In consultation with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), ACTPLA varied Development Codes within the Territory Plan to identify a number of uses which would require that a Noise Management Plan, that has been prepared by an accredited acoustic specialist who is a member of the Australian Acoustical Society and endorsed by EPA, be provided. Some of the uses identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • club; • drink establishment; • hotel; • industry (except light industry); • indoor entertainment facility; • restaurant. <p>The Noise Management Plan details the design, siting and construction methods, which will be used to minimise the impact of noise on neighbours.</p> <p>Further discussion is currently being entered into between the Planning and Environment Protection agencies to further refine the development codes to ensure appropriate protection is applied to both sensitive receivers, and in the case of known entertainment precincts (i.e. Manuka) the current entertainment venues.</p>
<p>4. The Territory's heritage is better protected by:</p> <p>a. asking the Australian Government to take account of the need for adequate heritage protection in the ACT when making changes to National Capital Authority responsibilities, including requiring the Authority to observe and comply with ACT heritage legislation;</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice:</p> <p>a. The National Capital Authority has planning control over Designated Areas. The Development Application process for places located on National or Designated Land is vested in the National Capital Authority. As such the Heritage Council is unable to provide statutory advice on development applications and conservation outcomes for those places.</p> <p>However, the National Capital Authority agreed in 2005 to consult with the Heritage Council regarding proposals affecting heritage places on Territory Land within Designated Areas where they are on the ACT Heritage Register. The agreement continues to be honoured.</p>

Recommendation	Progress
<p>4. <i>continued</i></p> <p>b. asking the Australian Government to ensure heritage places affected by changes to federal legislation (due to take effect in 2012) are given the appropriate level of protection (for example, the Yarralumla Woolshed).</p>	<p>b. In 2011–12 Council undertook a review of those places on the Register of the National Estate to determine those that would require priority assessment to ensure ongoing protection following the cessation of the Register of the National Estate in February 2012.</p> <p>As a result, Council have registered the following places in the 2011–12 financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canberra’s main outfall sewer; • Canberra’s garbage incinerator; • Westbourne Woods; • Weston Park; • Yarralumla Nursery; • Blythburn Cottage; • St Ninian’s Church, Lyneham; • Unmarked burial (St Paul’s Cemetery), Evatt; • Swinger Hill housing precinct. <p>In 2012–13 Council will continue this work to ensure ongoing protection for places previously on the Register of the National Estate, with priority assessments for the following nominated places, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse Park wetlands, Aboriginal sites and homestead; • Woden Homestead; • Yarralumla Woolshed; • Civic Olympic Pool; • Colverwell Graves; • Havelock House; • Northbourne Housing Flats; • Kanangra Court; • Oaks Estate; • Tharwa Primary School; • Australian Forestry School, Yarralumla; • Birch House, Yarralumla. <p>The Council also intends to re-nominate Civic Square for priority assessment in 2012–13.</p> <p>Heritage Council priorities will focus on those places on Territory Land.</p>

Recommendations from the *Report on the ACT Lowland Native Grassland Investigation*

In November 2007 the previous Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, Mr Jon Stanhope, directed the Office to undertake an Inquiry into Lowland Native Grasslands ('the Grasslands Investigation'). On 12 March 2009, the Commissioner provided a copy of her *Report on ACT Lowland Native Grassland Investigation* to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Mr Simon Corbell. The report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 26 March 2009.

The report contains 32 recommendations of which Recommendations 21 and 15 were given the highest priority. The Government's response, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 16 March 2010, was positive and agreed or agreed in principle with all recommendations.

Table 13 summarises measures taken during 2011–12 by, or for, the Territory to implement these recommendations, excluding those examined in the audit above which are reported in Table 9.

Table 13: Progress on implementing recommendations from the ACT Lowland Native Grassland Investigation Report

Recommendations	Progress
Urgent recommendations	
Recommendation 15: Immediately enforce the provisions and conditions in the land management agreement, which is a part of the rural lease for 'Cookanalla' (JE08).	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Other recommendations	
Recommendation 1: Streamline ACT Government planning and nature conservation legislation to ensure all land management matters are covered by the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> (ACT) (currently under review).	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice.</p> <p>A discussion paper was prepared to stimulate input from the ACT community into the review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>. This paper was released for public comment on 3 December 2010. Submissions closed on 18 February 2011 and can be viewed on the ESDD website. Thirty-two submissions were accepted.</p> <p>A public community forum incorporating a discussion panel of organisations and individuals speaking on a range of issues relating to the review was held on 1 February 2011. A summary of the forum discussion is available on the ESDD website.</p> <p>Recommendations progress</p> <p>ESDD is progressing the policy and legislative options to implement these recommendations as part of the review.</p>
Recommendation 2: The <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1991</i> (Cwlth) should be strengthened so sites and species are more effectively protected and managed.	A review of the EPBC Act has been undertaken, the federal Government responded to the review in 2011. The response included a 'broad package of reforms' to national environmental law with aims such as the delivery of better environmental protection focusing on whole regions and ecosystems. The federal government aims to begin implementing the reforms over 2012–13.
Recommendation 3:	See Table 9 above

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 4: Resolve the heritage status of lowland native grassland sites, in a timely manner, to assist long-term planning.</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice.</p> <p>The Conservation Council ACT Region received heritage grants for three consecutive years in the 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 ACT Heritage Grants Program to research and nominate a number of natural sites across the ACT to the ACT Heritage Register.</p> <p>The Conservation Council recommended that 17 sites in total be nominated for inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register. Of the 17 sites, ten included grassland habitats. However, the majority were also nominated for other natural features and values. Of the 10 sites, three sites were nominated solely for grassland values and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Temperate Grassland at Barton; • Grassland Earless Dragon Habitat in the ACT (comprising several areas in the Majura and Jerrabomberra valleys); and • Natural Temperate Grassland of the ACT (comprising several sites at Barton, Lawson and Majura). <p>Nine of the grassland habitats were subsequently nominated to the ACT Heritage Register, and accepted by the ACT Heritage Council as nominations.</p> <p>In 2009, a consultant was engaged to review the nominations, and provide additional detail to assist the Heritage Council in their registration process.</p> <p>Three places have now been either provisionally or fully registered on the ACT Heritage Register; they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small purple pea habitat (registered); • Button Wrinklewort habitat (registered); and • Kama woodland/grassland (provisionally registered). <p>Each registration includes multiple sites.</p> <p>The remaining nominated grassland sites will be considered by Council as part of their ongoing work to address the backlog of nominations.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: As part of the current review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> (ACT), ensure that lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland, ecosystems are protected by innovative mechanisms such as conservation leases, voluntary agreements, bio-banking and offsets are investigated and progressed.</p>	<p>A discussion paper was prepared to stimulate input from the ACT community into the review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>. This paper was released for public comment on 3 December 2010. The paper canvassed options such as conservation leases and voluntary agreements.</p> <p>ESDD advised they are progressing the policy and legislative options to implement these recommendations as part of the review. Some issues are complex, primarily because of the leasehold nature of land in the Territory.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
Recommendation 6: Existing memoranda of understanding between the ACT Government and Department of Defence, the National Capital Authority and CSIRO, with the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts being a signatory, should be updated and implemented.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 7: Develop memoranda of understanding between the ACT Government and the Department of Finance, Air Services Australia and the Canberra Airport Group, with the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts being a signatory.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 8: Establish a memorandum of understanding coordination and implementation group with an ACT Government agency being the lead agent.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 9:	See Table 9 above
Recommendation 10: Develop and implement annual site operation plans for all lowland native grassland sites.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 11: Amend the <i>Belconnen Urban Parks, Sportsgrounds and Lake Ginninderra Plan of Management</i> to include the lowland native grassland site of Lake Ginninderra (BE06).	The ESDD advised our Office that the native grassland site on Lake Ginninderra will be included in a revised management plan (revision schedule is yet to be determined).
Recommendation 12: Simplify administration of agistment licences covering lowland native grassland sites through standardising their conditions, including termination dates; and have one government agency signatory to an agistment lease.	TAMSD advised our Office that a review of provisions for agistment licences has resulted in all new licences and all reviewed licences being changed to provide for a common seven-day termination provision. The only licences being left with longer termination provisions are those managed under a land-management-type agreement. TAMSD is managing most agistment licences.
Recommendation 13: Ensure rural lease processes (including those for land management agreements) are simplified and responsibilities are clarified.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented. However, a recent complaint received by the Office indicates this may not have been fully implemented and there is more work to do.
Recommendation 14: Review the land management agreements covering Crace Nature Reserve (GU03) and Caswell Drive (BE10).	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 16: Foster a strong culture of compliance, monitoring and enforcement within the government department responsible for administering land management agreements.	The ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented. However, a recent complaint received by the Office indicates this may not have been fully implemented and there is more work to do. The Office would encourage progress on this recommendation to be ongoing.
Recommendation 17: Establish a formal monitoring; assessment and auditing process aimed at ensuring conditions in land management agreements achieve the desired ecological results.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented. However, a recent complaint received by the Office indicates this may not have been fully implemented and there is more work to do.

Recommendations	Progress
Recommendation 18: Permit grazing, under rural leases and licences, on lowland native grassland sites if it is part of a long-term conservation management strategy.	TAMSD advised our Office that grazing on rural lease and licence areas containing high conservation grasslands is only permitted after consultation with grassland ecologists who review the proposals against conservation management strategies. This advice is included in the conditions attached to grazing agreements.
Recommendation 19:	<i>See Table 9 above</i>
Recommendation 20: Give priority to weed management and implementing appropriate mowing practices as part of routine work programs.	TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
<p>Recommendation 21: Improve the ecological condition of sites that are in a critical condition or approaching this state, by reducing current threatening processes of weed invasion, inappropriate mowing and overgrazing by stock, rabbits and kangaroos as a matter of urgency; specifically:</p> <p>In Canberra Central</p> <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on York Park, Barton (CC05); Yarramundi Reach (CC06); Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); and Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09).</p> <p>Mowing regimes should be revised to enhance grassland conservation for Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); and Black Street, Yarralumla (CC11).</p>	<i>See Table 9 above</i>
Recommendation 22:	<i>See Table 9 above</i>
Recommendation 23: Plan a Majura Valley Reserve to protect Natural Temperate Grassland and its supporting species, particularly the Grassland Earless Dragon, by defining the boundaries of this proposed reserve in the near future.	ESDD has advised that targeted surveys of the Striped Legless Lizard, detailed vegetation mapping, as well as ongoing monitoring and survey of the Grassland Earless Dragon at West Majura, have helped define both the significance and extent of values of this area. The Eastern Broadacre study recognised that this grassland area should be protected for conservation, and it is currently subject to conservation management. Other grassland in the valley is owned by the Commonwealth.
Recommendation 24: Expand the Mount Ainslie Reserve to include areas of lowland native grassland in Campbell Park (MA05) and Majura West (MA06).	See Recommendation 23 above.
Recommendation 25: Expand Aranda Bushland and Black Mountain Reserve by including areas of lowland native grassland in Caswell Drive (BE10) and Glenloch Interchange (BE11).	ESDD and TAMSD have advised that the addition of these areas to the reserve network is being considered as part of rural lease resumption that will be required for the development of Molonglo Stage 3, expected to commence in about three years time.

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 26: Define the long-term land use for lowland native grassland sites, while strategically protecting lowland native grassland, particularly Natural Temperate Grassland, and progressing appropriate developments, specifically:</p> <p>‘Callum Brae’ (part JE02), excluding the land swap site. The areas of ecological connectivity need to be defined. Areas of ecological connectivity could be managed under a conservation lease or, depending on location, amalgamated with the adjoining rural lease. If development occurs, an offset should be required.</p> <p>‘Cookanalla’ (JE08) — a Grassland Earless Dragon survey is needed in conjunction with a survey to identify habitat that would support this species. Given the condition of the site, it may be appropriate to undertake surveys when the site has recovered, at least to some degree, from its current threatening processes. This site appears to lend itself to a land use that integrates conservation values with development. If areas of grassland are developed an offset should be required.</p> <p>AMTECH (JE09) — reassess the site’s ecological values as these may have changed. If this site no longer meets criteria for its current classification as a Category 2: Complementary Conservation Site, and changes to Category 3: Landscape and Urban Sites, its development potential could be realised. If areas of grassland are developed an offset should be required.</p> <p>Kaleen East Paddocks (BE09) — reassess the site’s ecological values, as they were not obvious at the time of inspection. If these values still exist and development was to occur, given the likelihood that there is only a small area of Natural Temperate Grassland remaining, this may be able to be integrated with any future developments.</p> <p>Lawson Commonwealth – East (BE08 (b)) — given the overall context of this site it appears to lend itself to a land use that integrates conservation values with development. An offset should be required if areas of grassland are developed.</p>	<p>ESDD has provided the following advice.</p> <p>Callum Brae has not been the subject of a development application to date. Following the completion of more detailed connectivity analysis for the whole of the ACT, connectivity issues at this site can be assessed when required.</p> <p>Callum Brae part blocks 14 and 15 section 102 Symonston were registered on the Heritage Register in March 2011. There is also a nomination (being assessed) of Natural Temperate Grassland habitat for Grassland Earless Dragon in parts of Symonston and Majura (by suburbs with a status 1 — nomination).</p> <p>Cookanalla has been subject to a number of environmental surveys since this recommendation was made. The distribution of Natural Temperate Grassland and Grassland Earless Dragon habitat was assessed by Osborne and Wong in 2010. This data was then verified by the Conservation, Planning and Research Unit in late 2010.</p> <p>In 2011, the consulting company SMEC undertook a vegetation assessment and recommended that this is verified when the land recovers after the extensive dry period. Biosis is currently (June 2012) undertaking a Grassland Earless Dragon survey and vegetation assessment. Report will be finalised mid-2012.</p> <p>Cookanalla is listed under the Heritage Register (by suburbs) with a status R1 — rejected. Both Natural Temperate Grassland and Grassland Earless Dragon are still extant on the Cookanalla property.</p> <p>The AMTECH site has recently been subject of an ecological investigation, which determined that about a third of the land was suitable for industrial development and two-thirds should be retained. This proposal is currently seeking Commonwealth approval.</p> <p>Kaleen East: the Commissioner’s report identified eight grassland sites that required reassessment; two of these assessments have been completed (GU07, GU08). The remaining six sites, including Kaleen East paddocks, will be completed when conditions allow in spring 2012.</p> <p>Lawson (north): the site remains under Commonwealth ownership and management.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
Constitution Avenue, Reid (CC02) — if a decision is made to develop the Natural Temperate Grassland area, an offset should be required.	Constitution Avenue: a proposal to build offices on the grassland at Constitution Avenue is currently being developed for the ACT Government. Offset options are currently being investigated.
Recommendation 27: Publish a map that shows the location of lowland native grassland sites relative to planning zones. This should be readily available through the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) and the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD).	A map of ACT's Natural Temperate Grassland is now available through ACTmapi.
Recommendation 28: Use adaptive management to guide land management so that sites in good condition (40%) are maintained, and those in a critical condition (20%) or approaching a critical condition (40%) are restored.	TAMSD advised our Office that Reserve Operations Plans are being developed for all grassland reserves in the ACT. The focus of these three-year plans is on directing management effort into restoring sites identified as being in critical or approaching critical condition. A feature of these plans is monitoring the effectiveness of management actions through a 'plan, act, measure, review' cycle with introduction of changes and improvements where monitoring indicates the initial actions were not successful.
Recommendation 29	<i>See Table 9 above</i>
Recommendation 30: Conduct an annual community and stakeholder lowland native grassland forum to, among other things, coordinate research, monitoring and data collection, and raise awareness.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 31: Establish an accessible central register of information and expertise on lowland native grassland.	ESDD advised our Office that the ACT Natural Resource Management Council will facilitate a range of information sharing forums and workshops in natural resource management, including information on lowland native grasslands. ESDD is working to make spatial information on native vegetation, including grasslands, more publicly accessible through the ACTmapi web-based facility.
Recommendation 32: Increase community awareness of the importance of lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland and the endangered grassland species.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Progress on implementing recommendations in the Report on the Belconnen Naval Transmission Station (BNTS)	
Recommendation 1: Urgent action is to be taken to restore the ecological condition of the Grasslands, and provide opportunities for the Perunga Grasshopper, Golden Sun Moth and Ginninderra Peppercreep to survive and thrive at BNTS.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 2: Kangaroos are to be removed immediately from BNTS to achieve a stocking rate of 1 kangaroo per hectare or less. This is to be done by the land manager, preferably before the end of April 2008, to prevent impacts on pasture biomass occurring during the dormant 2008 winter.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendations	Progress
Recommendation 3: Kangaroo population numbers are to be maintained at the targeted level for the foreseeable future using fertility-controlled kangaroos only. A program to maintain this situation is to be implemented as needed. (This recommendation is made on the assumption that all remaining kangaroos at BNTS will be part of fertility control research programs.)	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 4: Further reduction in the number of kangaroos at BNTS (even below the proposed stocking rate of 1 kangaroo per hectare) is to occur if recovery of the grasslands does not improve over the next growing season even if research projects are compromised.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 5: Kangaroos are to be removed from BNTS by the most humane method suitable for that site having regard to advice from the AFP that firearms are not to be used. (The Expert Panel has recommended sedating by darting followed by euthanasia by lethal injection.)	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 6: The policy of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, to the effect that translocation of eastern grey kangaroos is not an appropriate management technique, is to remain unchanged and this policy position is to be confirmed with the Department of Defence.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 7: The interim grasslands management plan and interim kangaroo management plan for BNTS are to be completed by the end of August 2008, by the land manager, in consultation with key stakeholders. These plans are to adopt adaptive management principles and be based on a stocking rate of 1 kangaroo per hectare or less before the 2008 winter.	ESDD and TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.
Recommendation 8: Conditions at BNTS are to be reported quarterly to all relevant agencies and to the Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is to establish an independent group to help evaluate progress and report on this in the Office's annual report.	No longer applicable.
Recommendation 9: A long-term grasslands management plan covering BNTS is to be developed before the abutting Lawson lands are developed for residential purposes. This plan should incorporate clear management objectives and be based on an adaptive management approach to protect the Grasslands, Perunga Grasshopper, Golden Sun Moth and Ginninderra Peppercress at the BNTS. (The interim grasslands management plan and interim kangaroo management plan (Recommendation 7) should be incorporated into the long-term plan.) This long-term plan could cover all ACT Natural Temperate Grasslands areas.	The BNTS remains under Commonwealth ownership and management.

Recommendations	Progress
Recommendation 10 The Territory is to ensure that legal measures are implemented to protect and preserve the high conservation value of the Grasslands and its threatened species when the land at BNTS is transferred from the Commonwealth to another entity. (This recommendation is made on the assumption that Territory laws will fully prevail post the transfer.)	BNTS remains under Commonwealth ownership and management.
Recommendation 11: Review of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Defence and TAMSD is to be completed by August 2008.	TAMSD have previously advised that this recommendation has been implemented.

Notes:

ACT = Australian Capital Territory; AFP = Australian Federal Police; BNTS = Belconnen Naval Transmission Station;
NSW = New South Wales; ESDD = Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate;
TAMSDD = Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

Recommendations in the *Report on the Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest*

In December 2009, the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water directed the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment to undertake an investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest ('the Tree Investigation').

The *Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Program* was prepared in response to the Chief Minister's request for early advice on the Government's Dead and Hazardous Tree Removal

program. The Government agreed to all seven recommendations in that report.

The final report on the Tree Investigation was released on 30 March 2011 and contained 43 recommendations. The Government's response was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 16 February 2012 and agreed in full or in-principle with 40 of the recommendations and sub-recommendations.

Table 14 summarises measures taken during 2011–12 by, or for, the Territory to implement these recommendations, excluding those examined in the audit above which are reported in Table 10.

Table 14: Progress on implementing recommendations from the Report on the investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest

Recommendations	Progress
Recommendation 1 (High Priority) replace the proposed Urban Forest Renewal Program with comprehensive and integrated tree protection and management focused on the care and maintenance of Canberra's treed landscape	TAMSD have advised that the implementation of this recommendation is in progress and ongoing. The Urban Forest Renewal Program has been replaced by a comprehensive and integrated tree management program. Refer to 11B.
Recommendation 2: Strengthen recognition of the treed landscape as part of the city's green infrastructure in the ministerial <i>Statement of planning intent</i> and the strategic planning framework, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the <i>National Capital Plan</i> • the <i>Territory Plan</i> • the <i>Canberra Plan</i> and its component plans • <i>Canberra Spatial Plan</i> • Capital development • Canberra Social Plan • <i>Transport for Canberra</i> • <i>Weathering the Change</i> and its supporting Action Plan. 	ESDD has advised that the <i>Canberra Spatial Plan</i> will be subsumed as Canberra's Strategic Plan when the ACT Planning Strategy is finalised and approved. The nine strategies in the draft ACT Planning Strategy provide the focus recommended. This role of green infrastructure (broadly defined and including the function of Canberra's treed landscape) has been elevated. The plan is to be progressed in 2013–14.
Recommendation 3: Improve legal protection of urban trees by: 3A: developing new tree legislation (incorporating provisions in the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i>) or amending the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> to protect urban trees on leased and unleased lands;	TAMSD has advised the Office that Recommendation 3A is to be progressed in 2013–14.
3B: reviewing existing legislation to ensure common definitions and terms for the consideration and protection of trees, consistency in exemptions, and one definition for 'built-up area' in all ACT legislation or different terms used in the various pieces of legislation.	Recommendation 3B is to be progressed in 2013–14. Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> are being considered.

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 4: Improve decision-making processes and practices for tree protection and management by:</p> <p>4A: establishing an ACT Tree Curator responsible for: (High Priority)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the statutory decision-making role of the existing Conservator under the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i>; this role should replace the Conservator's role regarding urban trees. The Conservator would retain all powers under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> and any other legislation related to conservation matters. leading TAMSD in its management of urban street and park trees; coordinating urban tree management practices and work activities across ACT Government and the National Capital Authority, and communication (especially consultation and notification processes); ensuring tree assessments and risk analyses are consistent across all ACT Government agencies; reviewing (if requested) proposed non-urgent urban tree removals undertaken by TAMSD tree assessors, be it internal staff or contractors, and for all other ACT Government agencies; 	<p>TAMSD have advised that implementation is to be progressed in 2013–14.</p> <p>Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> are being considered.</p>
<p>4B: expanding ACTPLA's Major Projects Review Group to include representatives of the Conservator and the proposed ACT Tree Curator when there is the possibility that a decision to be made by the Chief Planning Executive is inconsistent with the Conservator's or proposed ACT Tree Curator's advice;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that implementation is to be progressed in late 2012.</p> <p>Options for expanding ACTPLA's major project review group will be considered in late 2012.</p>
<p>4C: developing guidelines that outline the decision-making process and include criteria used by the Chief Planning Executive when making a decision that is inconsistent with the Conservator or proposed ACT Tree Curator's advice;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that implementation is to be progressed in 2013–14.</p> <p>Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> are being considered.</p>
<p>4D: proving a statement of reasons for the recommendations and/or decisions made by the Conservator, proposed ACT Tree Curator and the Chief Planning Executive with respect to tree removal, if requested;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that implementation is ongoing.</p> <p>New procedures for administering the tree-removal process have been implemented.</p>
<p>4E: identifying trees worthy of inclusion on the ACT Tree Register in greenfield sites as part of the structure and concept design processes and registering them before any detailed designs are prepared;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that implementation is ongoing.</p> <p>Trees worthy of registration in greenfields areas are being identified early in the design phase, assessed and registered if considered worthy.</p>
<p>4F: strategically populating the ACT Tree Register and removing the blanket coverage in selected areas;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that implementation is ongoing.</p> <p>An FTE has been allocated for the ongoing population of the Tree Register.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
4G: providing financial assistance or relief to residents on leased lands with registered trees to assist them manage (or remove) a registered tree;	TAMSD have advised that implementation has not progressed.
4H: the Conservator and proposed ACT Tree Curator monitoring and auditing compliance with their recommendations and decisions about trees, including the cumulative effects on the treed landscape of the Chief Planning Executive's decisions;	TAMSD have advised that implementation is currently underway. Processes for randomly auditing decisions and recommendations are already in place through the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> are being considered.
4I: developing principles for managing a site where a registered or regulated tree has died;	TAMSD have advised that implementation is ongoing. Principles for managing sites where regulated trees have died have been developed.
4J: preparing standard tree and risk assessment criteria for ACT Government agencies (or their contractors) with provision made for additional criteria to respect an agency's circumstances;	TAMSD have advised that this recommendation has been completed for TAMS, and there is the potential for the inclusion of other agencies to be progressed in 2013.
4K: authorising a qualified person to enter private leased land to undertake a tree assessment using standard criteria and, when a tree presents an unacceptable safety risk, the lessee is directed to remove the tree—and if this is not done, it is removed by TAMSD with costs recovered from the lessee;	Recommendation 4K was not agreed by the Government because of the significant regulatory risk, potential liability and cost involved.
4L: having powers to issue on-the-spot fines to people who knowingly and wilfully damage a tree on public unleased lands.	TAMSD have advised that the recommendation has been progressed in part and that it will be considered as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> in 2013–14. Infringement notices can already be issued where native trees are wilfully damaged, under Section 52 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> .
Recommendation 5 (High Priority): Guide Canberra's tree management by developing: 5A: a National capital–Canberra tree protection and management strategy;	TAMSD have advised that implementation is in progress and is due for completion by April 2013.
5B: an ACT Government tree protection and management policies and procedures guide;	TAMSD have advised that implementation is in progress and is due for completion by April 2013.
5C: an across-agency Tree Network Committee to provide advice and coordination between agencies on tree management and community communication.	TAMSD have advised that implementation is completed and ongoing. Committee is to meet again in August 2012.

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 6: Update existing standards and codes and address emerging issues related to habitat protection, canopy cover, solar access and protection, sustainable reuse of timber, tree irrigation, vehicular parking and information management, by:</p> <p>6A: reviewing design standards (<i>Design standards for urban infrastructure 4—road verges; Design standards for urban infrastructure 22—soft landscape design; Design standards for urban infrastructure 23—plant species for urban landscape projects; Standard specification for urban infrastructure works 09—landscape</i>) to include provisions which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote large trees in verges; • guide the location of street-tree easements based on road hierarchy; • specify distances between tree centres, especially for native species; • provide greater guidance on managing trees and solar access/protection; • better reflect all benefits of the treed landscape and ensure that green and non-green infrastructure is integrated; • promote green infrastructure technologies (for example, water sensitive urban design); • provide guidance on tree species and promote approved species being made publicly available on a website as a searchable database; 	<p>TAMSD have advised that work on implementation is in progress.</p> <p>A review of Design Standard 23 has been completed by TAMSD pending final consultation of the standard and construction of the web tool.</p> <p>Review of other design standards is to commence in August 2012.</p>
<p>6B: aligning the TAMSD Reference document 4 — landscape management and protection plans — with the standards in the Australian Standard 4970 — protection of trees on development sites; defining key terms and methods; and imposing sanctions if mandatory requirements under the Tree Management Plans are not met;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is to be progressed in 2012 as part of the implementation of Recommendation 6A.</p>
<p>6C: expanding the code of practice between the Department of Territory and Municipal Services and ActewAGL beyond inspection and maintenance activities to cover all aspects of urban tree management;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that work on implementation is currently in progress and that TAMS is currently working with ACTEW to review the code of practice as required.</p> <p>This recommendation is linked to Recommendation 5B.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>6D: improving habitat protection by:</p> <p>protecting important (remnant) trees in subdivision designs for greenfield sites based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • important (remnant) trees with ecological values that form corridors being given priority for retention and protection by being included in a park; • private leased residential lots for single detached housing not having important (remnant) trees located on them; • off-sets being used if important (remnant) trees are removed; • seeds from important (remnant) trees being collected from a greenfield site and used to enhance plantings in this area in accordance with the approved estate design; <p>(Refer to Recommendation 4E regarding the protection of all important (remnant) trees in new subdivisions.)</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that work is completed and ongoing. Processes are already in place to protect individual trees and groups of trees that provide ecological and habitat value.</p>
<p>6E: consider retaining dead trees on existing verges and in public parks that have habitat value if they can be made safe; consulting abutting residents;</p>	<p>Recommendation 6E was not agreed to by the Government for suburban nature strips because of the fact that the Urban Treescaping staff already retain suitable trees as habitat trees in suitable areas of urban parkland and adjacent to main roads.</p>
<p>6F: increasing urban tree canopy cover by using heat island mapping to strategically guide plantings, and setting canopy coverage targets for new urban and existing urban areas;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that work is in progress and ongoing and that this recommendation is linked to Recommendation 5B.</p>
<p>6G: better managing solar access and protection by developing a policy based on principles that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tree shading providing solar protection; • solar systems being installed to avoid shading from existing trees; • solar systems that are installed after a tree is planted not having priority; if the systems are relocated, this should be at the expense of the owner; • solar systems that are installed before a tree is planted having priority; if needed a tree could be pruned or removed at the expense of the tree owner; • trees on the ACT Tree Register under the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> having priority for retention regardless of solar access issues; • tree species selection and location respecting solar access and protection; • applications, based on solar access, to remove a street or park tree being considered by TAMSD if adjoining residents are consulted, and if the treed landscape can be effectively managed and the applicant is willing to cover all removal, replanting and establishment costs of a replanting; • solar energy infrastructure guidelines for installers and the public; 	<p>TAMSD have advised that work on implementing Recommendation 6G is in progress and is likely to be completed by March 2013.</p> <p>This recommendation is linked to recommendation 5B.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>6H: developing a sustainable reuse-of-timber policy based on principles that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-use of material from local urban trees, including for management and community purposes (see Recommendation 10E); • improving the ecological condition of nature reserves and other areas of open space; • minimising carbon footprint; • maximising long-term use of suitable timber; • maintaining visual amenity when considering the re-use of urban trees; • recovering financial cost of tree management where possible; 	<p>No advice was provided on the implementation of this recommendation.</p>
<p>6I: developing a tree irrigation policy with the condition, location and importance of a tree determining its priority for watering. Trees on the ACT Tree Register should be given priority;</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that is in progress and is to be completed by November 2013.</p>
<p>6J: better control of parking to protect urban trees by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising community awareness of the importance of not parking under trees on verges and in parks; and highlighting where parking is permitted; • targeting priority areas to ensure enforcement using on-the-spot fines; • legislative changes to issue on-the-spot fines for parking on public open spaces; • developing a system for all government or government agency staff and contractors to ensure that only vehicles associated with essential maintenance operations park on verges and enter parks; vehicles on a verge or in a park could have an authorisation displayed (see Recommendation 8); 	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is to be progressed in 2013–14 and that options for implementing this recommendation will be considered in proposed legislative changes.</p>
<p>6K: developing principles to guide the use of IAMS — Integrated Asset Management System for recording and accessing tree data — by all ACT Government agencies and corporations.</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is to be progressed in late 2013.</p> <p>Detailed analysis of the relative benefit of agencies other than TAMS using IAMS will need to be funded and carried out before this recommendation is adopted.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 7: Develop a policy for guiding the integration of tree removal replacement based on principles that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tree removal, replacement and establishment being an integrated process • all tree assessments being undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using the same basic criteria and risk assessment method with allowance for some agencies to use additional criteria - by a person with an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 5 or Certificate 5 in Arboriculture or Horticulture, or high level of training with a minimum of five years' experience - independently so that the tree assessor/contractor is not the same person/contractor who performs tree surgery, unless urgent circumstances exist • tree removal being avoided wherever possible with all other tree management options considered before a decision to remove is made • a replacement tree being planted unless circumstances prohibit it • trees being planted under a three-year establishment program with trees performance and local conditions • the community being informed using standard notification procedures before any tree removal, unless it is done under urgent circumstances. A period will be allowed for a community member to seek reconsideration. All reconsiderations should be undertaken by the proposed ACT Tree Curator • reasons for tree removals being made public to anyone who requests • all tree removals being undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner. 	<p>TAMSD have advised that this is implemented and ongoing.</p> <p>Improved processes for integrating tree removal with tree replacement and tree establishment plans have already to be implemented linked to recommendation 5B and 1A.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: Provide greater protection for urban trees affected by ACT Government contract procurement processes, by amending the <i>Guideline for production of tenders and contracts for construction projects using AS2124-1992 general conditions of contract</i>, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provisions to control contractors' parking so that trees on verges and in parks are protected when work is being undertaken for the ACT Government (see Recommendation 6J); • financial penalties if trees are damaged; • specifying that the contractor undertaking a tree assessment should not undertake tree surgery or removal of any trees they assess; • as a supporting document, the TAMSD reference document 4 — landscape management and protection plans (LMPP), and the proposed ACT Government tree protection and management policies and procedures guide (when written). 	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is to be progressed in 2013.</p> <p>This recommendation is linked to Recommendation 5B.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 9 (High Priority): Strengthen communication and community engagement in relation to the treed landscape by:</p> <p>9A: developing a communication policy which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes principles to guide all ACT Government agencies and corporations in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - undertaking consultations and routine maintenance notifications for trees; - providing adequate information to the community—for example, assessments involving a potential or actual tree removal should be made available to a resident or member of the community on request; • includes the recommendations made in the interim tree report for minimal tree removal notification for urban street and park trees managed by TAMSD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tree removal (urgent circumstances)—street tree:</i> a standard notification letter delivered to the closest three residences on both sides of the street before or soon after the removal — that is, the property adjacent to the verge where the tree will be removed, the two properties either side of this one and the three properties opposite (six properties in total). - <i>Tree removal (urgent circumstances)—park tree:</i> a sign should be erected in the park before or soon after the removal. - <i>Tree removal — street tree:</i> to allow for public inquiries a standard notification letter should be delivered three weeks before the removal date to the closest three residences on both sides of the street — that is, the property adjacent to the verge where the tree will be removed, the two properties either side of this one and the three properties opposite. - If the street tree (or group of trees) has a high profile (for example, a large tree that makes a major contribution to the landscape) or if there will be a substantial change because of the removal of several trees, a sign should also be placed on a tree (or group of trees), at the same time as the notification letter is sent. - <i>Tree removal — park tree:</i> the sign should be placed on the tree in a position where it will be obvious to park users three weeks before the tree is removed to allow for public inquiries. If several trees are to be removed in a park it might be necessary to place a sign at the entrance as well as at the location where the trees will be removed. 	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is implemented and ongoing, and that improved communication and community engagement processes are already in place. This recommendation is linked to Recommendation 5B.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 9 (High Priority): continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guides information in notification letters, or on signs, for trees removed or to be removed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making it obvious that the letter or sign is official; - stating that the tree assessment was undertaken by a qualified tree assessor; - giving reasons why the tree will be or was removed; - stating that there is a re-planting policy unless circumstances prohibit it; - providing a contact number for further information; - giving the direct website address outlining the policy and procedures for tree activities; • includes a consultation program for preparation of treescape designs — civic, town centres and selected local centres, major gateways and avenues (refer to Recommendation 10A); • includes principles for draft guidelines for street and park plantings (refer to Recommendation 10A) to be made available publicly for comment before being finalised. 	
<p>9B: developing a notification procedure for Emergency Services ACT to inform TAMSD when emergency service officers undertake works on urban trees on public land. (This could be extended to other agencies once developed.)</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is completed and ongoing and that the relevant processes are already in place.</p>
<p>9C: developing a community engagement tree program that involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an annual community tree forum; • the Arboretum being the centre for public tree educational information and programs in Canberra; • a tree-care outreach program developed under a partnership between the Arboretum, the proposed ACT Tree Curator, TAMSD, NCA, Botanic Gardens, other bodies and the community. 	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation is completed and ongoing.</p> <p>Improved communication and community engagement processes already in place. Linked to Recommendation 5B.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: Strategically enhance and celebrate Canberra's treed landscape by:</p> <p>10A: future tree planning being guided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treescape designs for Civic, town centres and selected local centres, major gateways and avenues; • guidelines for all other streets; • guidelines for parks; 	<p>TAMSD have advised that work on this recommendation is in progress and ongoing.</p> <p>Linked to Recommendation 5B.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
10B: programmed maintenance work increasing to achieve TAMSD's goal of 65% (currently 15%) with the addition of two field crews (or equivalent in contractors): one on an ongoing basis and one for one year to ensure all high priority works are undertaken (funding for this is covered under Recommendation 11B). A time for achieving the 65% target should be specified.	TAMSD have advised that work on this recommendation is in progress. The amount of programmed maintenance carried out in 2011–12 reached 53%. It is likely that 65% will be achieved in 2012–13. See Recommendation 11B.
10C: planting to fill existing 'gaps' and replacing existing removed trees;	TAMSD have advised that work on this recommendation is in progress and ongoing. Processes have been implemented that ensure that all sites where urban trees are removed are assessed for their suitability to receive a replacement tree.
10D: the Arboretum being a focus for scientific research to inform tree management across Canberra;	TAMSD have advised that work on this recommendation is in progress; the Arboretum is due to open in 2013. Representatives from the Arboretum are included in the cross-agency Tree Network Committee mentioned in 5C.
10E: creating a 2013 tree legacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at gateways, on avenues and site plantings; • through landmark school–community projects; • using carvings of suitable dead trees, including in situ if appropriate, to reflect an aspect of the tree's location, to commemorate a person, place or event (see Recommendation 6H); 	TAMSD has advised that work on the implementation of this recommendation has not yet commenced.
Recommendation 11: Fund the protection and management of Canberra's street and park trees: 11A: from dedicated tree management budgets, with tree plantings associated with climate-change initiatives being funded separately.	TAMSD has advised that work on this recommendation is in progress, additional funding of approximately \$1.0 million was allocated in 2010–11 and 2011–12 for the provision of improved tree maintenance and management programs.
11B: with an additional approximate \$4 million per year on an ongoing basis and an additional one-year funding of approximately \$1 million to accelerate programmed maintenance for high priority tree maintenance (High Priority).	TAMSD has advised that implementation of this recommendation is in progress.
Recommendation 12: ActewAGL fully fund all vegetation clearing under its powerlines on unleased lands. The Department of Territory and Municipal Services use the resources currently deployed on this to manage its urban street and park trees. Specifications for pruning of urban trees to be approved by the proposed ACT Tree Curator.	TAMSD advised this is in progress and they are liaising with ACTEW on this proposal.
Progress on implementing recommendations in the Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Program	
Recommendations for immediate implementation	
Recommendation 1:	<i>See Table 10 above</i>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the citywide tree condition audit, currently being undertaken by TAMSD, identify opportunities for tree planting where ‘gaps’ exist and that tree planting occurs in these ‘gaps’, unless circumstances prohibit.</p>	<p>TAMSD have informed the Office that 90% of the recommended audit has been completed.</p> <p>A comprehensive windshield audit of trees in 95 suburbs has been completed. A component of this audit was to identify vacant planting sites in streets.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the terms ‘dangerous’ and ‘hazardous’ not be used to describe a category of trees and that there be a focus on distinguishing when a tree needs to be removed under ‘urgent circumstances’ versus general tree removal.</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that this recommendation has been implemented.</p> <p>The terms dangerous and hazardous are no longer used in public communication to describe trees.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: It is recommended that TAMSD tree removal technical and administrative policies and procedures be strengthened by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAMSD undertaking a sample audit of trees that consultants recommend for removal. This audit should be undertaken on-site by a qualified and experienced tree assessment officer from within TAMSD. This audit should be documented. • a senior manager being held accountable for the final decision for non-urgent tree removal of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘green’ trees; - trees in heritage precincts; - dead trees in parks, which are of potential value as a habitat tree; or - trees on the ACT Tree Register; • allowing a resident or public member with respect to non-urgent tree removal, the opportunity to request that an Executive Officer undertake an internal reconsideration of a decision. The Executive Officer should give their decision in writing with reasons. • a resident could be given 14 days to lodge a request for reconsideration, following the announcement of the tree removal. The Executive Officer should be given a limited time to respond, this could be 14 days from receipt of the request. The tree should not be removed during this time unless conditions changed and the removal was under urgent circumstances. • TAMSD undertaking a sample audit of removed trees to validate visual tree assessments and inform future assessments; • markings on trees for assisting TAMSD staff or contractors to locate trees; • being discrete with information communicating a tree removal occurring via a communication procedure and not by the prominence of a marking; • publishing the policies and procedures on the TAMSD website as soon as possible and keeping them up to date with future changes. 	<p>TAMSD have advised that processes have been developed and put in place to address Recommendation 4.</p> <p>A consistent method has been developed by Urban Treescapes to determine when tree removal is required. Approximately 5% of trees identified for removal by field staff are audited by more senior officers.</p> <p>A senior manager within Urban Treescapes is responsible for the final decision on non-urgent tree removals, as outlined in Recommendation 4. An electronic resistograph machine is used to critically examine trees where necessary.</p> <p>A formal public notification process has been developed whereby ‘green trees’ are sign posted and adjoining residents notified in advance of a tree being removed. All requests for review are dealt with by a senior manager within Urban Treescapes.</p> <p>A process for checking trees that have been removed has been put in place.</p> <p>TAMS is using a combination of discrete paint marks at the base of a tree and detailed aerial photos that provide contractors and field staff with the location of trees to be removed.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
Recommendation 4.6:	<i>See Table 10 above</i>
<p>Recommendation 5: It is recommended that the TAMSD tree (or group of trees) removal (and replacement) communication process be strengthened by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tree assessment being made available to a resident or member of the community on request. • It is not recommended that such assessments be routinely given to residents as part of the notified process. • adopting as a minimum the following notification: <p><i>Tree Removal (Urgent circumstances) — Street Tree</i></p> <p>A standard notification letter/card delivered to the closest three residences on both sides of the street before or soon after the removal, i.e. the property adjacent to the verge where the tree will be removed, the two properties either side of this one and the three properties opposite.</p> <p><i>Tree Removal (Urgent circumstances) — Park Tree</i></p> <p>A sign erected in the park before or soon after the removal.</p> <p><i>Tree Removal — Street Tree</i></p> <p>A standard notification letter/card delivered to the closest three residences on both sides of the street prior to the removal, i.e. the property adjacent to the verge where the tree will be removed, the two properties either side of this one and the three properties opposite.</p> <p>If the street tree (or group of trees) has a high-profile (e.g. a large tree that makes a major contribution to the landscape) or if there will be a substantial change due to the removal of several trees, a sign should also be placed on a tree (or group of trees), at the same time the notification letter/card is sent.</p> <p><i>Tree Removal — Park Tree</i></p> <p>A sign placed on the tree in a position where it will be obvious to park users. In situations where several trees will be removed in a park, it might be necessary to consider placing a sign at the entrance to the park in addition to where the trees to be removed are located.</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that processes have been developed and put in place to address Recommendation 5.</p> <p>Tree assessment information is provided upon request.</p> <p>A formal public notification process has been developed whereby sites where trees require urgent removal are sign posted in advance of a tree being removed where possible, or immediately after the tree is removed.</p> <p>A formal public notification process has been developed whereby 'green trees' in parks are signposted where possible and additional signs are placed in the vicinity of the tree(s).</p> <p>A formal tree notification brochure is delivered to all sites where a green tree is to be removed. The brochure provides details relating to the tree removal and whether the tree will be replaced. It also provides a contact number and other TAMS specific details.</p>

Recommendations	Progress
<p>Recommendation 5: continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> including in a Tree Notification letter/card or on a Tree Notification sign for trees removed or to be removed, as a minimum, information which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - makes it obvious that the letter/card or sign is official; - states that the tree assessment was undertaken by a qualified tree assessor; - gives the reasons why the tree is to be removed or was removed; - states that the policy is for a replacement planting unless circumstances prohibit; - provides a contact number where further information can be gained; and - gives the specific and direct website address for the policy and procedures covering the subject tree activities. <p>In the notification letter/card to the nearest resident, the assistance of the resident in watering a replacement tree should be sought. Consideration could also be given to allowing an individual resident the option that if they do not want a tree replacement they can contact TAMSD to give this view. TAMSD would then need to assess the situation and make a final decision.</p>	
Other Recommendations	
<p>Recommendation 6: It is recommended that TAMSD tree assessors have an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 5 or Certificate 5 in Arboriculture or Horticulture with 5 years experience or proven equivalent skills.</p>	<p>TAMSD have advised that all staff carrying out tree assessments were enrolled in and completed an Arboriculture-specific Diploma in Horticulture that is equivalent to the AQF 5 level specified by the Commissioner. All attendees were previously accredited at Certificate 3 in Arboriculture at least.</p>

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993 — Section 23 requirements

Our Office has no additional information to include for the 2012–12 reporting period.

A.10 Triple bottom line report

Indicator		2010–11 result	2011–12 result	% change
Economic	Employee expenses			
	Number of staff employed (head count, not FTE)	8 ^(a)	7	-12.5
	Total employee expenditure (\$)	\$483,847 ^(b)		
	Operating statement			
	Total expenditure (\$)	\$1,189,000 ^(b)	\$1,712,000	0
	Total own source revenue (\$)	0	0	0
Environmental	Total net cost of services (\$)	\$1,189,000	\$1,712,000	0
	Economic viability			
	Total assets (\$)	n/a		
	Total liabilities (\$)	n/a		
	Transport			
	Total number of fleet vehicles	1 ^(c)	1	0
Social	Total transport fuel used (kilolitres)	0.2	3.7	1750
	Total direct greenhouse gas emissions of the fleet (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	0.4	9.48	2270
	Energy use (megajoules)			
	Total office energy use	136,986	63,276	-54
	Office energy use per person	17,123	9034.4	-47
	Office energy use per square metre	884	409	-54
	Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂-e)			
	Total office greenhouse gas emissions, direct and indirect	24.53	20.41	-17
	Total office greenhouse gas emissions, per person	3.50 ^(d)	3.40	-2.9
	Total office greenhouse gas emissions, per square metre	0.16	0.13	-19
	Water consumption (kilolitres)			
	Total water use	106	46.96	-55.7
	Office water use per person	13	7.10	-45.4
	Office water use per square metre	0.7	0.3	-57.1
Social	Resource efficiency and waste			
	Total co-mingled office waste, per FTE (litres)	30	30	0
	Total paper recycled (litres)	1,920	1,620	-16
	Total paper used (reams), per FTE (litres)	13	10	-23
	Percentage of paper recycled (%)	100	90	-10
	The diversity of our workforce			
	Women (female FTEs as a % of total workforce)	88	86	-2
	People with a disability (as a % of total workforce)	0	0	0
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (as a % of total workforce)	0	0	0
	Staff with English as a second language (as a % of the total workforce)	0	0	0
Social	Staff health and wellbeing			
	Occupational health and safety incident reports	0	0	0
	Accepted claims for compensation (as at 31 August 2011)	0	0	0
	Staff receiving influenza vaccinations	1	2	100
Social	Workstation assessments requested	4	2	50

Notes:

- (a) The Office establishment is six.
- (b) As provided by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- (c) This is the Commissioner's package vehicle which is available for use by our staff.
- (d) This figure was taken from Table C21, OCSE 2010–11 Annual Report.



Section B – Consultation and scrutiny reporting

B.1 Community engagement

Our Office undertook a variety of community engagement activities involving a number of engagement techniques, such as community workshops, expert panels, reference groups and public submissions (Table 15). Our major community engagement activities related to the:

- *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*; and
- *Investigation into the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin.*

The Commissioner participated in a number of major events, including speaking at the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand's Annual General Meeting and the launch of the ACT State of the Environment Report 2011. The Commissioner also presented to the South East Regional Organisation of Councils General Managers conference and to students at University of Canberra and the Australian National University.

Table 15: Community engagement

Line area	Project	Consultation process (tools used)	Groups/ Individuals consulted	Outcome
Advocacy	Young People Ambassadors group	Meetings with university students including input into communication strategy, student projects; participation in Horizon Scanning workshop	Young people, 12–25 years	Increased engagement with the 12–25 year-old sector
	2011 ACT State of the Environment Report	Briefings and presentations to	Professional associations and universities	Increased awareness of SoE and its outcomes
	Regional State of the Environment reporting	Workshop	Councils within the Australian Capital Region	Increased engagement with Australian Capital Region Councils
Statutory				
Investigations	Canberra Nature Park	Expert panel	Experts by invitation	Advice to the Commissioner
		Public submissions	Community	Inform the investigation
	Lake Burley Griffin	Reference group	Experts and community members by invitation	Advice to the Commissioner
		Advisory group	Corporate and Government members by invitation	Advice to the Commissioner
		Public submissions	Community	Inform the investigation
State of the Environment Report	State of the Environment Report 2011	Peer review groups (4)	Experts, ACT Government and community members by invitation	Peer review for themes and indicators for the 2011 SoER
		Reference group	Experts and community members by invitation	Advice to the Commissioner

B.2 Internal and external scrutiny

Our Office has not been notified of any internal or external scrutiny during 2011–12.

B.3 Legislative Assembly Committee inquiries and reports

Table 16: Legislative Assembly Committee inquiries and reports — Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water

Report number	Title	Date presented
5	<i>Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2008–09</i>	17 December 2009 ^(a)
Recommendation	Government response	Implementation
That the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water and the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment immediately implement measures to accurately account for resource use, and outline these measures in future annual reports.	Agreed	Our Office will implement this recommendation in future annual reports.
Report number	Title	Date presented
7	<i>Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2009–10</i>	15 December 2010 ^(a)
Recommendation	Government response	Implementation
The Committee recommends that, in future annual reports, the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment consider including information outlining the rationale for higher value single select tenders.	Agreed	Our Office will implement this recommendation in this and future annual reports, see Table 17.
Report number	Title	Date presented
6	<i>Inquiry into the Carrying Capacity of the ACT and Region</i>	20 April 2011 ^(a)
Recommendation	Government response	Implementation
The Committee recommends that the <i>ACT Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993</i> be amended to incorporate a formal responsibility for biennial reporting on the ACT ecological footprint.	The Government has not yet responded to this report.	

Report number	Title	Date presented
The Committee recommends that additional funding be provided to the OCSE, the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, and community environment organisations and groups to promote a more sustainable use of resources, including reducing food waste and energy inefficiency, to reduce the ACT and ACR ecological footprints.	The Government has not yet responded to this report.	
Report number	Title	Date presented
This inquiry is ongoing.	<i>Inquiry into Current and Potential Ecotourism in the ACT and Region</i>	17 May 2011 ^(a)

Note:

(a) Date the Commissioner presented to the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water

B.4 Legislation report

The Office is responsible for administering the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993*⁸.

⁸ Effective as of 29 May 2012 the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*.



C.1 Risk management and internal audit

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.2 Fraud prevention

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.3 Public interest disclosure

Our Office is covered by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate public interest disclosure policies.

Our Office did not receive any public interest disclosures during 2011–12.

C.4 Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1989* provides a legally enforceable right of access by citizens to all documents in the possession of the ACT Government, subject only to exemptions to protect the legitimate interests of the ACT Government, and of the third parties who deal with the ACT Government.

The *Freedom of Information Act 1989* requires certain reports to be compiled and included in the agency annual report. This report comprises three sections; a Section 7 statement, a Section 8 statement, and a Section 79(2) statement.

Section 7 statement

In accordance with the requirements of Section 7 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, the following statement is correct to 30 June 2012. It reports on the particulars, functions and powers of the Office, as well as certain categories of documents held by each agency, and the arrangements for public participation in formulation of policy and operations.

Organisation functions and powers

Our enabling legislation is the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993*.⁹ The Act specifies that the Commissioner shall:

- produce State of the Environment reports for the ACT;
- investigate complaints from the community regarding the management of the Territory's environment by the ACT Government and/or its agencies;
- conduct investigations directed by the Minister;
- initiate investigations into actions of the ACT Government or its agencies, where those actions have a substantial impact on the Territory's environment; and
- make recommendations for consideration by the ACT Government, and include in our Annual Report the outcomes of those recommendations.

As a result of the recent amendments, the Act now includes an objects clause and changes to timelines. The Minister must now present Reports to the Legislative Assembly by six sitting days, rather than fifteen sitting days, after the day on which the Minister receives the Report. The Minister must provide a Government response to the State of Environment Report and special reports within six months of the day on which the Minister receives the report.

Our Office administers the Act.

Public participation

Our Office has consulted extensively during the reporting period on a range of activities, including the Canberra Nature Park Investigation, the Lake Burley Griffin Investigation and the 2011 State of the Environment Report.

Our consultation processes include:

- public submissions;
- focus groups, expert panels and reference groups for specific purposes;
- comments on draft documents; and
- briefings and discussions with Ministers and other members of the Legislative Assembly.

⁹ the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* effective as of 29 May 2012

Documents

Documents produced by our Office on various aspects of our activities are available without charge on our website or on request. These include:

- annual reports from 2000–01 to the present;
- ACT State of the Environment reports from 1997 to the present;
- Regional State of the Environment reports from 2004 to the present;
- investigation reports; and
- discussion papers, information pamphlets and fact sheets.

These documents are also available by phoning or emailing the Office and can be posted to any member of the community.

Other kinds of documents that may be available under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* include:

- general records, including internal, interdepartmental and public documents such as minutes of meetings, agendas and background papers, policy statements, correspondence and administrative records;
- personnel records;
- financial records; and
- details of contracts and tenders.

Facilities for access

Documents produced by our Office are available to the public on our website www.envcomm.act.gov.au or in hard copy upon request.

Our Office can be reached by public transport and has disabled access.

Section 8 statement

The Act provides guidance for the role and functions of the Commissioner as well as detailed specifications for the conduct of investigations. The Act forms the basis of our operational procedures; it is available to the public and can be provided in hard copy upon request.

Section 79(2) statement

In accordance with Section 79(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act), the following is a report on decision-making in relation to FOI requests received

by our Office during the year. Access decisions in relation to FOI requests are categorised in terms of full release, partial release, entirely exempt, technical refusal (no documents located), still being processed, transferred, and withdrawn.

Requests for access

In 2011–12 the Office did not receive any requests for access to documents. The request received in the 2010–11 financial year was finalised by the Office during the 2011–12 reporting period.

In processing requests, our Office makes every effort to comply with the required timeframes. There will be, however, some situations where requests are completed outside the statutory timeframe. This may be a result of:

- the amount and complexity of information to be examined and the release decisions required; or
- particular workload and resource issues within the Office at the time.

In situations where it appears that the thirty-day timeframe for a response will not be met, our Office will generally advise the applicant and request an extension of time.

Under Sections 26, 27 and 27A of the FOI Act, the Commonwealth, state governments, commercial organisations and private individuals must be consulted where their interests may be adversely affected by the release of documents. Subsection 18(4) of the FOI Act provides for the thirty-day timeframe to respond to an FOI request to be extended by thirty days for documents on which third-party consultation is necessary.

C.5 Internal accountability

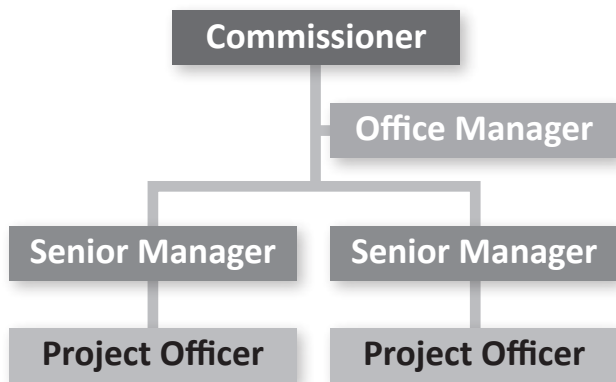
Organisational structure

During the reporting period Dr Maxine Cooper concluded her role as the Commissioner. The current Acting Commissioner, Mr Robert Neil, was appointed on 7 September 2011.

The Commissioner is accountable for both the legislative and the contractual functions of the Office and for ensuring that the execution of these functions is consistent with the intent of the enabling legislation.

The structure of our Office at 30 June 2012 is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Organisation chart, 2011–12



Senior committees

There are no senior management or other significant committees or boards within the Office.

Key corporate plans

Our Strategic Plan provides our vision, mission, values and objectives as detailed in Section A.1 of this report.

C.6 Human resource performance

Our Office has a Strategic Plan, which reflects the environmental context in which we operate and sets a clear direction for us. Our Strategic Plan states our vision, mission, values and objectives as detailed in Section A.1 'The organisation'. Our Strategic Plan is reviewed quarterly to ensure that it remains valid, and it was reviewed this financial year.

This year the Office has welcomed four new permanent staff members, as well as a new Acting Commissioner. We are working to have Achievement Plans in place for all staff as soon as possible. Staff Achievement Plans contain a work plan and an individual learning and development plan and are reviewed quarterly. Training and mentoring are an important part of the Achievement plans.

C.7 Staffing profile

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.8 Learning and development

Our Office has a commitment to strengthening workforce and organisational capacity through building skills and capabilities. This learning and development is guided by individual Achievement Plans and supported through our Strategic Plan.

During 2011–12, staff from the Office attended seminars and forums on adaptation to climate change, current biodiversity and ecosystems research, renewable energy and State of the Environment reporting.

C.9 Workplace health and safety

Our Office is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace and maintaining the health, safety and welfare of its employees. Occupational health and safety is managed in accordance with the statutory provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989* (as modified by the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*).

During 2011–12 the Office did not receive any notices under Sections 146, 155 or 212 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989 and there were no incidents notifiable under Section 204.

The Office does not pay a first tier worker's compensation premium.

Our Office is covered by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report for workplace health and safety policy purposes.

Workstation assessments were conducted during the year and have been made available to staff when requested.

C.10 Workplace relations

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.11 Human Rights Act 2004

Our Office has a responsibility to be the advocate of human rights for the public, with regard to environmental concerns. This role usually takes the form of a response to a submitted complaint from a member of the public about management of the environment by Territory agencies.

C.12 Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

Our Office does not own or manage any Territory land and is therefore not required to report its operations in relation to either the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan or the Bushfire Operations Plan.

C.13 Strategic asset management

Assets managed

Our Office does not own or manage any major assets.

Office accommodation

During 2011–12 our Office was accommodated on Level 2 of the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Building at 13–15 Challis Street, Dickson. The Office occupies 155 square metres. This building is a multi-purpose building being used for office

accommodation, a shopfront and a vehicle inspection station area (which is light industry).

Our Office has been working with the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Sustainability Working Group to create a more sustainable building and office space.

C.14 Capital works

Our Office has no capital works projects.

C.15 Government contracting

Procurement principles and processes

Procurement selection and management processes for all contractors, including consultants, complied with the *Government Procurement Act 2001* and Government Procurement Regulation 2007.

Consistent with the provisions of the Government Procurement Regulation 2007, ACT Procurement Solutions and, if necessary, the Government Procurement Board, reviewed purchases over \$25,000.

External sources of labour and services individual contracts exceeding \$25,000

The contracts for works and services for individual contracts that exceeded \$25,000 and smaller contracts awarded to the same contractor that in total exceeded \$25,000 are detailed in Table 17.

Table 17: Summary of contracts over \$25,000

Contractor	Description and reason for contract	\$ (inc GST)	Procurement type	Date contract let
Gusto Holdings Pty Ltd trading as Voodoo Creative	Provide website maintenance and publishing support services	\$26,400	tender	01/06/2011
Beacon Hill Global Pty Ltd*	Provide report writing services for the State of the Environment Report	\$36,300	tender	04/08/2011

* Beaconhill was single select. The minute was signed off with the following reasons. Beaconhill could meet the following needs; timeframe for implementation urgent or delay unacceptable; project specialist in nature and requires specialist skills and knowledge; this is inline with section 10 of Government Procurement Regulations 2007. Procurement staff were also consulted.

C.16 Community grants/assistance/sponsorship

Our Office did not provide financial support to any community grants, assistance or sponsorships during the reporting period.

C.17 Territory records

Our Office is independent of the ACT Government; however, our records are managed in accordance with the *Territory Records Act 2002*.

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is in the process of developing a Records Management Program in compliance with the *Territory Records Act 2002*. This program is being developed in conjunction with the Territory Records Office and the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate to ensure consistency and compliance are achieved. The Office anticipates a compliant Program will be complete by the first quarter of 2013. This Program will contain procedures to achieve best practice record-keeping throughout the Office.

The Office has access to a variety of ACT Government training programs that provide guidance on achieving compliant records-management practices. In 2011–12, five staff attended induction training on *Objective*, an Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) which is being adopted by the Office. In addition to *Objective* training, staff within the office have received training on basic record-keeping concepts through ESDD.

The Office is committed to ensuring records containing sensitive information, including those that contain personal information and those which enable people to establish links with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage are appropriately managed and preserved.

Working with ArchivesACT and the Territory Records Office, records identified with historical value have been preserved for future access. The Office will continue to work to identify and preserve valuable records as part of its records management program. OCSE utilises the tools developed by ArchivesACT to assist members of the community to interpret older records that are released for public access.

In 2011–12 the Office received no requests for information under the open access to records provision of the Act.

C.18 Commissioner for the Environment

This Annual Report is for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

C.19 Ecologically sustainable development

Line	Indicator as at 30 June	Unit	2010–11	2011–12
General				
L1	Occupancy — staff full-time equivalent ^(a)	Number (FTE)	7	7 ^(a)
L2	Area office space – net lettable area	Square metres (m ²)	155	155
Stationary Energy^(b)				
L3	Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	38,052	35,768
L4	Renewable energy use (GreenPower + EDL landfill gases)	Kilowatt hours	15,114	16,614
L5	Percentage of renewable energy used (L4/L3 x 100)	Percentage	40	46.5
L6	Natural Gas use	Megajoules	0	0
L7*	Total energy use	Megajoules	136,987	63,276
Intensities				
L8	Energy intensity per FTE (L7/L1)	Megajoules/FTE	19,569	9,039.4
L9	Energy intensity per square metre (L7/L2)	Megajoules/m ²	884	409
Transport				
L10	Total number of vehicles ^(c)	Numeric	1	1
L11	Total vehicle kilometres travelled	Kilometres	3,484	19,540*
L12	Transport fuel (Petrol) ^(d)	Kilolitres	0.16	3.7
L13	Transport fuel (Diesel)	Kilolitres	0	0
L14	Transport fuel (LPG)	Kilolitres	0	0
L15	Transport fuel (CNG)	Kilolitres	0	0
L16*	Total transport energy use	Gigajoules	5.47	126.5
Water				
L17	Water use	Kilolitres	106	46.69
Intensities				
L18	Water use per FTE (L17/L1)	Kilolitres/FTE	15.14	7.10
L19	Water use per square metre (L17/L2)	Kilolitres/m ²	0.7	0.3
Resource Efficiency and Waste^(e)				
L20	Reams of paper purchased	Reams ^(f)	75	70
L21	Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	100	90
L22	Estimate of general waste (based on bins collected) ^(g)	Litres	200	210
L23	Estimate of co-mingled material recycled (based on bins collected) ^(h)	Litres	240	240
L24	Estimate of paper recycled (based on bins collected)	Litres	1,920	1,620

Line	Indicator as at 30 June	Unit	2010–11	2011–12
L25	Estimate of organic material recycled (based on bins collected)	Litres	120	120
Greenhouse Gas Emissions				
L26*	Total stationary energy greenhouse gas emissions (All scopes)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	24.53	20.41
L27*	Total transport greenhouse gas emissions (All scopes)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	0.4	9.48
Intensities				
L28	Greenhouse gas emissions per person (L26/L1)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e FTE	3.50	2.92
L29	Greenhouse gas emissions per square metre (L26/L2)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	0.16	0.13
L30	Transport greenhouse gas emissions per person (L27/L1)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e FTE	0.06	1.35

Notes:

- (a) The Office establishment is six. An additional contractor in 2011–12 was the the Projector Coordinator for the *State of the Environment Report 2011*.
- (b) These data are calculated on the basis of totals provided by the Department of Land & Property Services for the whole of the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry (DMVR) building, and then proportionately allocating data to the Office at 8% of the total, this percentage being the Office's approximate proportion of total floor space. On this basis, the figures for stationary energy, water and emissions are not accurate.
- (c) This is the Commissioner's package vehicle, which is available for use by our staff. During the reporting period the Commissioner has used this vehicle for transport to and from work, from an out-of-town residence.
- (d) Figures are calculated by estimating the distance travelled for official business and fuel consumption based on the Green Vehicle Guide.
- (e) The Office is registered with the ACTSmart *Office* program and staff now separate their waste at source, including putrescible waste which is composted (estimated at about 150 kg per year).
- (f) 194 reams were used in 2009–10 and 93 were used in 2010–11.
- (g) This is material placed in bins to go to landfill.
- (h) This is the estimate of materials generated in the Office which are placed in the bin to go for recycling (as for ACT domestic yellow-lidded bins) and is an extrapolation of an audit of office bins and a survey of staff.

*Calculated with information entered into OSCAR.

C.20 Climate change and Greenhouse Gas reduction policies and programs

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

In addition to ESDD programs and policies, the Office has bicycles available for staff use, and staff are encouraged to use these, or public transport, for travel to meetings or work-related functions, in an effort to reduce emissions.

C.21 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reporting

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.22 ACT Multicultural Strategy 2010–13

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.23 ACT Strategic Plan for Positive Aging 2010–2014

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.24 ACT Women's Plan 2010–15

As part of state of the environment reporting, we assess many of the objectives of the ACT Women's Plan including:

- **Objective 1:** Representation and recognition — through the 'Population', 'Socio-Economic Equity' and 'Community Participation' indicators;
- **Objective 2:** Good health and wellbeing — through the 'Community Health' and 'Health Services' indicators;
- **Objective 3:** Responsive housing — through the 'Housing' indicator;
- **Objective 4:** Safe, inclusive communities — through the 'Safety', 'Community Participation' and 'Socio-economic Equity' indicators;
- **Objective 5:** Economic security and opportunities — through the 'Socio-economic Equity' indicator; and
- **Objective 6:** Flexible education and training — through the 'Education' indicator.

Our Office provides a supportive environment for women through training and development which is encouraged through active engagement via staff meetings and through promoting flexible working arrangements to encourage a strong work/life balance.

C.25 Model Litigant Guidelines

Our Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report.

C.26 Notices of noncompliance

Our Office did not receive any notices of noncompliance in 2011–12. Appendix 1: 2011 ACT State of the Environment Report reference and peer review groups



Appendixes

Members of the reference group were:

Professor Joe Baker AO, OBE	Former ACT Commissioner for the Environment
Ms Maureen Cane	Cane & Gray Consulting Services
Mr David Marshall	Chair, Canberra Business Council, Tourism Sports and Arts Taskforce
Mr Michael Mazengarb	Young People Ambassador for the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
Mr Geoffrey McAlpine	Former CSIRO Principal Adviser Environment
Dr Sarah Ryan	Chair, ACT Natural Resource Management Council
Professor Will Steffen	Executive Director, Australian National University Climate Change Institute

Members of the 'People' peer review group were:

Ms Maureen Cane	Cane & Gray Consulting Services
Mr Michael Mazengarb	Young People Ambassador for the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
Dr Dianne Firth	Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra
Prof Rachel Davey	Director, Centre for Research and Action in Public Health, University of Canberra
Ms Kylie Carman Brown	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Dan Stewart	Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate
Mr Paul Lewis	Economic Development Directorate
Ms Linda Bower	Health Directorate
Mr Richard Hopkins	Health Directorate
Dr Ranil Appuhamy	Health Directorate
Mr Paul Peters	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate
Ms Joanne Clay	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate
Mr Nick Lhuede	Emergency Services Authority
Mr Alexei Trundle	Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

Members of the 'Climate and Air' peer review group were:

Prof Will Steffen	Climate Change Institute, The Australian National University
Mr Perry Wiles	Climate Policy and Coordination, Bureau of Meteorology
Dr Bob Webb	Climate Change Institute, The Australian National University
Ms Heather Tomlinson	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Daniel Walters	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Dave Power	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Rob Thorman	Economic Development Directorate
Ms Linda Bower	Health Directorate
Mr Richard Hopkins	Health Directorate
Dr Ranil Appuhamy	Health Directorate
Mr Mark Heckenberg	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

Members of the 'Biodiversity' peer review group were:

Dr Geoff McAlpine	Former CSIRO Principal Adviser Environment
Dr David Shorthouse	Visiting Fellow at Fenner School, The Australian National University
Professor Paul Downey	Faculty of Applied Science, University of Canberra
Mr Ian Fraser	ACT Natural Resource Management Council
Dr Lyn Hinds	Vertebrate Pest Stream Leader, CSIRO Entomology
Ms Linda Bower	Health Directorate
Mr Richard Hopkins	Health Directorate
Dr Ranil Appuhamy	Health Directorate
Mr Paul Lewis	Economic Development Directorate
Dr Michael Mulvaney	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Dr Murray Evans	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Nick Lhuede	Emergency Services Authority

Members of the 'Land and Water' peer review group were:

Professor Joe Baker AO, OBE	Former ACT Commissioner for the Environment
Dr Sarah Ryan	Chair, ACT Natural Resource Management Council
Emeritus Professor Ian Falconer	Water quality consultant
Dr Fiona Dyer	Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra
Mr Chris Pulkkinen	ACTEW
Ms Bronwen Butterfield	ACTEWAGL
Ms Kylie Carman-Brown	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Ms Linda Bower	Health Directorate
Mr Richard Hopkins	Health Directorate
Dr Ranil Appuhamy	Health Directorate
Mr Rob Thorman	Economic Development Directorate
Dr Michael Mulvaney	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Dr Murray Evans	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr John Feint	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Stewart Chapman	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Daniel Walters	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Heath Chester	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr Mark Heckenberg	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

Appendix 2: Investigation into the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin reference and advisory groups

Members of the Reference group were:

Mr Bob Crawshaw	Communications and consultation
Dr Fiona Dyer	Community member with specialist skills in ecology
Emeritus Professor Ian Falconer	Water quality expert
Mr Shane Jasprizza	Community (Capital Region Fishing Alliance)
Professor Gary Jones	Chief Executive of eWater CRC and eWater Ltd and water ecologist
Mr Ian Lawrence	Water ecologist
Associate Professor Mark Lintermans	Freshwater ecologist
Ms Debbie Styman	Community and recreational users
Dr John Williams	Natural resource management
Ms Katharine Taylor	Young people

Members of the Advisory group were:

Mr Peter Beutel	National Capital Authority
Mr Phil Hanson	Queanbeyan City Council
Mr Daniel Iglesias	Territory and Municipal Services
Mr Ross Knee	ACTEW
Mr Daniel Walters	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
Mr John Woollard	Health Protection Service
Mr Simon Dolejsi	Sport and Recreation

Appendix 3: Complete Audit responses from Directorates. (a) Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendations from Complaints		
Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Recommendations 1, 2 and 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the tour be progressed as a pilot and in so doing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. approvals and permits are to be obtained prior to the tour commencing. This includes, but is not limited to approval from the Conservator as required under Section 67 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>; b. monitoring of environmental, social and heritage impacts should occur, as proposed by Territory and Municipal Services; and c. a strategy for monitoring and managing cumulative impacts should be developed and implemented before any future tours are approved. 2. The policy for commercial activities outlined in the <i>Namadgi National Park Plan of Management 2010</i> should be applied to tour operators operating in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve until the Tidbinbilla Plan of Management 2011 is finalised. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a, b. These recommendations have been addressed by TAMS. c. Monitoring: The final Tidbinbilla Plan of Management includes an action which supports development of monitoring programs to assess visitor impacts, especially in areas with significant natural and/or cultural heritage values. 2. The Tidbinbilla Plan of Management was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services in April 2011. The Committee conducted an inquiry into the plan and tabled its report in May 2012. The Committee's recommendations included that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitoring: The final Tidbinbilla Plan of Management includes an action which supports development of monitoring programs to assess visitor impacts, especially in areas with significant natural and/or cultural heritage values. guidelines, which include communication protocols especially with the public, should be developed to determine how applications for tourism products will be assessed and monitored; b. a strategy for monitoring and managing cumulative impacts of tours also be developed; c. that the guidelines and strategy be made public. The Committee's recommendations have been addressed in the final Tidbinbilla Plan of Management which is currently being considered by government.

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
<p>Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 continued</p>	<p>4. A comprehensive policy for commercial operations on land zoned as National Parks, Nature Reserves and the Googong Foreshore should be developed. This policy should be supported by guidelines for assessing any tourism applications and have protocols for communication, especially with the community.</p>	<p>4. Plans of management are required for all areas of public land zoned National Park and Nature Reserve under the Territory Plan. The primary objective for the management of these areas is 'to conserve the natural environment'. The Googong Foreshores Plan of Management, while not required under legislation, has been developed in the same manner as ACT plans of management. The primary management goal for Googong is that the 'Googong Reservoir supplies high quality potable water that is not adversely affected by activities occurring in the multiple-use Googong Foreshores'.</p> <p>Policies for commercial operations are included in all plans of management where relevant. As plans are reviewed, the policies will be updated as appropriate for the area and the level of interest in commercial operations. The policies and guidelines will include protocols for communication with the community.</p>
<p>Hazard reduction actions at Mulanggari Nature Reserve and its impacts on threatened species and ongoing research in the reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1–3</p>	<p>1. The 2009–10 Bushfire Operations Plan — Ecological Guidelines Specified Conservation Actions, outlines a minimum grass height of 10 cm be retained when slashing, while the Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) Fuel and Fire Suppression Guidelines outline a minimum grass height of 20 cm be retained when slashing. It is recommended that this inconsistency be addressed so that these documents align and, further, are also consistent with the National Action Plan for Striped Legless Lizard.</p>	<p>1. This inconsistency has been addressed by Conservation Planning and Research (CPR) by updating the 2011–12 Bushfire Operational Plan Ecological Guidelines that are provided to TAMS to specify a minimum grass height of 20 cm to be consistent with Fuel and Fire Suppression Guidelines for ACT (2008).</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
<p>Hazard reduction actions at Mulanggari Nature Reserve and its impacts on threatened species and ongoing research in the reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1–3 <i>continued</i></p>	<p>2. Monitoring of the area burnt in the Outer Asset Protection Zone and any future areas burnt in the Mulanggari Nature Reserve may increase the knowledge of fire impacts on lowland native grassland management. It is recommended that this occur.</p> <p>3. TAMS' proposed burn had the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national significance. Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands is listed as an endangered ecological community under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). The Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. TAMS therefore appropriately undertook an assessment to inform a decision on whether or not to refer the 'action' (proposed burn) to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Although all correct procedures have been implemented, it is recommended that, given that the ACT does have a Conservator of Flora and Fauna whose role is to consider and act on high-level conservation issues within the ACT, it would be appropriate that this person make the decision as to whether or not the assessment warrants a referral under the EPBC process.</p> <p>This same principle should apply to all actions proposed by ACT Government agencies that potentially affect threatened or vulnerable communities under ACT legislation or areas of ecological significance in the ACT.</p>	<p>2. Monitoring of some of the TAMS Bushfire Operational Plan (BOP) prescribed burns is being undertaken by ESDD. With the available resources, an analysis of the vegetation composition and structure of a small number of burns is undertaken each year to improve knowledge of how vegetation responds to burning and possible impacts. Not all burn areas in all years are monitored. The outer asset protection zone in Mulanggari Nature Reserve has been burnt but was not monitored due to timing of the burn and the small area being burnt. Subsequent burns in Mulanggari Nature Reserve which are likely to provide more targeted information about the grassland community are being considered for monitoring if they are identified for burning in the 2012–13 TAMS BOP.</p> <p>3. ESDD will continue to review the annual TAMS BOP to provide information on potential ecological impacts. This review includes the EPBC-listed species and communities that occur in the ACT and for which locations have been mapped. Should potential ecological impacts be identified that may significantly impact EPBC-listed species or communities then that would be identified in this review.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendations from Grasslands Investigation		
Recommendation 21	<p>Improve the ecological condition of sites that are in a critical condition, or approaching this state, by reducing current threatening processes of weed invasion, inappropriate mowing and overgrazing by stock, rabbits and kangaroos as a matter of urgency. Specifically:</p> <p>In Majura Valley</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the number of kangaroos on 'Malcolm Vale' (MA04) and Majura West (MA06). There is also a need to continue to manage kangaroos on the Majura Training Area (MA01) while not detrimentally affecting adjacent native woodland. strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits on Majura West (MA06). <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Majura Training Area (MA01) and 'Malcolm Vale' (MA04).</p> <p>(Strategically located temporary kangaroo-management fencing should be considered for placement around Campbell Park (MA05) and possibly parts of Majura West (MA06) if the stock and kangaroo densities in this general area are not reduced within the next six months. This is a temporary measure to protect the Grassland Earless Dragon habitat.)</p> <p>In Jerrabomberra Valley</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the number of kangaroos on Jerrabomberra East Reserve (JE05); strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits on 'Cookanalla' (JE08). <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Harman Bonshaw South (JE06) and Harman Bonshaw North (JE07).</p>	<p>Agree in principle that the ecological condition of sites can be improved by reducing some of these threatening processes (including weeds, mowing, overgrazing, etc). However, the actual management regimes for the control of weeds, grazing, mowing and fuels are implemented by TAMS. With the change to wetter conditions and the resultant grass growth, some sites where grassland earless dragons occur require grazing, and thus there now is not the imperative to cull kangaroos at all of these sites (e.g. Jerrabomberra East and Jerrabomberra West), though a return to more 'normal' rainfall years is likely to require kangaroo management in the future.</p> <p>The ACT Government is not responsible for management of grasslands at some sites (these are managed by the Commonwealth Government or the National Capital Authority). At sites where the ACT Government is not the land manager it is not possible to determine the management actions.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 21 <i>continued</i>	<p>In Gungahlin</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced on Crace Nature Reserve (GU03) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the number of kangaroos; • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits. <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Crace Nature Reserve (GU03), at Wells Station Road (GU07) and Nicholls (GU08).</p> <p>In Belconnen</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and reducing the number of kangaroos and controlling rabbits on Dunlop Nature Reserve (BE02) and 'Jarramlee' (BE03); • reducing the number of kangaroos on Ginninderra Experimental Station (BE01); • reducing the number of kangaroos and controlling rabbits on Caswell Drive (BE10). Given the size and location of this site, it may be necessary to reduce the number of kangaroos on land in the vicinity of this site rather than concentrating only on this site. <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Umbagog Park North (BE04 (b)), and in the areas of Lawson Territory (BE07) that may affect the Lawson Commonwealth – Belconnen Naval Transmission Station (BE08 (a)) site.</p> <p>In Canberra Central</p> <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on York Park, Barton (CC05); Yarramundi Reach (CC06); Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); and Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09).</p> <p>Mowing regimes should be revised to enhance grassland conservation for Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); and Black Street, Yarralumla (CC11).</p>	

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 3	As part of the current review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> (ACT), ensure that lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland ecosystems, are protected by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna having powers to direct, when necessary, that land management actions be undertaken.	The Conservator of Flora and Fauna already has the power to direct that land management actions be undertaken under Section 60 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> and this Section does not preclude directions relating to lowland native grasslands generally or Natural Temperate Grassland ecosystems in particular.
Recommendation 9	Amend the <i>Canberra Nature Park Management Plan</i> (1999) to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan No. 28, <i>ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy</i> (2005); • the new nature reserves of 'Callum Brae' (part JE02), Jerrabomberra West Reserve (JE03), Jerrabomberra East Reserve (JE05). 	ESDD is working closely with TAMS on a program for review of all plans of management for public land areas in the ACT. Canberra Nature Park is considered to be a high priority and it is anticipated that the review will commence in 2012. The review will incorporate Action Plan No. 28 and new nature reserves and results of the Commissioner's Grassland Inquiry.
Recommendation 19	Undertake experimental ecological burns on selected sites to determine the appropriateness of a wider application for managing lowland native grassland sites in the ACT.	An ecological burn for the lowland grassland species <i>Swainsona recta</i> (Small purple pea) was undertaken in Kambah this year to assess its response to burning. The species response will be monitored in the upcoming spring flowering season.

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 22	<p>The ACT Government and the Australian Government commit to taking a strategic approach to protecting lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland, threatened-grassland species, and fostering sustainable development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving priority to protecting all Category 1: Core Conservation Sites that contain Natural Temperate Grassland and key threatened-grassland species, and ensuring that these areas are not affected by development proposals; • placing in a reserve, where appropriate, Natural Temperate Grassland sites in Category 1: Core Conservation Sites. If this is not possible, these grassland areas and associated species should be conserved and managed as if they were in a reserve. • integrating conservation values with development considerations for all Category 2: Complementary Conservation Sites and Category 3: Landscape and Urban Sites and ensuring connectivity is retained or enhanced; • developing an offset policy (that includes identification of offset restoration sites) for loss of lowland native grassland, particularly Natural Temperate Grassland, due to development. 	<p>Since their identification, there has been no development on the 14 Category 1 grassland sites for which the ACT Government has major responsibility. The Majura Parkway upgrade and rerouting was designed to avoid Natural Temperate Grassland.</p> <p>Half of the Category 1 sites are now conservation reserves. 70 ha of grassland at East Jerrabomberra has been identified as a future reserve addition, while the Eastern Broadacre Study recognised that 133 ha at Majura West should be added to the reserve network. Both sites are currently being managed for conservation. Conservation management occurs at the remaining grassland sites (Barton Christianity Centre, Isabella Pond, Glenloch Interchange and Callum Brae and that part of Harman Bonshaw for which ACT has responsibility).</p> <p>The only significant loss of Category 1 Natural Temperate Grassland has been at Canberra airport, where about 145 ha has been destroyed or approved for clearance. It is likely that further significant loss of grassland and threatened species habitat will occur at this site. As ACT legislation is subservient to that of the Commonwealth, there is little the ACT Government can do with regard to conservation of grassland at the Airport, other than encouraging the Commonwealth to protect at least some of the grassland.</p> <p>A strategic environmental assessment is likely to be undertaken for the Jerrabomberra Valley, that will seek to protect all core 1 and 2 Natural Temperate Grassland.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 22 <i>continued</i>		<p>Developments have been proposed for, or in the vicinity of, the Category 2 AMTECH, Tennant Street, Constitution Avenue Reid and Dudley St Yarralumla sites and also the Category 3 Lawson and Canberra Riding Club sites. Conservation values have, or are being, integrated into development decisions. A water pipeline was diverted around the grassland at the Canberra Riding Club. The majority of Natural Temperate Grassland at the AMTECH site is proposed to be retained. Placing 50 ha of grassland at Jarramlee within a conservation reserve is being considered as an offset for loss of Natural Temperate Grassland at South Lawson. The other proposals are still in the early stages of planning and consideration.</p> <p>Maintaining grassland connectivity and connectivity of threatened grassland species habitat is a key matter of any planning or impact approval consideration within grassland areas. For example maintaining connectivity of Grassland Earless Dragon habitat is a key consideration of the planning that will be undertaken for Jerrabomberra Valley.</p> <p>Biodiversity offset policy is very complex and requires a coordinated approach with the Commonwealth because most of the species and ecosystems that are threatened in the ACT are also threatened nationally. The development of a policy is being progressed in consultation with ACT Government agencies and with the Commonwealth as part of a nationally consistent approach.</p> <p>In August 2011, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on the need for major reform of environmental regulation across all levels of government. This reform aims to reduce regulatory burden and to deliver better environmental outcomes. The results of this reform will include an agreed nationally consistent approach to the use of biodiversity offsets and biodiversity offset schemes. To ensure consistency with the national approach, the ACT offsets policy will not be finalised until COAG reforms are complete. This is unlikely to occur during 2012.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 29	Assess the ecological values of Evatt Footbridge; Wells Station Road (GU07); Nicholls (GU08); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); Belconnen Pony Club (GU06); Lawson Commonwealth – East (BE08(b)); and Mitchell (GU05).	<p>ESDD has completed the assessment of Wells Station Road (GU07) and Nicholls (GU08). Both sites were dominated by native grasses and contained a diversity of native forbs. The sites still meet the definition of the endangered ecological community Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Southern Tablelands and the ACT. However, both sites are considered to be in the lowest condition class of this community. Using a widely accepted method to quantify the site value of native grasslands, the Nicholls sites had a value of 9 and the Wells Station Rd site had a value of 5.</p> <p>In the ACT, a grassland needs a value of 7 or greater to be considered part of the endangered ecological community. High condition sites generally have values of 20 or greater, with very high condition sites having values of more than 40. Conversely sites that would not be considered part of the community often have values of 2 to 4.</p> <p>Assessment of the other sites is on-going, assessments can only occur when seasonal conditions are optimal to ensure that the best estimate of a sites value can be made.</p>
Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Program		
Recommendation 1	It is recommended that a tree replacement policy for streets and parks be developed and adopted by TAMS.	
Recommendation 4.6	Publishing the policies and procedures on the TAMS website as soon as possible and keeping them up to date with future changes.	
Recommendation 7	<p>That the TAMS tree assessment form be modified to include information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retaining a tree, or part of a tree in a park, for habitat; and • replanting options. 	

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
ACT State Of The Environment Report 2007–08		
Recommendation 4: Conserving biodiversity	<p>Improve the scientific knowledge of managers and custodians of the ACT nature conservation estate by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> continuing existing research, monitoring and evaluation programs; ensuring threatened species and communities, and river biodiversity are the subject of research and monitoring programs, with results from these informing management actions; monitoring and evaluating fire fuel management effectiveness and its effects on ecological and catchment conditions. A central and uniform source of information on all ACT fuel reduction activities, research, monitoring and evaluations should be created. 	<p>Research and monitoring programs within ESDD is continuing. This is supplemented with research gained by partnerships such as recently re-committed funding to the Invasive Animal Cooperative Research program and continuing partnership in the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. This is in addition to links to the local research Institutions of ANU and the University of Canberra. All of these programs contribute information and scientific results that can inform policy development and land management planning and actions.</p> <p>Existing monitoring programs are continuing to be implemented for many threatened species including the Northern Corroboree Frog, threatened fish species, the Tarengo leek orchid, Brindabella midge orchid, ACT Spider orchid, Button Wrinkelwort, Tuggeranong lignum, Small purple pea and Mountain cress. A new monitoring program is being considered for Gray's Bossiaea should resourcing be available.</p> <p>Spatial data is regularly updated for all species listed as threatened on the Nature Conservation and EPBC Acts. These data are now being made available publically on the ACT web-mapping system — ACTMapi.</p> <p>Research is progressing into the means of replacing Chilean needle grass with native species in Natural Temperate Grasslands (NTG). The role of competition in establishment of forb species in NTG and the endangered woodland (yellow-box red-gum). 52 condition assessments of NTG and woodland sites have been completed.</p> <p>On-going research is continuing into the composition and distribution of all ACT vegetation communities as part of the vegetation mapping project.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 1b: Catchment quality	Monitoring the effects of urbanisation on the ACT region's water catchment and using the information in developing and implementing strategies in response to specific issues (for example, development of greenfield sites).	<p>In response to the Commissioner's 2007/08 SoE (Catchment Quality 1b.) the ACT Government wrote:</p> <p><i>Catchment management planning incorporates the effect of urbanisation on the ACT's regional catchments. The issues will be addressed in the new catchment management governance arrangements once settled. Water Sensitive Urban Design is also being integrated within new developments. Water quality is being enhanced through the use of grassed swales, gross pollutant traps and water quality control ponds. In the 2009–10 ACT budget, the Government announced that two new wetland ponds at Dickson and Lyneham will be funded with an investment of \$13.9 million over two years. The ponds will reduce demand on potable water for sportsgrounds and ovals, and improve the quality of Sullivans Creek.</i></p> <p>The Gary Jones 2006 report to the Chief Minister recommended a single authority be responsible for catchment management in the ACT — this has now come about with the restructuring of the ACT Public Service and the consolidation of Catchment responsibility within the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD).</p> <p>It is proposed that the new catchment management strategy will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring — re-evaluating the strategic purpose of sites and how many are required — with a better coordination of monitoring across the ACT (currently ACTEW, TAMS, Health and NCA all monitor but that monitoring is not coordinated). This should result in an improved appreciation of source pollution and contamination and lead to improved capacity to reduce concentrations.

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 1b: <i>continued</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality Improvement — Catchment management guidelines specific to the four land use areas (conservation, forestry, rural and urban) should result in an increased focus on the factors involved in reducing water quality in lakes and streams and address their mitigation. Central to this will be an emphasis in treating pollution closer to source. Benchmark objectives and targets will be set for each category and a system of reporting against these to track progress against objectives with a view to reporting on catchment health as part of either an internal or external reporting system. Such an approach would require Directorates whose functions impact on catchment health, to develop Catchment Management Plans either separately or as part of their overall annual planning framework, that follow the guidelines for each zone, allowing them to allocate budget towards required capital works or expenditure against remediation to achieve the agreed objectives and targets. <p>Priority management actions and associated targets (including projects initiated to achieve these targets) could be identified along with lead agencies, partners and timeframes. Implementation will involve a range of community stakeholders.</p> <p>Water sensitive urban design is fully integrated within new developments and include swales, traps and control ponds designed to improve water quality. The Dickson and Lyneham wetland ponds were completed in early 2012 and will commence the trial of non-potable irrigation supply later in the year.</p>
Recommendation 2b: Resource Use	Amending the Territory's <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> to include greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and/or carbon neutrality targets for the transport sector, and specific efficiency targets, such as energy efficiency per person or persons per kilometre travelled.	<p>The Government's 'Transport for Canberra' strategy includes new measures to report on emissions from the Transport Sector as part of the annual Transport for Canberra report card. The Government will consider whether to set sector-specific targets as part of the finalization of its 'Weathering the Change Action Plan 2'. Transport for Canberra also aims to increase sustainable travel for all trips, which is a proxy for energy efficiency for person or persons per kilometre travelled.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 4b: Resource use	Progressing a domestic and business organic waste collection system.	<p>The ACT has made substantial progress in improving the collection and management of organic waste from the commercial sector.</p> <p>The ACTSmart <i>Business</i> and ACTSmart <i>Office</i> programs were launched by the Government in 2009 and have had rapid uptake by industry. Over 300 sites are using the ACTSmart system to sort and recycle organic materials. http://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/your_business/actsmart_business_and_office_map</p> <p>ACTSmart participants sort and send their paper and cardboard waste for recycling. Similarly, food waste and other organics (like paper towel) are sent to specialist food waste composters and/or worm farms.</p> <p>The ACT developed a handbook for new food waste composters in 2011 and worked with two existing food waste processors to develop site specific Environmental Management Plans.</p> <p>In 2009 Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) conducted market sounding on the provision of a Material Recovery Facility for Commercial Waste (Commercial MRF). Industry feedback to this process suggested that the ACT should only progress with a Commercial MRF for dry waste.</p> <p>In 2010/11 TAMS conducted a Request for Proposal process and selected a preferred supplier for a Commercial MRF. Negotiations on terms to provide this infrastructure in the ACT are ongoing.</p> <p>In December 2011 the Government released the <i>ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011–2025</i> (the Strategy). The Strategy replaced <i>No Waste by 2010</i> as the primary policy document on waste management in the ACT. The Strategy commits the government to:</p> <p>2.2 recovery organic and residual waste resources; and</p> <p>2.3 develop markets for organic and residual waste resources.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Response
Recommendation 4b: <i>continued</i>		<p>The Strategy explicitly rejects Government provision of a domestic organic waste collection system as ‘a relatively expensive way to address household food waste, which would not divert even half of the organic waste currently going to landfill’. Substantial research, public consultation and option evaluation was undertaken before the Government formed this view. For more information see http://www.environment.act.gov.au/waste/act_waste_management</p>
Recommendation 4f: Resource use (ii and iii)	<p>Establishing an ACT e-waste consortium, including Australian and ACT Government agencies, universities and CIT, CSIRO, businesses, industry and other major e-waste generators to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) raise awareness about e-waste; (iii) develop e-waste minimisation and management strategies. 	<p>The ACT became the first jurisdiction to divert all computer and televisions (e-waste) from landfill by introducing mandatory recycling for televisions in 2011, complementing the mandatory recycling for computers introduced in 2005. This is presently a user-pays system.</p> <p>Three e-waste recycling facilities are now established in the ACT. They are: Renewable Processes at Macgregor; Charity Computers Australia at Charnwood; and MRI e-cycle solutions at Fyshwick.</p> <p>In parallel to these actions the ACT worked through a national process to develop a comprehensive approach to industry funded e-waste collection and recycling. This process involved extensive consultation and coordination with other State governments, and with industry and research groups.</p> <p>The Commonwealth’s <i>Product Stewardship Act 2011</i> came into effect in August 2011. Regulations for an e-waste scheme were passed in late 2011. The first arrangement to operate under the scheme in the ACT will be DHL Supply Chain Services commencing in May 2012 and operating out of the Mugga Lane and Mitchell transfer stations. Other ACT collection sites will become available in the future.</p> <p>The ACT has invested considerable resources in education and awareness raising around waste. However, specific campaigns targeting e-waste have been held back awaiting the finalisation of the Commonwealth’s e-waste scheme.</p>

Appendix 3: Complete Audit responses from Directorates. (b) Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendations from Complaints		
Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Recommendations 1, 2 and 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the tour be progressed as a pilot and in so doing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. approvals and permits are to be obtained prior to the tour commencing. This includes, but is not limited to approval from the Conservator as required under Section 67 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>; b. monitoring of environmental, social and heritage impacts should occur, as proposed by Territory and Municipal Services; and c. a strategy for monitoring and managing cumulative impacts should be developed and implemented before any future tours are approved. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The tours are being progressed as a pilot. On 25 January 2011, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna provided consent for the tours to proceed as required under Section 67 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>. Tidbinbilla management also imposed conditions consistent with management plan provisions. These conditions were developed after consultation with relevant stakeholders and due consideration of the legislative, policy and management context. b. Planning and development of the tours took 12 months and included detailed planning and assessment of all risks by Tidbinbilla conservation and wildlife staff. Ongoing qualitative monitoring such as regular inspections of access roads, Nil Desperandum and monitoring of wildlife behaviour is undertaken by Tidbinbilla conservation staff as required. Between February 2011 and April 2012, three familiarisation and three fee-paying tours were conducted and no impacts have been identified. c. No additional tours have been approved since the OCSE investigation made its recommendations in January 2011. If and when additional tours are proposed, the need for a strategy to monitor cumulative impacts will be considered.

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
<p>Proposed commercial tours in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 continued</p>	<p>2. The policy for commercial activities outlined in the <i>Namadgi National Park Plan of Management 2010</i> should be applied to tour operators operating in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve until the Tidbinbilla Plan of Management 2011 is finalised.</p> <p>4. A comprehensive policy for commercial operations on land zoned as National Parks, Nature Reserves and the Googong Foreshore should be developed. This policy should be supported by guidelines for assessing any tourism applications and have protocols for communication, especially with the community.</p>	<p>2. The current tours operate under conditions set by management, with reference to the OCSE recommendations (refer to 1(a) and 1(b) above). Although TAMS agreed with this recommendation in its February 2011 response to the OCSE investigation, since that time, the Tidbinbilla Plan of Management has been the subject of a Legislative Assembly Standing Committee inquiry and is now in the final stages of consideration by Government. Given the advanced stage of the Tidbinbilla Plan's development, it is considered to be the most appropriate document to guide management. Therefore, in the event that additional or alternative tours are proposed in future, the policies set out in the Tidbinbilla Plan of Management will be the primary reference.</p> <p>4. All Plans of Management for the areas cited contain policies for the management of commercial operations including tourism. These have been developed for each of the management areas with consideration of the particular characteristics and circumstances of each area. Development of a comprehensive policy that encompasses all three areas will be considered if future conditions dictate the necessity for such a policy. The Plans also include policies and protocols for communication with the public.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
<p>Hazard reduction actions at Mulanggari Nature Reserve and its impacts on threatened species and ongoing research in the reserve.</p> <p>Recommendations 1–3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 2009–10 Bushfire Operations Plan — Ecological Guidelines Specified Conservation Actions, outline a minimum grass height of 10 cm be retained when slashing, while the Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) Fuel and Fire Suppression Guidelines outline a minimum grass height of 20 cm be retained when slashing. It is recommended that this inconsistency be addressed so that these documents align and, further, are also consistent with the National Action Plan for Striped Legless Lizard. 2. Monitoring of the area burnt in the Outer Asset Protection Zone and any future areas burnt in the Mulanggari Nature Reserve may increase the knowledge of fire impacts on lowland native grassland management. It is recommended that this occur. 3. TAMS' proposed burn had the potential to have a significant impact on a matter of national significance. Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands is listed as an endangered ecological community under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). The Striped Legless Lizard (<i>Delma impar</i>) is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. TAMS therefore appropriately undertook an assessment to inform a decision on whether or not to refer the 'action' (proposed burn) to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act. <p>Although all correct procedures have been implemented, it is recommended that, given that the ACT does have a Conservator of Flora and Fauna whose role is to consider and act on high-level conservation issues within the ACT, it would be appropriate that this person make the decision as to whether or not the assessment warrants a referral under the EPBC process. This same principle should apply to all actions proposed by ACT Government Agencies that potentially affect threatened or vulnerable communities under ACT legislation or areas of ecological significance in the ACT.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TAMS will amend the Fuel and Fire Suppression guidelines to outline a minimum grass height of 10 cm to ensure consistency with the Ecological Guidelines and the National Recovery Plan for <i>Delma impar</i>, Appendix C: Interim management guidelines currently recommended by National Recovery Team. (No National Action Plan exists — possibly refers to the National Recovery Plan.) 2. TAMS, in conjunction with the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) will monitor the impact of management practices at Mulanggari as a component of a broader monitoring program. 3. TAMS seek advice from the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate on all fuel management activities that TAMS undertakes — this is through the comprehensive assessments of all activities identified in the annual Bushfire Operational Plan (BOP). It is through this process that ESDD would advise the Conservator of Flora and Fauna that a referral may be warranted.

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendations from Grasslands Investigation		
Recommendation 21	<p>Improve the ecological condition of sites that are in a critical condition, or approaching this state, by reducing current threatening processes of weed invasion, inappropriate mowing and overgrazing by stock, rabbits and kangaroos as a matter of urgency. Specifically:</p> <p>In Majura Valley</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the number of kangaroos on 'Malcolm Vale' (MA04) and Majura West (MA06). There is also a need to continue to manage kangaroos on the Majura Training Area (MA01) while not detrimentally affecting adjacent native woodland. • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits on Majura West (MA06). <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Majura Training Area (MA01) and 'Malcolm Vale' (MA04).</p> <p>(Strategically located temporary kangaroo-management fencing should be considered for placement around Campbell Park (MA05) and possibly parts of Majura West (MA06) if the stock and kangaroo densities in this general area are not reduced within the next six months. This is a temporary measure to protect the Grassland Earless Dragon habitat.)</p> <p>In Jerrabomberra Valley</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the number of kangaroos on Jerrabomberra East Reserve (JE05); • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits on 'Cookanalla' (JE08). <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Harman Bonshaw South (JE06) and Harman Bonshaw North (JE07).</p>	<p>Stock grazing has not been permitted on Majura West since July 2009. Rabbit control has also been undertaken in this time, however Kangaroo control has not occurred. Kangaroo-management fencing has not been required as grazing pressure was reduced due to the removal of stock.</p> <p>'Malcolm Vale' (MA04), Campbell Park (MA05) and Majura Training Area (MA06) are the responsibility of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>During the 2009 Kangaroo Population Management Program 164 kangaroos were removed from Jerrabomberra East Reserve.</p> <p>Stock was reduced on the high conservation areas of Cookanalla during 2009 and 2010 following several discussions with the Lessee. As a result of stock being reduced and excellent seasonal growth conditions since then, the condition of these high conservation areas has vastly improved. The stocking of these areas is now consistent with present pasture cover.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendation 21 <i>continued</i>	<p>In Gungahlin</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced on Crace Nature Reserve (GU03) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the number of kangaroos; • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and controlling rabbits. <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Crace Nature Reserve (GU03), at Wells Station Road (GU07) and Nicholls (GU08).</p> <p>In Belconnen</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategically managing (and in the short term temporarily removing) stock and reducing the number of kangaroos and controlling rabbits on Dunlop Nature Reserve (BE02) and 'Jarramlee' (BE03); • reducing the number of kangaroos on Ginninderra Experimental Station (BE01); • reducing the number of kangaroos and controlling rabbits on Caswell Drive (BE10). Given the size and location of this site, it may be necessary to reduce the number of kangaroos on land in the vicinity of this site rather than concentrating only on this site. <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on Umbagog Park North (BE04 (b)), and in the areas of Lawson Territory (BE07) that may affect the Lawson Commonwealth – Belconnen Naval Transmission Station (BE08 (a)) site.</p> <p>In Canberra Central</p> <p>Weed management controls should be enhanced on York Park, Barton (CC05); Yarramundi Reach (CC06); Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); and Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09).</p> <p>Mowing regimes should be revised to enhance grassland conservation for Lady Denman Drive, Yarralumla (CC07); Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); and Black Street, Yarralumla (CC11).</p>	<p>In 2011–12 the following work was undertaken by the ACT Parks & Conservation Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chilean Needlegrass, Serrated Tussock, Tall African Lovegrass and St John's Wort control at Crace Nature Reserve (GU03) in 2011–12.; • roadside invasive grass control at Wells Stations Rd (GU07). <p>Nicholls (GU08) is a low priority site and an assessment was made to direct funding to higher priority areas.</p> <p>No work has been undertaken to reduce kangaroos or rabbits on Dunlop Nature Reserve or 'Jarramlee'.</p> <p>Ginninderra Experimental Station has applied to cull kangaroos this season.</p> <p>Rabbit control has been undertaken on Caswell Drive but no control of kangaroos has occurred.</p> <p>Chilean Needlegrass control at Umbagog Park North (BE04)</p> <p>Lawson Territory land is managed by the LDA.</p> <p>In 2011–12 City Services undertook the following work: Dudley Street, Yarralumla (CC08); and Guilfoyle Street, Yarralumla (CC09).</p> <p>Yarralumla (CC07) is a low priority site and an assessment was made to direct funding to higher priority areas.</p>

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendation 3	As part of the current review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> (ACT), ensure that lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland ecosystems are protected by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna having powers to direct, when necessary, that land management actions be undertaken.	ESDD to respond.
Recommendation 9	Amend the <i>Canberra Nature Park Management Plan</i> (1999) to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan No. 28, <i>ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy</i> (2005); • the new nature reserves of 'Callum Brae' (part JE02), Jerrabomberra West Reserve (JE03), Jerrabomberra East Reserve (JE05). 	<p>The <i>Canberra Nature Park Management Plan</i> (CNP) will be amended as recommended, subject to resourcing. The CNP is currently due for review; however, due to a number of other plans of management currently in development, it is unlikely that the review will be initiated in the near future. New nature reserves such as Callum Brae and Jerrabomberra West will be included when the Plan is reviewed.</p> <p>An updated response from TAMSD has confirmed the review of the CNP Plan of Management will commence in 2012–13. A steering group of ESDD and TAMSD officers has convened to commence the planning process, identify key issues and develop timelines for the review of the plan.</p>
Recommendation 19	Undertake experimental ecological burns on selected sites to determine the appropriateness of a wider application for managing lowland native grassland sites in the ACT.	ESDD to respond.

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendation 22	<p>The ACT Government and the Australian Government commit to taking a strategic approach to protecting lowland native grassland, in particular Natural Temperate Grassland, threatened-grassland species, and fostering sustainable development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving priority to protecting all Category 1: Core Conservation Sites that contain Natural Temperate Grassland and key threatened-grassland species, and ensuring that these areas are not affected by development proposals; • placing in a reserve, where appropriate, Natural Temperate Grassland sites in Category 1: Core Conservation Sites. If this is not possible, these grassland areas and associated species should be conserved and managed as if they were in a reserve. • integrating conservation values with development considerations for all Category 2: Complementary Conservation Sites and Category 3: Landscape and Urban Sites and ensuring connectivity is retained or enhanced; • developing an offset policy (that includes identification of offset restoration sites) for loss of lowland native grassland, particularly Natural Temperate Grassland, due to development. 	ESDD to respond.
Recommendation 29	Assess the ecological values of Evatt Footbridge; Wells Station Road (GU07); Nicholls (GU08); Novar Street, Yarralumla (CC10); Belconnen Pony Club (GU06); Lawson Commonwealth – East (BE08(b)); and Mitchell (GU05).	ESDD to respond.
Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Program		
Recommendation 1	It is recommended that a tree replacement policy for streets and parks be developed and adopted by TAMS.	A comprehensive tree replacement policy for streets and parks is under development and will form part of the ACT Government Tree Management Policy. It is anticipated this policy will finalised late in 2012.

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendation 4.6	Publishing the policies and procedures on the TAMS website as soon as possible and keeping them up to date with future changes.	Existing policies and procedural documentation are being routinely updated and posted on the TAMS website. This approach will continue once the comprehensive tree policy and guidelines document is finalised.
Recommendation 7	That the TAMS tree assessment form be modified to include information relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retaining a tree, or part of a tree in a park, for habitat; and • replanting options. 	A process for including information relating to whether a tree is suitable to be retained as a habitat tree and whether a site where a tree is removed is suitable for replanting a replacement tree has been developed and implemented by the Urban Treescapes Section of TAMS.
ACT State Of The Environment Report 2007–08		
Recommendation 4: Conserving biodiversity	Improve the scientific knowledge of managers and custodians of the ACT nature conservation estate by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. continuing existing research, monitoring and evaluation programs; b. ensuring threatened species and communities, and river biodiversity are the subject of research and monitoring programs, with results from these informing management actions; c. monitoring and evaluating fire fuel management effectiveness and its effects on ecological and catchment conditions. A central and uniform source of information on all ACT fuel reduction activities, research, monitoring and evaluations should be created. 	ESDD to respond.
Recommendation 1b: Catchment quality	Monitoring the effects of urbanisation on the ACT region's water catchment and using the information in developing and implementing strategies in response to specific issues (for example, development of greenfield sites).	ESDD to respond.
Recommendation 2b: Resource Use	Amending the Territory's <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> to include greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and/or carbon neutrality targets for the transport sector, and specific efficiency targets, such as energy efficiency per person or persons per kilometre travelled.	ESDD to respond.
Recommendation 2d: Resource use	The Commissioner's Office annually assessing the progress made in implementing the <i>Sustainable Transport Plan</i> .	Not TAMS.

Items	Recommendations	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate Response
Recommendation 4b: Resource use	Progressing a domestic and business organic waste collection system.	This recommendation is being progressed by ESDD and forms part of the <i>ACT Sustainable Waste Strategy</i> .
Recommendation 4f: Resource use (ii and iii)	Establishing an ACT e-waste consortium, including Australian and ACT Government agencies, universities and CIT, CSIRO, businesses, industry and other major e-waste generators to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) raise awareness about e-waste; (iii) develop e-waste minimisation and management strategies. 	The ACT Government, in association with industry, is participating in the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme which facilitates the free disposal of televisions, computers and computer peripherals across Canberra. The scheme commenced in the ACT in May 2012.

*"the future is
not somewhere
we are going, it
is something we
are creating."*

Professor Ian Lowe

