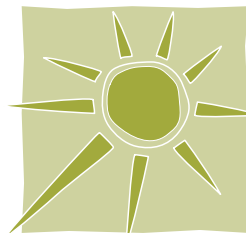
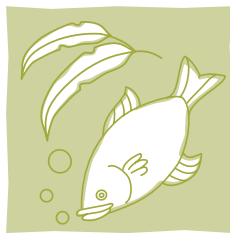




Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment

annual report 2012-13



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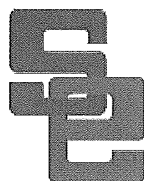


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Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment

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 2013. 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 2012-2013 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 2012 to 30 June 2013 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

5 September 2013

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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 appointed by the Minister under the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*. 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 and issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the ACT;
- 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.

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 through advocacy, independent scrutiny, reporting and advice.

Our mission

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

Our values

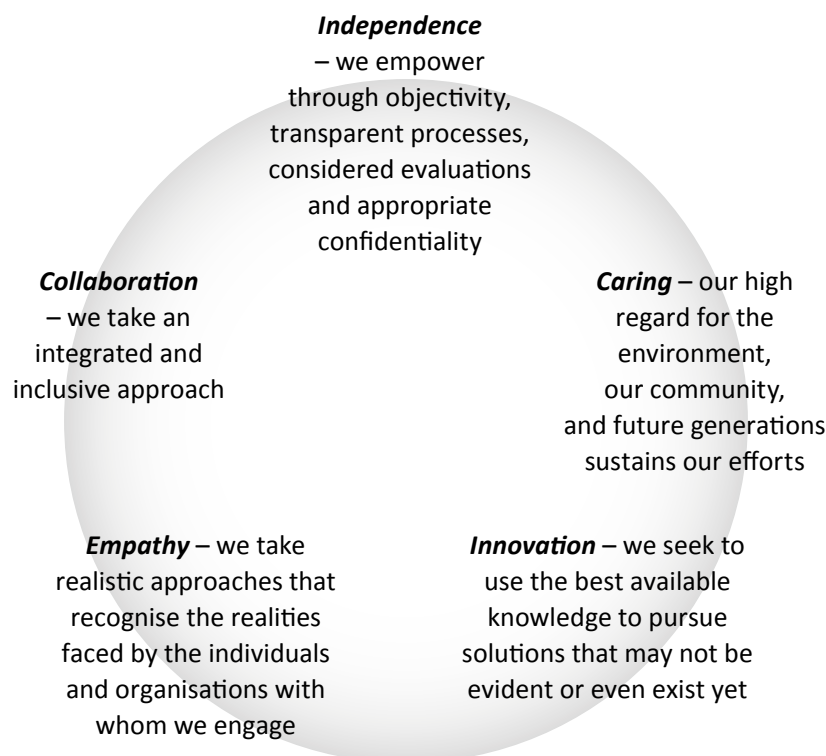


Figure 1. The values held by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

Our objectives

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

- **Investigation and resolution:** to enhance understanding and provide 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 current and 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; and
- the NSW and Commonwealth governments.

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 via the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) and the Commerce and Works Directorate (CWD) provides corporate support for matters such as accommodation, financial reporting, recruitment and other personnel services. Shared Services ICT provides information management, procurement and information technology support.

Significant organisation change

The Minister appointed Commissioner Robert (Bob) Neil as the permanent Commissioner for a five year fixed term from 1 December 2012.

Administration of legislation or other regulatory activities

The *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* is the current enabling legislation. This Office administers no other legislation and has no other regulatory activities.

A.3 Highlights

Our achievements during 2012–13 cover our key functions, both statutory and advocacy.

Statutory

- Reviewing the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*.
- Preparing and planning for the State of the Environment Report 2015.
- Developing updated methodology for the ACT State of the Environment Report 2015.
- Receiving, acknowledging and progressing three complaints.
- Implementation Status Reports for Action Plan 2 (*Weathering the Change*). The first report is due in 2014.
 - Working with ESDD and the Climate Change Council to develop a framework for the Action Plan 2 reports.
 - Determining a method for national and international comparisons for ACT targets and actions.
 - Seeking advice on methods for determining the implications of the term 'fit for purpose' for climate change adaptation.

Advocacy

- Engaging with young people through direct contact with universities and schools.
- Giving presentations to key stakeholders including academia, government and the general public.
- Meeting with business leaders and innovative thinkers.

Statutory

ACT State of the Environment Reports

The *ACT State of the Environment Report (SoER) 2011* assessed changes in all aspects of the environment including atmosphere, biodiversity, land, water and human settlements, and was delivered to the Minister on 31 December 2011. The SoER was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 1 May 2012. The reporting period for the next SoER is from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015, and the report will be delivered to the Minister by 21 December 2015.

The Office undertook a review of the 2011 SoER. In light of feedback received the Office has developed a new framework which will be used for the 2015 SoER. This framework will still use the Driving Forces, Pressures, States, Impacts and Responses (DPSIR) model, and will report on themes and indicators within this model, as was the case in the 2011 report. However, the 2015 SoER will also look at ecosystem services, and the resilience and adaptive capacity of the ACT and the Capital Region.

In financially uncertain times, the Commissioner recognises the need for responsible and efficient use of resources. Nonetheless, it is essential that in this setting we 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 which has been done by the Government in developing policies on key issues including:

- *Weathering the Change*, Action Plan 2, October 2012;
- ACT Planning Strategy, July 2012;
- City Plan, April 2013;
- Transport for Canberra 2012–2031 policy, March 2012;
- Draft Nature Conservation Strategy, September 2012;
- Review of the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, September 2012.

It is critical that the Office continues to observe and monitor their effective implementation.

The Office will also continue to track and report on the implementation of specific recommendations via our Annual Reports.

Investigations

In 2011 the Commissioner was directed 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 implications of these findings for the ACT's other major recreational waterways, such as Lake Ginninderra and Lake Tuggeranong.

The investigation was completed in April 2012, and submitted to the Legislative Assembly in May 2012 with 17 recommendations made by the Commissioner.

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 OCSE website. The Government responded to this report on 17 June 2013: eight recommendations were agreed in principle; the rest were agreed. The Government response can be viewed on the OCSE website, <http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/>.

Advocacy

Young people's views

In acting as an independent voice for the environment, the Office aims to be kept aware of young people's views via its direct engagement and advocacy work with universities and schools. During 2012–13 the Office has continued to engage with young people in a variety of ways, such as through work with the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University (ANU), the University of Canberra and the ACT branch of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and through ad-hoc meetings. Topics have included ways to engage with young people in the region, and how to make the work of the Office more accessible. Over the past year, the Office has also engaged with primary and high-school students and the wider community. Key activities included:

- in October 2012, speaking to students from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, and to students at the University of Canberra;
- in November 2012, speaking to year 9 students at Lanyon High School, about the impacts of urbanisation and how we as a community can help to manage them;
- taking part in judging Active Transport fact sheets and submissions on Rio+20 in the ACT, developed by ANU students, awarding certificates and prizes to the winning students; the fact sheets are displayed on the OCSE website;
- supporting the See-Change organisation with their Youth Parliament on Sustainability to be held in November 2013 by producing a set of 10 fact sheets linked to 'Green Paper' topics, for use by the schools participating in the parliament; the fact sheets are on the OCSE website as a resource and have been distributed to teachers at events;
- engaging with a range of community organisations dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and sustainability by hosting stalls at several events, including the SERREE (South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence) Renewable Energy Day, the Sustainability Day at the ANU, the ACT Government-run Sustainability Expo, and the Keys to Canberra Teachers Resource Open Day.

Making ecologically sustainable development practical

In response to the new Objects clause within the legislation the Office has initiated a specific project focused on ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

The project asks what ESD means in a practical day to day sense and aims to advance the understanding and implementation of ESD within government decision-making in the ACT, with a view to benchmarking best-practice ESD. It asks what steps will need to be taken to address and satisfy the core components of ESD as part of both longer term and daily decision-making processes.

Twenty years of the Office

The date 1 July 2013 marked 20 years since the introduction of the *Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993*, initiating the role of an independent Commissioner — the first in Australia and the third in the world.

Preparation for the date included planning an event with Minister Corbell, previous Commissioners, the community and government stakeholders; and preparing and delivering a publication about the 20-year history of the Office, two videos, a slide show and a 'Who are we' marketing postcard.

Refreshing the website

The Office is in the process of revitalising its OCSE website, and including social media as part of its communications plan. In February 2013 the Office launched an ongoing Twitter account, and it is currently examining the feasibility of supporting a blog for the Commissioner. The use of a Facebook account is another tool under consideration.

Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Sustainability Working Group

The Office remained a part of the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Sustainability Working Group until October 2012, when the Office moved to new accommodation in the Canberra Nara Centre.

Nara House ACTSmart Office Accreditation

The Office recently gained ACTSmart *Office* accreditation in Nara House and we are working with Facilities Management in the Nara Centre to complete ACTSmart accreditation for the entire building.

Note: The waste and power usage by the Office this year has been based on a pro rata percentage of the total usage within Nara House, where the Office occupies 1.58% of the tenancy area. This change of premises has caused a disproportionately high increase in usage by the Office for the latter part of this financial year. The Office will be actively working with Facilities Management to reduce the figures for the 2013–14 financial year.

State of the Environment reporting in the Australian Capital Region

The Office has continued to engage with regional groups such as the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO) and individual Councils, on environmental reporting in the region, by attending workshops and meetings throughout the year. The Office has also engaged with other areas of the wider ACT Government to share information and resources and to enhance cooperation with government across the region on local issues.

Changes to NSW reporting legislation (via the *Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009 No 67*) changed the way that Councils report on the state of the environment and meant that reporting requirements and timelines were not aligned across the region. As a result, it was decided that the scheduled comprehensive Regional State of the Environment Report would not be undertaken in 2012. However, the Office and Councils in the ACT region are continuing to engage on environmental reporting and are investigating the possibility of a regional report being undertaken again in 2016, when regional reporting requirements will be better aligned.

The broader work of the Office continues to focus on Canberra within the wider region and recognises the need for greater attention to the ways in which decisions made, and actions taken, in the ACT affect the region and vice versa. This will be reflected in the ACT State of the Environment Report 2015, with relevant environmental reporting data from the region included in the report.

Progress on the ACT State of the Environment Report 2015

The Office has begun preparation for the next SoER, due in 2015, by taking the following initial steps:

- completing the review of the 2011 SoER;
- incorporating the 2011 review outcomes into the 2015 SoER framework;
- developing and conducting a series of consultation workshops to gain input for the 2015 SoER framework and indicators;
- developing the framework in-house with the assistance of an expert 'conceptual modeller', and commissioning a group of SoER writing and editing experts to assist staff of the Office with writing the 2015 SoER;
- finalising the 2015 SoER framework; and
- developing a data collection and analysis plan including independent assessment of the effectiveness of responses by the ACT Government and environmental management.

The timeframe has been designed to allow for the timely and considered input of complex information in a form that will allow for a clear and integrated narrative around the three components of ecologically sustainable development.

A.4 Outlook

During 2013–14 the Commissioner will continue to undertake the functions and roles mandated in the Act.

Statutory

The Office will:

- investigate complaints about management of the Territory's environment by the ACT Government and/or its agencies and issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the ACT;
- undertake investigations as directed by the Minister or arising from complaints received by the Office;
- continue gathering, collating and analysing data and information to inform the next ACT State of the Environment Report, due at the end of 2015; and
- independently assess and report on implementation of AP2, the second action plan under the Territory's Climate Change Strategy, *Weathering the Change*.

Advocacy

The Office will:

- continue to engage with the Councils of the Australian Capital Region for a regional approach to State of the Environment reporting;
- deliver presentations and talks to community and interest groups;
- engage with young people through student projects and presentations at schools and universities;
- continue with plans to produce a paper or papers and workshops related to ecologically sustainable development (ESD) in the ACT; the paper(s) will centre on the practical applications of ESD and how it can be integrated and incorporated into government thinking, planning and decision-making;
- continue to strengthen ties with the business community, including through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Canberra Business Council, the Master Builders Association and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ).

A.5 Management discussion and analysis

Following the review by Oakton in 2011 (see the 2011–12 Annual Report) the framework for procurement, records management and security has been continued in line with Government guidelines. This framework is reflected in the Office's 'Procedures Manual' which documents procedures for a range of office activities including file management, procurement, inquiries and complaints.

The 'Procedures Manual' has been reviewed, ensuring that all procedures and processes are up to date and relevant.

The Office is continuing to work towards becoming a paperless office by using electronic data management via *Objective Electronic Data Management* (EDM) software.

A.6 Financial report

The ACT Government appropriation for the Office in 2012–13 was \$1,438,000, comprising a base budget of \$1,288,000 plus \$150,000 in rolled-over funding for the ACT State of the Environment Report 2015 and potential investigations.

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

A.7 Statement of performance

The statement of performance for this Office is included in the ESDD Annual Report as 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

The Commissioner reports outputs against accountability indicators in the ESDD portfolio report. The report for 2012–13 is set out in Table 1 below.

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

Accountability indicators ^(a)	Original target 2012–13	Actual result 2012–13	Variance from amended target	
Report on the uptake of recommendations on the <i>ACT State of the Environment Report 2011</i> and special reports	June 2013	June 2013	0%	
Completion of Minister-initiated investigations in accordance with the Minister's direction	100%	n/a	n/a	
Completion of Commissioner-initiated investigations in accordance with terms of reference	100%	n/a	n/a	No Commissioner-initiated investigations were conducted in the 2012–13 financial year
Completion of complaints-generated investigations in accordance with terms of reference	100%	n/a	n/a	No complaints-generated investigations were initiated in the 2012–13 financial year
Reports on complaints about management of the environment by Territory or territory agency	June 2013	June 2013	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.

A.8 Strategic indicators

The 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.

Table 2: Summary of complaints and investigations

Complaints	No. of complaints
Complaints on hand at the end of 2011–12	2
Complaints received during 2012–13	2
Complaints closed during 2012–13	2
Complaints pending	2
Investigations directed by the Minister	0
Investigations on hand at the end of 2011–12	0
Investigations commenced in 2012–13	0
Investigations closed during 2012–13	0
Investigations initiated by the Commissioner	0
Investigations initiated in 2012–13	0

Table 3: Summary of broad subject areas of complaints

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

Table 4: Complaints lodged in 2010–11

Month lodged	Broad subject area	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 raised 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.</p> <p>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 2012 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.</p> <p>Recommendations were made by the Commissioner in February 2013. He noted that it is important that for any future stages of this development, or indeed any other similar developments around the Territory, that a community's 'right to know' is acknowledged and that full and complete 'user friendly information' is made available to the public and that this information is updated regularly and can be tracked and monitored easily throughout the whole process.</p> <p>Other matters on which recommendations were made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitat protection and connectivity in the context of the development, particularly regarding the offset process for areas within the urban footprint and the location of buffers for the Kama Nature Reserve, the two main arterial road crossings and the Centennial horse trail; • ongoing conservation management, including: development of appropriate corridor management strategies; location of asset protection zones for fire management; zoning of the river corridor; application of the precautionary principle regarding endangered species; and the protection of the river corridor along its entire length; • the planning process, specifically appropriate and timely consideration of: the Strategic Environmental Assessment; previous government commitments; relevant environmental studies; cultural heritage; and recreational facilities within the urban area; • community engagement in relation to the consistency of provided planning information and transparency in the consideration of matters of National Environmental Significance. 	February 2013

Table 5: Complaints lodged in 2011–12

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
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	<p>The complaint was closed in February 2013 after discussions with both ESDD and Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD).</p> <p>The complaints inquiry resulted in four recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine the current ecological value of the site and put processes in place to ensure follow up on the implementation of the Conservator's directions; • encourage ongoing weed management by the lessee; • implement formal processes for improved communication regarding the management, monitoring and enforcement of Land Management Areas (LMA); • review the LMA process in the next 18 months. 	February 2013

Table 6: Complaints lodged in 2012–13

Month lodged	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	Month closed
February 2013	Planning processes	Building heights in Town Centres	The Office is in the process of gathering information to assess if the complaint is systemic across all Town Centres and master plans.	Pending
March 2013	Biodiversity / recreation	Potential conflicts between conservation values and recreational opportunities	<p>This complaint raised concerns over the construction of bike trails within the Bruce Ridge Nature Reserve (Bruce Ridge) and the potential for the construction of these trails to compromise the ecological values of the reserve. In investigating the complaint the Commissioner's Office looked into the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what was the process used to determine the suitability of the site at Bruce Ridge for mountain bike recreation? • what process was undertaken to determine how many bike trails are sustainable in Bruce Ridge and their appropriate locations? • what strategy or processes are in place to manage and monitor conservation on Bruce Ridge? • what processes are in place to balance recreational and conservation needs on the ridge? • what is the role of Friends of Bruce Ridge and how are their actions monitored? • are there any proposals currently under consideration for similar recreation facilities in other areas of the Canberra Nature Park? <p>The issues identified in this complaint and the 2009 Investigation into the Canberra Nature Park have raised concerns about the capacity and capability of reserves to accommodate recreation whilst maintaining the ecological values of our reserve system.</p>	Pending

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993: Section 14(8) requirements

The Office received two new complaints during 2012–13 which were complex and potentially raised systemic issues that require further assessment. There was also one complaint referred to the Office by the Ombudsman's Office. However, that complainant chose not to proceed with the complaint, so it is not included in the statistics. The Office also received general inquiries that were resolved through discussion with the Commissioner, relevant meetings, site visits and introductions to appropriate individuals within the relevant government directorates.

Complaints are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 and detailed in Tables 4–6.

A review of the complaints undertaken by the Office over the last 20 years (July 1993 – June 2012) revealed this breakdown by type as shown in Figure 2.

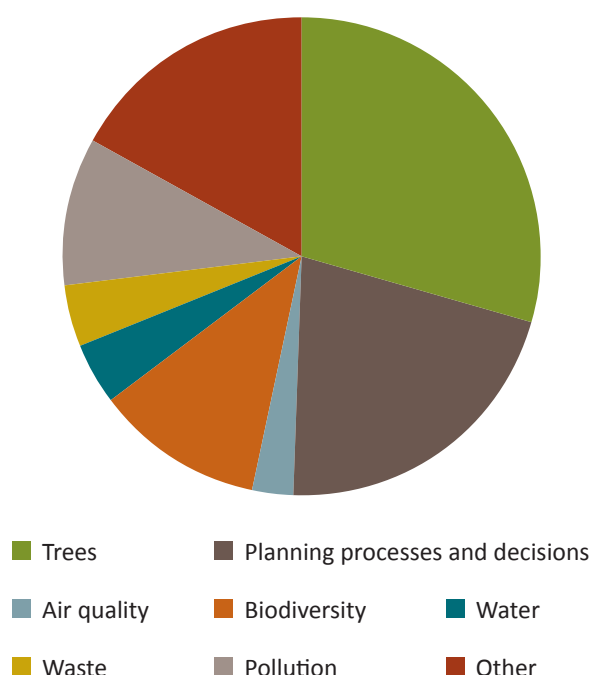


Figure 2. Distribution of issues among complaints received, 1993–2013

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993: Section 20(a) requirements (any special factor that had significant impact on environment)

As noted in last year's annual report 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.

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

- *Weathering the Change*, Action Plan 2, October 2012;
- ACT Planning Strategy, July 2012;
- City Plan, April 2013;
- Transport for Canberra 2012–2031 policy, March 2012;
- Draft Nature Conservation Strategy, September 2012;
- Review of the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, September 2012.

It is critical that implementation, monitoring and reporting on these strategies and policies remain a strong priority; particularly, implementation pathways to achieve the outcomes detailed in the policies and plans above.

In financially uncertain times, there is a need for even greater responsible and efficient use of resources. 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 trade-offs between environmental, social and economic considerations in decision-making must remain balanced and transparent.

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. The 2015 SoER will look at the drivers of environmental change in two categories: human need and climate change.

Human need

This category will look at the needs of the residents of the ACT and region and how these needs work to drive environmental change. This includes such drivers as consumption, the built environment including pollution and waste, population and demographics, economics, socio-institutional factors and changing technologies. This will include an updated look at the ACT's ecological footprint.

Climate change

This category will look at climate change as a driving force. It will include how a changing climate influences and changes the environment and how our actions influence climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT and how they compare Australia-wide and globally, and the likely future climate and associated impacts.

Climate change and climate change impacts will continue to be a significant issue for the ACT and region. Human health, our natural environment and infrastructure are all potentially at risk from climate change. It is important that the ACT works to mitigate these risks and seeks to promote a level of resilience in our community.

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 ACT State of the Environment Reports 2007–08 and 2011; the tree investigations¹; and the Canberra Nature Park Investigation². The Commissioner's assessments are presented below in an audit of past recommendations (Tables 7–9). Then Tables 10–11 summarise measures taken during the year by, or for, the Territory to implement other recommendations in the State of the Environment Reports (SoER) of 2007–08 and 2011. The information in Tables 10–11 is as advised by the relevant ACT Government Directorates.

Audit of past recommendations

During 2011–12, the Office began conducting thorough audits of previous recommendations. The process involved selecting recommendations arising from past investigations, complaints and the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2007–08*, and examining their implementation. For the 2012–13 audit the Office asked the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD) and the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) to provide detailed information on work that has been, or will be, undertaken to implement recommendations. These are the key Directorates responsible for implementing the recommendations from recent investigations undertaken by the Office.

This year's audit focused on:

- two recommendations from the 2011 SOER,
- one complaint,
- specific recommendations from the report on the Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Removal Program,
- several high priority recommendations from the Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest, and

1 Investigation into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest (2011); Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Removal Program (2010)

2 Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves), Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation (2011)

- particular high priority recommendations from the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves) Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation.

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

The Commissioner's assessment of progress is presented in Tables 7–9, with his comments. His assessment is based on information gained from the Directorates' written responses and from meetings between Directorate staff and the Office. They are included under the heading 'Directorate response and documentary support' in Tables 7–9.

In summary there has been some progress. However, improved record-keeping would assist in tracking implementation of the recommendations and our ability to monitor and report clearly on the progress made. This observation is similar to one the Commissioner made last year. Resource challenges again are cited for lack of progress in certain areas.

The Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services made a recommendation in their report on Annual and Financial Reports 2011–12, that better mechanisms and reporting procedures be instituted in all Directorates to ensure that the implementation of Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment report recommendations can be properly monitored and assessed.

Table 7: Audit responses to recommendations from one complaint

Audit responses to recommendations from one complaint			
Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
City West tree — Closed March 2012			
<p>1. 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 DA201017931³. 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 a replacement planting be pursued.</p>	Implemented		<p><i>ESDD Response 2012–13</i></p> <p>1. The approval of DA201017931 included the planting of nine street trees. The basement car park did not provide an opportunity for a replacement tree on the block.</p> <p>Section 119 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> does not permit an approval of a Merit track DA that will affect a Registered tree unless consistent with the advice of the Conservator.</p> <p>DA201017931 for the ANU student accommodation development (Lena Karmel Lodge) located on Block 6 Section 21 City was approved by Andrew Barr, Minister for Planning, on 26 August 2010.</p> <p>For clarification the tree located on Block 6 Section 21 City was a <i>Quercus robur</i> and had been placed on the Provisional Tree Register. The Conservator declined to register the Oak tree.</p>
<p>2. Given the advice provided to the OCSE, 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 a decision, using a triple bottom line approach, should be fully documented, including trade-offs considered.</p>	Not yet implemented	<p>2. The recommendation I made with regard to ACTPLA and ESDD seeking multidisciplinary advice regarding design options does not appear to have been evidenced. The documentation does not explain to me clearly the reasons for the decision, using a triple bottom line (TBL) approach, including any trade-offs. As I progress further work on the practical implementation of ESD within decision-making coupled with the Government's current TBL reporting requirements, I anticipate that the Government's decisions will become clearer and more transparent in relation to ESD and TBL reporting.</p>	

3 Notice of Decision for DA201017931 26/08/2010

Table 8: Audit responses to recommendations from the: Interim Report on the Dangerous and Hazardous Tree Removal Program; Report on the Government's Tree Management Practices and the Renewal of Canberra's Urban Forest (High Priority recommendations) Investigation; and Report on the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves), Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Goongong Foreshores Investigation

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
DANGEROUS AND HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL PROGRAM			
<p>Recommendation 4.4:</p> <p>It is recommended that TAMS tree-removal technical and administrative policies and procedures be strengthened by:</p> <p>TAMS undertaking a sample audit of removed trees to validate visual tree assessments and inform future tree assessments.</p> <p>Government response indicated that a sample audit of removed trees will be undertaken on 5% of green trees with defects, and information will be assessed to inform future audits. A sample audit was to commence in mid June 2010.</p>	Partly implemented and ongoing	<p>The documentary evidence does not support full implementation of this recommendation. However, some progress is being made. I anticipate, with renewal of budgets and contracts, this recommendation will be fully implemented.</p>	<p>TAMSD responded:</p> <p><i>In progress — ongoing.</i></p> <p>TAMSD's sample audit process is being refined and strengthened, particularly for trees within the annual tree removal contract.</p> <p>Urban Treescapes are constantly refining the process of tree assessments, particularly for tree removals. Trees identified for removal are reassessed when flagged by other Urban Treescapes staff, or when requested by a member of the public. This is an important step in urban tree management and making the correct removal decisions. Three photos* show a sample of the capture of tree defects, post removal to validate removal decisions. Cataloguing both the reassessments and tree defects post tree removal reconfirms our decision-making process.</p> <p>During 2013–14 there will be an increase in both of these checking steps to continue striving towards and beyond the 5% sample size recommendation.</p> <p>Lastly, all tree assessments are carried out by staff with AQF5 qualifications, meeting the requirements outlined in recommendation 6: 'That TAMS 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'. Please see Table: Training Summary — Urban Treescapes July 2013, for greater detail.</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support									
			<p>In 2011 Urban Treescapes purchased a Resistograph for \$16,000. This tool helps to interpret the structural integrity of wood within a tree. It measures the resistance of wood through cross-sections of the tree. The Resistograph is used to aid removal decisions, both when retaining trees and removing them.</p> <table><tr><td>Tree Removal Contract 2013</td></tr><tr><td>860 trees removed</td></tr><tr><td>312 trees dead</td></tr><tr><td>171 trees in advanced decline</td></tr><tr><td>377 trees other</td></tr><tr><td>382 trees signposted and removal validated</td></tr><tr><td>131 trees flagged for reassessment</td></tr><tr><td>3 trees retained</td></tr><tr><td>1 tree converted to habitat tree.</td></tr></table> <p><i>*Photos of 13 trees available on request.</i></p>	Tree Removal Contract 2013	860 trees removed	312 trees dead	171 trees in advanced decline	377 trees other	382 trees signposted and removal validated	131 trees flagged for reassessment	3 trees retained	1 tree converted to habitat tree.
Tree Removal Contract 2013												
860 trees removed												
312 trees dead												
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377 trees other												
382 trees signposted and removal validated												
131 trees flagged for reassessment												
3 trees retained												
1 tree converted to habitat tree.												
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>It is recommended that TAMS 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>Government agrees that future employment agreements will stipulate minimum qualification level and/or willingness to obtain these levels. Training will be offered on an on-going basis and included in performance management agreements.</p>	<p>Implemented and ongoing.</p>	<p>Training of Urban Treescape staff continues to progress.</p>	<p><i>TAMSD responded:</i></p> <p>In progress – ongoing.</p> <p>Annotated table, showing Training Summary, was supplied to OCSE.</p> <p>Urban Treescape staff have a range of tree operations experience. Further information of other qualifications can be given if required.</p> <p>See also Recommendation 4.4.</p>									

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support								
GOVERNMENT'S TREE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND THE RENEWAL OF CANBERRA'S URBAN FOREST INVESTIGATION (High Priority recommendations)											
Recommendation 1: Replace the proposed Urban Forest Renewal Program with comprehensive and integrated urban tree protection and management focus on the care and maintenance of Canberra's treed landscape. Government — Agreed.	In progress and ongoing	The assessment process prior to removing trees, combined with plantings where appropriate and tree-watering programs, indicate a move towards a more comprehensive and integrated operation.	<i>TAMSD responded:</i> In progress — ongoing. The Urban Forest Renewal Program has been replaced by a comprehensive and integrated tree management program. Refer to Recommendation 11B. <table><tr><td>Trees</td><td>Sub Programs 2012–13</td></tr><tr><td>22,000</td><td>Young tree watering program</td></tr><tr><td>1981</td><td>Annual planting program</td></tr><tr><td>860*</td><td>Annual tree removal program</td></tr></table> *All 860 tree removal sites were assessed for potential tree replanting. 430 sites were replanted with at least 1 tree each.	Trees	Sub Programs 2012–13	22,000	Young tree watering program	1981	Annual planting program	860*	Annual tree removal program
Trees	Sub Programs 2012–13										
22,000	Young tree watering program										
1981	Annual planting program										
860*	Annual tree removal program										
Recommendation 4A: Improve decision-making processes and practices for tree protection and management by: establishing an ACT tree Curator responsible for:	Not progressed		The Government Response indicated that the Government has agreed in principle to this recommendation. Processes are underway to make the required legislative changes. To be progressed in 2013–14. Options for establishing the role of Tree Curator are being considered.								

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
a. the statutory decision-making role of the 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 the powers under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> and any other legislation related to conservation matters.	Not Progressed	With regard to Recommendation 4A(a) it could be helpful to have an understanding of the proposed timelines with regard to the plans to amend the legislation to establish an ACT Tree Curator to replace the role of the Conservator with regard to urban trees under the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> . Whilst I understand that the functions and powers of the proposed Tree Curator have yet to be determined, I would envisage that the appointment of an experienced individual, responsible (as recommended) for both coordination and consistency of communications, assessments and analyses with regard to urban trees can only strengthen governance mechanisms and recognise the ongoing importance of the urban green infrastructure within our Territory. There appears to be limited evidence of coordinated tree management across ACT Government agencies.	a. This function and consequential amendments will be considered as part of the review of the <i>Tree Protection Act 2005</i> .
b. leading TAMS in its management of urban street and park trees;	Not Progressed		b. This function will be considered once the Curator role is established.
c. coordinating urban tree management practices and work activities across ACT Government and the National Capital Authority, and communication (especially consultation and notification processes);	Not Progressed		c. This function will be considered once the Curator role is established.
d. ensuring tree assessments and risk analyses are consistent across all ACT government agencies;	Not Progressed		d. This approach will need to be agreed by stakeholders from other ACT Government agencies.
e. reviewing (if requested) proposed non-urgent urban tree removals undertaken by TAMS tree assessors, be it internal staff or contractors, and for all other ACT Government agencies.	Not Progressed		e. This function is currently undertaken for PACS by the Manager Urban Treescapes.

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>Government — Agreed in Principle.</p> <p>If the position of Tree Curator is created, having primary qualifications in horticulture / arboriculture is not considered essential as existing team members have these skills. Candidate selection based on professional experience and objectivity is considered more important. The Curator's role should focus on street trees and trees on leased land. The Conservator's role should not be diminished with regard to greenfield planning, including the retention of current powers with respect to habitat values. It is essential that no additional assessment processes add to current due diligence requirements for new land release. The position is not currently funded and may not necessarily be implemented. A decision on implementation will be considered in the context of Budget taking into account broader government priorities.</p>			<p>Photographs available if required.</p> <p>To be scoped by agencies within the Tree Network Committee.</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>Guide Canberra's tree management by developing:</p> <p>A. a National capital—Canberra tree protection and management strategy;</p> <p>B. an ACT Government tree protection and management policies and procedures guide;</p> <p>C. an across-agency Tree Network Committee to provide advice and coordination between agencies on tree management and community communication.</p> <p>Government — Agreed in Principle.</p> <p>A. In conjunction with NCA, dependent on available funding.</p> <p>B. Dependent on available funding.</p> <p><i>It will be necessary to assess and rationalise existing within and across-agency committee structures before implementation, as there may be mechanisms currently in place that already achieve this.</i></p>	<p>5A,B,C. Not implemented</p>	<p>5A,B,C. I understand implementation of this three-part recommendation is in progress, and I have seen some draft documentation related to that.</p> <p>5A,B. These parts of the recommendation were expected to be completed by April 2013, as advised by TAMSD in the Office's last Annual Report.</p>	<p>The Government Response indicated that the Government has agreed in principle to this recommendation. Processes are underway to make the required legislative changes.</p> <p>TAMSD responded:</p> <p>A. In progress. Due for completion by December 2013.</p> <p>B. In progress. Due for completion by December 2013.</p> <p>C. In progress. Committee is to meet again by December 2013.</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
Recommendation 11B: Fund the protection and management of Canberra's street and park trees: (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). Government — Agreed in Principle. It is noted that an additional budget of \$1.15 million has been allocated to TAMS for this purpose in 2011–12; additional funding will be considered in the context of budget considerations and broader government priorities.	Partially implemented	I understand that funding priorities change from year to year and that \$1 million was allocated for 2013–14 and further funding will be sought in the out-years.	TAMS responded: Additional funding as specified has not been provided. Funding of \$1.0 million has been allocated in 2013–14 ostensibly to offset the loss of Urban Forest Replacement Program initiative funding. A budget case will be developed in 2013–14 seeking out-year funding.

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
CANBERRA NATURE PARK (NATURE RESERVES), MOLONGLO RIVER CORRIDOR (NATURE RESERVES) AND GOOGONG FORESHORES INVESTIGATION (High Priority Recommendations)			
Recommendation 1.3: Develop and implement a community education and awareness program promoting the ecological, health and social values and benefits, and appropriate uses of our nature reserves. Government — Agreed in Principle. Implementation arrangements and likely resourcing needs will require further consideration and examination.	Partly implemented	I note that Parks and Conservation's ParkCare initiative is aimed at community engagement including health and social values promoting conservation. Funding restraints will limit full effectiveness of this sort of program.	<p><i>TAMSD responded:</i></p> <p>The PCS ParkCare initiative supports a wide range of community based conservation initiatives that promote positive ecological, health and social values. A particularly targeted 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People' style community awareness program is currently not funded.</p> <p>See Scribbly Gum newsletter on TAMSD website http://www.tams.act.gov.au/about-us/volunteers/scribbly_gum_newsletter</p>
Recommendation 2: Improve the condition and resilience of our nature reserves by: 2.1 Taking action now as we are warned: Do not wait for improved climate and impact information before taking further actions that will enhance the resilience of the Nature Reserves. 2.2 Giving priority to those routine management actions identified in this Investigation for each nature reserve; (these actions should be part of the Nature Reserve Operational Plans (Recommendation 3.1); however, implementation of actions should not be delayed pending the development of these plans).	Partially implemented	<p>The ACT Woodlands Project is a good example, in my view, of 'cooperative conservation'. Outputs include biodiverse plantings, protecting and enhancing existing woodland vegetation, managing threats to biodiversity, and community engagement including indigenous representation. This model should be transferred to other reserves.</p> <p>The focus on greatest benefit to ecosystem function and resilience and current reserve condition is noted.</p>	<p><i>TAMSD responded:</i></p> <p>The implementation of further restoration actions will be guided by the ecological values present, by restoration planning that identifies actions that have greatest benefit to ecosystem function and resilience, and by the current condition of reserves and the success of actions already taken or under way, rather than focusing solely on those reaching critical condition. Best value for money will be a key principle guiding prioritisation of actions.</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>2.3 Implementing a nature reserve restoration program which would be additional to routine management actions with priority given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restoring the condition of those nature reserves that are overall approaching critical condition or in critical condition (20%). restoring localised areas that are approaching or in critical condition on nature reserves in an overall satisfactory condition, especially those with high ecological values. protecting and enhancing the ecological values of all nature reserves. (These actions should be part of the Nature Reserve Operational Plans (Recommendation 3.1). However, implementation of actions should not be delayed pending the development of these plans). 			<p>TAMSD stated that with regard to 2.3 and 2.4:</p> <p>The ACT Woodland Restoration Project (WRP) has funding of \$1 million and is being implemented by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD). The funding is from 2011–2014. One of the main goals of the WRP is to increase ecological connectivity and reduce patch isolation and fragmentation to enhance landscape resilience.</p> <p>The other woodland restoration project is being implemented by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD). This title of this project is 'Building restored resilient landscapes in the ACT and Greater Gorooyarroo' (Restore ACT and Gorooyarroo).</p> <p>This project has funding of \$2.15 million from 2012 to 2018. Restore ACT and Gorooyarroo is an ecological restoration program across 60,000 ha of nationally significant lowland woodland areas of the ACT and adjacent NSW. The project will consolidate and connect the largest remaining box–gum grassy woodland landscape in Australia, enhancing a biodiverse and carbon storing landscape that is resilient to climate change. The project must deliver the following targets by the end of 2018: 700 ha revegetation; 800 ha restoration; and 10,000 ha invasive species control.</p> <p>2.3 Action taken as per document titled <i>ACT Woodlands Project Summary Report</i>. The project objectives are to: enhance woodland connectivity and condition across ACT to a whole-of-landscape approach; to engage the community in woodland restoration activities; and to protect and enhance remnant woodland by introducing missing habitat elements and controlling invasive species; on-ground monitoring; and community engagement.</p> <p>Also see: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-03/restoring-australia27s-vast-green-corridors/4404464</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>Strengthening connectivity between nature reserves with on-ground actions being guided by independent strategic and scientific ecological advice and monitored by one of the existing advisory committees (e.g. Flora and Fauna Committee, Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee, Natural Resource Management Council).</p> <p>Government — Agreed to 2.1, 2.2 & 2.4, and agreed in part to 2.3.</p>			<p>2.4 Action taken as per ACT Woodlands Project Summary Report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>Better direct and inform the management of nature reserves by:</p> <p>3.1 Preparing a Nature Reserve Operational Plan for each nature reserve ...</p> <p>Government — Agreed in Principle to 3.1.</p> <p>Nature Reserve Operational Plans will be developed giving attention first to the highest priority reserves, rather than providing an operational plan for each reserve. Consideration will be given to grouping some reserves, such as those which are similar and do not have an individual ParkCare group. Implementation arrangements and likely resourcing needs will require further consideration and examination.</p>	<p>Partly implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>We have been in discussion with Parks and Conservation Services particularly around the balance of conservation values and recreational opportunities in nature reserves, and the need for management plans. TAMSD is in the process of developing operational plans. Until these plans are completed park management actions are less likely to be guided by strategic outcomes.</p>	<p><i>TAMSD responded:</i></p> <p>3.1 TAMSD has progressed well in producing Operational Plan templates. Government has identified funding in 2012–13 to deliver Operational Plans.</p> <p>Briefing to CSE staff on progress has been arranged.</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>3.2 Developing and implementing a nature reserve monitoring strategy ... Government — Agreed in Part to 3.2. Landscape Function Analysis is good at identifying land in poor condition and changes over time, but may not be the best monitoring for the values and adaptive management within CNP because it may not be reproducible across different assessors because of its subjectivity. Implementation arrangements and likely resourcing needs will require further consideration and examination. Priority will be given to monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the endangered ecosystems protected within these reserves, b. the abundance and extent of selected occurrences of threatened species, and c. the abundance and extent of selected weed patches. 		<p>Work on implementing these recommendations is patchy.</p>	<p>3.2 TAMSD is working with ESDD to review the current monitoring arrangements for the conservation estate across the Territory. The review will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what monitoring is occurring • what are the gaps • how the monitoring results can be effectively communicated to the land managers. <p>TAMSD has allocated some funding in the 2013–14 budget to commence this work.</p> <p><i>TAMSD also responded:</i></p> <p>ESDD has been funded by government to deliver a program to monitor overgrazing by kangaroos (limited duration).</p> <p>Selected ParkCare groups are currently assisting with the monitoring of rabbit activity in some reserves.</p> <p>A number of ParkCare groups also undertake yearly biodiversity monitoring surveys which includes vegetation and environmental data and an overall condition assessment. These groups have been working with PCS and Molonglo Catchment Group to better understand the reserve environments.</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>Recommendation 4.1:</p> <p>Strengthen the management framework and strategically position our nature reserves by:</p> <p>Amending the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> to:</p> <p>Government — Agreed in Part.</p> <p>The Review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> (the Act) will identify improvements in enforcement options and the penalty regime under the Act; this will include consideration of the appropriate way to deal with future encroachments. Climate change and connectivity matters will primarily be dealt with through the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy and <i>Weathering the Change</i> Action Plan 2, rather than through legislation. Implementation arrangements and likely resourcing needs will require further consideration and examination.</p>	Partly implemented	<p>Without any specific documentation it is difficult to comment on the progress toward implementation of this recommendation. I understand that the ongoing work in drafting amendments to the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> is nearing completion; however, I have not been a party to this process.</p> <p>We note the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy and the <i>Weathering the Change</i> Action Plan 2 were publicly available during 2012–13.</p>	<p>ESDD stated that</p> <p>Legislative proposals are in development to provide more enforcement options.</p> <p>4.1 Climate change and connectivity are a focus of a revised nature conservation strategy.</p> <p>Evidence not provided — subject to Government approval processes.</p> <p>Draft Nature Conservation Strategy is at http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/draft_nature_conservation_strategy_consultation</p>

Recommendation	Progress assessment	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response and documentary support
<p>Recommendation 5: Integrate community health and well-being with nature reserve protection by:</p> <p>5.1. Developing and implementing an ACT Nature Reserve Recreation Strategy which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies the appropriate balance and mix of recreational opportunities for each nature reserve; directs recreational activities to appropriate locations and encourages users to respect the environment and each other; incorporates the Centenary Trail where appropriate; specifically addresses track planning and management; guides infrastructure development; is developed in consultation with the community, in particular, reserve user groups and ParkCare groups; and aligns with the ACT Government's Strategic Plan for Sport and Active Recreation in the ACT and Region 2011–2020. <p>5.2. Improving the provision and management of appropriate recreation infrastructure in nature reserves.</p> <p>Government agreed in principle to both parts.</p> <p>Implementation arrangements and likely resourcing needs will require further consideration and examination.</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>	<p>As a consequence of a complaint to this Office I am aware that work is underway to look at this recommendation, particularly in relation to recreation in our nature reserves.</p>	<p><i>TAMSD responded:</i></p> <p>Planning work is nearing completion on the design of public recreational facilities to be incorporated in the new Molonglo River Park. Facilities are to include picnic areas, BBQs and shelters and informal play space.</p> <p>Funding is available in 2013–14 to upgrade BBQs throughout public land in the ACT.</p> <p>5.1. Funding is not available in 2013–14 to develop a Recreation Strategy. A Trails Strategy is currently being completed and is likely to be finalised in 2012–13.</p> <p>5.1. See planning documents from TAMSD website. http://www.tams.act.gov.au/about-us/community_engagement/recent_consultations/molonglo_river_park_-_coombs_riverside_preliminary_designs</p>

Table 9. Audit responses in relation to ACT State of the Environment Reports (SoER) 2007–08 and 2011

SoER 2011 Recommendation	SoER 2007–08 Recommendation	Progress	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response 2012–13 and supporting evidence and documentation
Recommendation 4: Improve monitoring to assess the impact of erosion on local land and water resources, and to help us to understand the interactions between the ACT's catchment and ecosystem services; in particular: a. undertake baseline soils mapping for the ACT to facilitate monitoring and assessment of soil condition;		Partially implemented and ongoing	The requirements of Australia's Native Vegetation Framework and the work being undertaken as part of the baseline soil mapping will provide additional data and research to progress understanding of interactions between catchments and ecosystem services and guide management actions over time.	ESDD responded: a. Baseline soil mapping has been commissioned. Contracts have been signed and work is due to commence in May 2013. Contracts have been lodged with Procurement Solutions. http://www.procurement.act.gov.au/home
b. identify indicators of land health including soil health, vegetation quality and change, and land use changes, and monitor and publicly report on these on a regular basis;	Manage land effectively by: b) Undertaking a territory-wide land degradation assessment of erosion and soil salinity, and mapping the results.	Partially implemented and ongoing		b. The ACT has signed up to Australia's Vegetation Framework which requires monitoring of the condition of native vegetation. Native vegetation condition monitoring is also a commitment within the draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. The framework is at http://www.environment.gov.au/land/vegetation/nvf/index.html and http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/draft_nature_conservation_strategy_consultation

SoER 2011 Recommendation	SoER 2007–08 Recommendation	Progress	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response 2012–13 and supporting evidence and documentation
c. improve limited land health data by including land health assessments in water catchment data to inform soil condition across the ACT; and		Partially implemented and ongoing		d. Baseline soil mapping has been commissioned. Contracts have been signed and work is due to commence in May 2013. This will provide baseline data that will enable monitoring of some land health indicators. The ACT has also participated in a joint funded project Actions for Clean Water which has identified a range of actions for improving land health in the Upper Murrumbidgee. Contracts have been lodged with Procurement Solutions. http://www.procurement.act.gov.au/home http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au/downloads/ACWA/Upper_Murrumbidgee_Actions_for_Clean_Water_Plan_-_September_2012_-_Part_A_-_ACWA_Strategic_Plan.pdf
d. improve actions related to sediment and erosion mitigation.		Partially implemented and ongoing		e. The ACT has also participated in a joint funded project 'Actions for Clean Water' which has identified a range of actions for improving land health in the Upper Murrumbidgee. http://www.murrumbidgee.cma.nsw.gov.au/downloads/ACWA/Upper_Murrumbidgee_Actions_for_Clean_Water_Plan_-_September_2012_-_Part_A_-_ACWA_Strategic_Plan.pdf

SoER 2011 Recommendation	SoER 2007–08 Recommendation	Progress	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response 2012–13 and supporting evidence and documentation
Recommendation 1: Establish cross-boundary management of the ACT's water resources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing catchment policy and an integrated water supply catchment management strategy, as recommended in previous State of the Environment Reports; and • strengthening integrated management action by facilitating improved exchange and use of information, such as spatial information, between government agencies, Natural Resource Management groups and Catchment Management Authorities, and by promoting sustainable catchment management with landholders and the community. 	Improve catchment management by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an ACT integrated water supply catchment management policy and strategy to guide, among other things, coordination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) scientific research, (ii) data collection, (iii) monitoring and reporting (including public information). 	Not implemented	The draft Water Strategy has yet to be released.	ESDD responded: The draft new Water Strategy, 'Water for the future—striking the balance' has been developed and, subject to Cabinet agreement, will be released for public consultation in mid-2013.
Recommendation 6: Strengthen research, planning and practical projects to enhance biodiversity conservation in the ACT through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a biodiversity monitoring strategy, building on existing government and non-government skills, capacity and programs, and focused on periodic reporting. This should include, where appropriate, systematic statistical methodologies which support monitoring of trends and changes to biodiversity assets in the ACT; 	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; 	Partially implemented and ongoing	In conjunction with Recommendation 4 (above) a substantial amount of data and a body of research work is contributing to developing management plans and responses to environmental and biodiversity changes. Monitoring is not yet laid out on a rolling 3-year basis over a 10-year period. However, monitoring in general is progressing. The Flora and Fauna Committee seeks public consultation when reviewing 'Action Plans'.	ESDD responded: ESDD collaborates with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage regularly. Projects that involve collaborative processes include vegetation mapping, soil mapping and connectivity mapping. Vegetation mapping is using a classification and connectivity mapping system, similar to those in NSW, to draw-up a connectivity map for the ACT. Monitoring of biodiversity is a commitment within the draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. The Strategy also has a strong emphasis on citizen science. Native vegetation condition monitoring is also a commitment within the draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy.

SoER 2011 Recommendation	SoER 2007–08 Recommendation	Progress	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response 2012–13 and supporting evidence and documentation
<p>identifying opportunities to integrate multiple environmental assessments.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when monitoring nature reserves for vegetation qualities, land-health indicators and grazing impacts should also be monitored at the same sites. Assessing sites in Canberra Nature Park on a rolling 3-year basis over a 10-year period would provide the basic information for monitoring trends in environmental condition; publicly reporting decisions and activities relating to individual species, populations and ecological communities in the ACT. This should include both qualitative and quantitative information; reviewing and updating Action Plans where appropriate, and publicly reporting on progress against Action Plan objectives and proposed actions; and collaborating with NSW Government and regional organisations to contribute to regional and national biodiversity data sets. 	<p>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 reducing activities, research, monitoring and evaluations should be created.</p> <p>NOTE: this was audited in the 2011–12 Annual Report.</p>	<p>Partially implemented and ongoing</p>	<p>The collaboration with NSW and other stakeholders on specific projects is noted.</p>	<p>The final Nature Conservation Strategy will propose monitoring of five ecosystems: forests, woodlands, grasslands, riparian and alpine/sub alpine. This will provide an integrating framework for long-term monitoring.</p> <p>Monitoring of individual species and ecological communities occurs through Conservation Planning and Research.</p> <p>Threatened species protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> are the priority.</p> <p>Action plans are reviewed regularly. Where plans are identified by the Flora and Fauna Committee as needing to be updated, they are subject to public consultation.</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/draft_nature_conservation_strategy_consultation</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/report_series/ecological_survey_reports</p> <p>http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/esdd/2013/have-your-say-on-action-plans-to-help-local-flora-and-fauna_and</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation_and_ecological_communities/information_on_action_plans</p> <p>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/260601/Box-Gum_Woodland_Technical_Report_25_Cover.pdf</p> <p><i>and regional links analysis</i></p> <p>http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/maps_land_survey/maps/actmap13/actmap13_-_Data_descriptions</p>

SoER 2011 Recommendation	SoER 2007–08 Recommendation	Progress	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response 2012–13 and supporting evidence and documentation
Recommendation 17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise and implement the draft Sustainable Transport Action Plan to provide an integrated approach to transport and urban planning. In doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtain additional non-work related travel data, similar to the annual Sydney Household Travel Survey, to ensure a more complete understanding of Canberra's transport habits; focus on strategies and targets to improve access to sustainable forms of transport outside of transport corridors; develop targets for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport; increasing sustainable transport usage for non-work travel to complement the existing targets for work travel; and track progress towards sustainable transport targets on an annual basis. 	<p>Progress sustainable transport by:</p> <p>Continuing to implement and support the Territory's Sustainable Transport Plan by:</p> <p>(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),</p> <p>(ii) developing a pedestrian action plan, in consultation with the community, to foster walking, particularly for commuter trips.</p> <p>Amending the Territory's Sustainable Transport Plan 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>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 Sustainable Transport Plan to include any government-adopted options. An independently chaired, multidiscipline taskforce should be charged with developing the options, consulting the community and reporting to government.</p> <p>NOTE: b) was audited in the 2011–12 Annual Report.</p>	Partially implemented and ongoing	<p>The Sustainable Transport Action Plan has been superseded by 'Transport for Canberra'. The annual Transport for Canberra update report from 2012–13 should provide guidance on implementation progress.</p>	<p>ESDD responded:</p> <p>Transport for Canberra — an integrated transport strategy document was released in March 2012. Transport for Canberra provides an action plan for sustainable transport. Implementation of this action plan across agencies is monitored through an inter-agency working group and an Implementation Tracking Plan.</p>

SoER 2011 Recommendation	SoER 2007–08 Recommendation	Progress	Commissioner's comments	Directorate response 2012–13 and supporting evidence and documentation
<p>Recommendation 18:</p> <p>Finalise and implement a new ACT Waste Management Strategy with a focus on reducing waste generation; in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examining and implementing options for diverting wastes from landfill to higher order beneficial reuse opportunities. These actions should be measured, recorded and reported publicly. focusing community education on the link between consumption and waste; and targeting specific programs to reduce waste from the construction and demolition, and commercial and industrial sectors. 	<p>Further advance waste management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing and implementing a waste minimisation or 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, No Waste by 2010); progressing a domestic and business organic waste collection system; developing and implementing a Business Waste Reduction Strategy that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) reducing waste, (ii) recycling and reusing waste, (iii) collecting and reporting on data, (iv) holding a businesses' waste forum to encourage innovative and cost-effective approaches for reducing waste; increasing community education and promotion to further reduce recyclables in potential landfill waste; providing more facilities for recycling in public places and at major events; 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"> (i) provide data on e-waste, (ii) raise awareness about e-waste, (iii) develop e-waste minimisation and management strategies, (iv) promote waste minimisation as a practical way to advance sustainability. <p>Note: b) was audited in the 2011–12 Annual Report.</p>	Partially implemented and ongoing	<p>The ACT Waste Strategy has been finalised and is currently being implemented. The Strategy has been recently introduced and there is a risk that reporting will be fragmented. Work is progressing in many areas, as evidenced in the Directorate's response. However, a more systematic approach to tracking progress of all the strategies will provide a better indication of overall progress.</p>	<p>ESDD responded:</p> <p>2012: Supported.</p> <p>New resource recovery targets adopted as part of the ACT Waste Management Strategy.</p> <p>Organic waste recovery options being investigated in 2013 market sounding.</p> <p>ACTSmart programs are targeting business waste. SITA was contracted to develop a Commercialwaste Material Recovery Facility in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate in 2012.</p> <p>New community waste education program launched by ACT NOWaste (TAMSD).</p> <p>Public place recycling established in Civic in 2011 and ACTSmart event recycling will cover all major events in 2013.</p> <p>Free drop off at two ewaste recycling depots established in 2012.</p>

Recommendations in State of the Environment reports

This Annual Report reports (Table 10) on the continued implementation of recommendations made in the ACT *State of the Environment Report 2007–08*.

Following the release of the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2011*, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 5 June 2012, the Government supported or supported in-principle 19 of the 22 recommendations, and gave in-part support for Recommendations 7, 10 and 19. This 2012–13 Annual Report also reports on Territory implementation of the recommended actions (Table 11).

The tables below summarise measures taken during the year by, or for, the Territory to implement these recommendations, excluding those examined in the audits reported above.

Table 10: Progress in implementing recommendations from the *ACT State of the Environment Report 2007–08*

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
Climate change (SoER 2007–08)		
1. Ensure an effective response to climate change by: a. giving a high priority to implementing the ACT Government's <i>Weathering the Change</i> strategy and action plan;	ESDD advised the following: a. The ACT Government has commenced development of <i>Weathering the Change</i> 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.	ESDD reports: a. In October 2012, the ACT Government released AP2: A new <i>climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory</i> . The primary focus of AP2 is to set the Territory on the path to meet its 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target and establish a strong foundation for the achievement of the overall target of being carbon neutral, or having zero net emissions, by 2060. AP2 contains 18 actions to achieve four primary outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimising the ACT's contribution to global warming by achieving the ACT's legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets; • ensuring a fair society in a low-carbon economy; • strengthening the ACT's capacity to respond to a changing climate; and • creating a more sustainable future.
b. the Commissioner's Office annually assessing the progress made in implementing <i>Weathering the Change</i> ; 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.	b. AP2 has taken an adaptive and evidence-based policy approach. The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) will, for the first time, publish periodic Implementation Status Reports on the implementation of ACT Government climate change policies. These will be delivered every three years, in 2014, 2017 and 2020. Consistent with the expertise of the OCSE, its assessment will be against the achievement of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced greenhouse gas emissions; • adapting to a changing climate; and • leading a sustainable future.

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
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 (SoER 2007–08)		
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 advised: 1. The Environment Protection Authority prepares an annual air quality report which is publicly released by 30 June following each reporting year.	
2. Gain a better understanding of indoor air quality to inform building design, maintenance and use by: 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.	2a,b,c. Indoor air quality in the workplace is an occupational health and safety issue which is the responsibility of the Office of Regulatory Services. The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging has a publication dealing with this issue, which is referenced in the Indoor Air Quality indicator.	Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) advises that the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) is not responsible for monitoring indoor air quality and therefore has not submitted any updates against this recommendation. ESDD has not reported further.

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
Conserving biodiversity (SoER 2007–08)		
1. Strengthen the nature conservation estate by:	ESDD provided the following advice.	ESDD reports:
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.	<p>1a,b. 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>	1a,b. The work of recording the locations of Snow Gum–Candlebark Tableland and Box–Gum Woodlands at these sites is a priority (note it does not include an assessment of condition) and preliminary results should be available by the end of 2014.
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.	<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>	

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
Conserving biodiversity (SoER 2007–08)		
c. considering Goorooyarroo and Mulligan's Flat nature reserves (Yellow Box–Red Gum Grassy Woodlands) for designation as a national park. It may be that Goorooyarroo–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.	1c. ESDD advised that this recommendation has been implemented.	<p>1c. As a result of the Commonwealth's approval of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, additional nature reserves will be added to the Canberra Nature Park. The additions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinlyside Nature Reserve (201 ha), • Kenny Nature Reserve (160 ha), and • additions to Mulligan's Flat and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserves (300 ha). <p>In addition, 120 ha of land north of the urban areas of Taylor and Jacka (that is Horse Park North) will be added to Hills Ridges and Buffer Zone.</p> <p>Further consideration will be given to the northern national park proposal through consultation on the Territory Plan variation process for North and East Gungahlin which will formally implement the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, and through the review of the Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management.</p>
<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>ESDD and TAMSD advised the following.</p> <p>2a. 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 is also working to provide data related to avifauna of the Kama Nature Reserve and surrounds. A report is expected in 2012.</p>	<p>ESDD reports:</p> <p>2a. Conservation Planning and Research receives species-specific data from COG upon request.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<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>2b. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>2b. The Australian National Botanic Gardens, Greening Australia and the ACT Government are also working together to conserve threatened grassland plants such as the Ginninderra Peppercress. The aim of this collaboration is to increase the population of this species through planned translocation.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
3. Achieve effective nature conservation management by: a. finalising, implementing and monitoring management plans, with all stakeholders participating and progress being publicly reported, particularly for: (i) Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve Management Plan; (ii) Lower Cotter Catchment; (iii) Namadgi National Park; and (iv) Googong Foreshores;	<p>ESDD and TAMSD provided the following advice.</p> <p>a(i) Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve Plan of Management was finalised in 2010 and implementation is ongoing;</p> <p>(ii) No advice was provided on the implementation of this recommendation;</p> <p>(iii) Namadgi National Park Plan of Management was finalised in 2010 and implementation is ongoing;</p> <p>(iv) Googong Foreshores Plan of Management is expected to be finalised by mid-2012 and approval and publication are expected in 2013.</p> <p>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>ESDD reports:</p> <p>3a(ii) Work has commenced on the preparation of a Plan of Management for the Lower Cotter Catchment;</p> <p>The Tidbinbilla Plan of Management was finalised in 2012. Additionally, work is well progressed in developing a statutory management plan for the Lower Molonglo River Corridor, and work has commenced on a review of the Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management.</p> <p>TAMSD reports that:</p> <p>3a. Management Plans for Jerrabomberra, Lower Cotter Catchment and Namadgi are being implemented. The Googong Foreshores Plan of Management has been completed and is in the final stages of an approval process.</p> <p>The Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Plan of Management 2012 came into effect in November 2012.</p> <p>ESDD, in partnership with TAMS, commenced a review of the Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management in 2013.</p>
b. finalising, implementing and monitoring the ACT Weeds Strategy;	<p>3b. The ACT Weeds Strategy 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 Environmental Weed Management Guidelines 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>	<p>3b. PCS is responding to the threat to Canberra's natural heritage by implementing the ACT Weeds Strategy and the ACT Environmental Weed Control Operations Plan. There is an estimated 32,000 hectares of serious environmental weed infestations over the area managed by PCS. PCS currently works on controlling up to 9000 hectares of these environmental weed infestations. This is mainly long term follow-up control of the higher risk environmental weeds that threaten high conservation value areas.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<p>3c. 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>ESDD and TAMSD provided the following advice:</p> <p>3c. 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, Ecological connectivity for climate change in the ACT and surrounding region, 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>TAMSD reports:</p> <p>The Lower Cotter Catchment Restoration project continued in 2012–13, and in 2013–14 will enter a consolidation and maintenance phase. This project has been successful in restoring fire damaged areas in the catchment of the Cotter Dam and improving water quality. This area's value as a connecting corridor between the lowlands and the mountains has also been greatly enhanced.</p> <p>Molonglo Riverside Park Stage 1. This project provides for essential infrastructure in the Molonglo River Park for the emerging community of Molonglo, and fire protection for new suburbs, and protects endangered species and communities.</p> <p>ESDD reports:</p> <p>A connectivity analysis, which identifies key woodland and forest habitat, the functioning links between them, and how connections and wildlife movement can best be maintained and enhanced, is completed and publicly available through ACTMAPi. The information is being used to guide effective restoration and to inform planning and development decisions and processes such as the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and Majura Parkway.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
3d. developing and implementing an interim policy to allow for limited commercial seed collection on selected unleased sites, pending completion of the review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> ;	3. ESDD and TAMSD provided the following advice. 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 <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> . These licences allow for commercial seed collection on selected sites according to the conditions of the policy.	TAMSD advises that: Action Plans prepared in accordance with the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> provide guidance for the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities. Specific activities undertaken in 2012–13 involved monitoring of several species including the Golden Sun Moth, Grassland Earless Dragon and Macquarie Perch. Ongoing monitoring of population densities of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and their grazing impacts occurred in some Canberra Nature Park Reserves.
3e. 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;	3e. 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.	ESDD adds that: 3e. The Macquarie Perch populations are monitored annually by ACTEW.
3f. finalising, implementing and monitoring the kangaroo-management plan for the whole Territory. Consultation with the community is to occur at the planning stage.	3f. The ACT Kangaroo Management Plan was finalised in 2010 and extensive community consultation was undertaken during preparation of the plan.	3f. The ACT has funded research worth \$243,000 over two years (2012–13, 2013–14) into kangaroo population dynamics, and conservation impacts of kangaroo populations.
5. Effectively control pest plants and animals to minimise adverse affects on nature conservation by: 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.	ESDD provided the following advice. ESDD is working with TAMSD to consider the impacts of climate change on weed distribution. ESDD is currently working with TAMSD to develop a Pest Animal Management Plan for Rabbits. a) TAMSD advised our Office that existing programs to control pest animals have continued or been enhanced including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fox baiting at Goongong, 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;	TAMSD advises that: Rabbit and hare management continued in 2012–13 with an intensive program at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary aimed at eradicating rabbits and hares in the Sanctuary. The program will continue in 2013–14. Follow up rabbit management was conducted at Mount Painter, Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Callum Brae, Red Hill Nature Reserve, Mount Ainslie, Mount Majura Nature Reserve, Mugga Mugga Nature Reserve, and new programs initiated at Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve and the southern end of Orroral Valley in Namadgi National Park.

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 TAMSD's 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>	<p>The European red fox and cats are considered to be a major cause of the decline of bird and mammal species across Australia and certainly are a key impediment locally to the successful reintroduction of missing species to the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. The Sanctuary itself has been fox, cat and dog-free since 2009; however, work continues to reduce fox pressure on the surrounding area through an active monitoring and baiting program.</p> <p>The ACT Wild Dog Program ran successfully in 2012–13. Stock losses have been kept to a minimum with the annual feral pig program commencing in late May 2013.</p> <p>Additional funding has allowed PCS to better monitor feral deer distribution through an improved database and improved monitoring techniques.</p>

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<p>5b. 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>5b. No advice was provided on the implementation of this recommendation.</p>	<p>ESDD reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Research in ESDD is assisting ACTPCS to: • collate previous records of occurrence of four deer species and more efficiently record future observations; • compile a ‘State of Knowledge’ report with a contractor about deer, deer impacts and deer management options; • obtain relevant input from interstate organisations undertaking similar exercises; and • establish enclosure plots to monitor impacts as the four species of deer continue to expand their distribution in the ACT region in future.
<p>5c. Effectively control pest plants and animals to minimise adverse affects on nature conservation by 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 provided the following advice.</p> <p>5c. 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>	<p>TAMSD advises that all vertebrate pest management conducted by PCS has ongoing operational and performance monitoring built into the programs.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
Catchment quality (SoER 2007–08)		
1. Improve catchment management by:	ESDD provided the following advice.	
a. developing an ACT integrated water supply catchment management policy and strategy to guide, among other things, coordination of: (i) scientific research; (ii) data collection; (iii) monitoring and reporting (including public information);	1a. ESDD has advised that both the Review of Think water, act water 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.	
b. 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);	1b. The revised Strategy is currently undergoing internal review.	ESDD reports: 1b. The revised Water Strategy was released for public consultation on 3 July 2013. TAMSD advises that the restoration of the foreshore along the Molonglo River has been completed. Works involved willow removal, revegetation using native trees, shrubs, low growing species and aquatic plants to stabilise the riparian zone, and follow-up weed control. The restoration works are expected to improve water quality by minimising sediment and nutrients entering the waterway and impacting on Lake Burley Griffin, and to enhance habitat for native fauna and aquatic wildlife. The removal of pest willows, which were obstructing water flow, will also reduce flooding and debris deposition. Approximately three kilometres of waterway debris was cleared in 2012–13.
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;	1c. ESDD (Water Policy) has indicated a more comprehensive and strategic monitoring program across the ACT as part of the revised draft Strategy. TAMSD (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;	
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;	1d. 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.	

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e. ensuring the key indicators in the State of the Environment Report, Natural Resource Management Plan and other relevant ACT Government reports are reviewed and aligned.	1e. ESDD advised that this recommendation has been implemented.	
2. Further progress restoration efforts in the Lower Cotter Catchment by: a. continuing the science-based approach to management, with an emphasis given to monitoring and publicly reporting on recovery of this catchment;	ESDD advised as follows. 2a. 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.	ESDD reports that: Work has commenced on a statutory plan of management for the Lower Cotter Catchment. Appropriate recreational activities, consistent with the protection of water quality, will be defined in the plan. TAMSD advises that the Lower Cotter Catchment Restoration project continued in 2012–13 and in 2013–14 will enter a consolidation and maintenance phase. This project has been successful in restoring fire damaged areas in the catchment of the Cotter Dam and improving water quality. The area's value as a connecting corridor between the lowlands and the mountains has also been greatly enhanced. 2a. Monitoring of catchment recovery continues. Techniques include using landscape function analysis monitoring plus revegetation monitoring by Greening Australia.
b. further reducing water turbidity in streams through targeting areas of greatest vulnerability that have high rehabilitation potential;	2b. 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.	2b. Sites with minimal natural regeneration have been revegetated through community planting. Road maintenance is ongoing to ensure that the road network has minimal sediment contribution.
c. clearly defining recreational activities, with protection of water being the highest priority.	2c. 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. The 2010 Namadgi National Park Plan of Management 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.	2c. Water catchment protection zoning through installation of access gates has been implemented. Recent changes exclude dogs from water quality protection zones. Information regarding appropriate recreation use in the Lower Cotter Catchment is provided on the TAMSD website.

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
Resource use (SoER 2007–08)		
1. Use resources more wisely by:	ESDD advised as follows.	ESDD reports:
a. developing and implementing a sustainability community awareness program(s) on:	1a(i) The Government released the ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011–2025 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.	1a(i) The ACTSmart <i>Business</i> and ACTSmart <i>Office</i> programs have a sustainable procurement component.
(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>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 ACT Sustainable Waste Strategy.</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>	<p>To date, 654 sites across the Territory are participating in these programs.</p> <p>Currently 203 sites are accredited, meeting the recycling standard set by the programs. Over 35,000 staff have access to the programs.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
(ii) prudent and smart use of water and energy;	<p>1a)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>1a)ii. As at 30 June 2013, 41,812 households had received advice from the Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT); 7,297 had audits completed on their homes; and 3,652 had received rebates as part of the ACT HEAT energy audit program. This program closed on 20 April 2013.</p> <p>The Outreach program, to assist low-income households to improve home energy and water-use efficiency, assisted 1,075 households in 2012–13.</p> <p>The ACTSmart <i>Business</i> Energy and Water Program commenced on 1 July 2012, replacing the CitySwitch Green Office program and the Commercial Bathroom Retrofit program.</p> <p>The program is open to businesses in the ACT with electricity bills up to \$20,000 per annum and/or up to 10 full time equivalent staff members. Businesses receive a subsidised energy and water assessment of their business premises conducted by an ACTSmart assessor, resulting in a tailored energy and water action report. The report recommends energy and water upgrade opportunities as well as no-cost and behaviour change recommendations. Businesses are eligible to claim 50% of costs of approved upgrades up to \$5,000, resulting in reduced energy and water consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>In 2012–13 the program assessed 112 small businesses. Estimated energy savings from the 32 businesses that have completed upgrades and claimed a rebate in 2012–13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual kWh savings: 275 mWh, • Annual CO₂ savings: 259 t CO₂-e, • Annual savings from business energy bills: \$88,885.

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	<p>The ToiletSmart and ToiletSmart Plus programs assist ACT homeowners to replace their single- or older dual-flush toilets with WELS 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> <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 to 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</p>	<p>Via the ToiletSmart and ToiletSmart Plus programs, by 30 June 2013, 8,041 toilets had been replaced with WELS 4-star efficient toilets since the programs commenced in May 2008. Of these, 2,614 had been supplied and installed free of charge to holders of pension concession cards. The non-pensioner rebate element of this program closed on 30 June 2013.</p> <p>The GardenSmart program closed on 30 June 2013. Since the start of the program in January 2005, 7,673 residents have participated in GardenSmart, and 2,564 participants have claimed the rebate.</p> <p>The IrrigationSmart program also closed on 30 June 2013. Since the program commenced in February 2012, 440 IrrigationSmart visits have been conducted and 93 participants have claimed a rebate.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
	<p>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>	<p>In the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative in the ACT (AuSSI ACT) at 30 June 2013, all 128 ACT schools, which by then included 68,000 students, were still registered with the initiative.</p> <p>Since commencement of AuSSI ACT in 2007, all schools have received a comprehensive water audit. Work is continuing in schools to implement the recommendations of the completed indoor water audits. To date 53 schools have been accredited for the sustainable management of water.</p> <p>To date 34 schools have been accredited for the sustainable management of energy.</p> <p>A focus for 2013 was the installation of waste and recycling systems in schools. Comprehensive waste audits have been conducted in 6 schools to determine the percentage of waste streams. This has resulted in the implementation of a trial of organics collection in three schools. To date 37 schools have been accredited for the sustainable management of waste.</p>
(iii) better building design, particularly for energy and water efficiency; and	1a(iii) No advice provided	
(iv) the relationship between i, ii, iii and climate change and sustainability, including the effect on the natural environment.	1a(iv) 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.	

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<p>1. Use resources more wisely by:</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>All government agencies report on these matters in their annual reports.</p> <p>1b. The Commissioner's Report, An Audit/Assessment of ACT Government Agencies' Environmental Performance Reporting 2010, 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>TAMSD advises that:</p> <p>The TAMS Annual Report itemises a number of measures including water use, energy consumption, waste generation and actions taken to reduce waste and use resources more efficiently.</p> <p>ESDD reports:</p> <p>The ACTSmart Government Energy and Water Program provides tailored assistance and advice to ACT Government agencies in energy and water efficiencies. The program commenced in September 2012.</p> <p>The program provides a site assessment to participating sites which results in a comprehensive report prepared by a Government Energy and Water Assessor. This comprehensive report can be used to support applications to loan funding through the Carbon Neutral Government Fund to perform efficiency upgrades to reduce costs and carbon emissions.</p> <p>Identified savings from the 21 sites that have received assessment reports in 2012–13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual savings from ACT Government energy bills: \$162,573, • Annual kWh savings: 908 mWh, • Annual CO₂ savings: 854 CO₂ -e.

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<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 Towards 2020: Renewing Our Schools program) and any other buildings disposed of as surplus to Government requirements.</p>	<p>ESDD and the Economic Development Directorate (EDD) provided the following advice.</p> <p>1c. The Government's Real Estate Policy includes Evaluation Guidelines for Properties Identified as Potentially Surplus. 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 National Construction Code with all amendments has been adopted through legislation. The ACT has committed to national consistency in building standards. The Building Code of Australia, which forms part of the National Construction Code, now requires minimum 6-star energy ratings. The National Construction Code has also incorporated the national plumbing code which is contributing to implementation of sustainable water-efficiency measures.</p>	
<p>2. Progress sustainable transport by:</p> <p>a) continuing to implement and support the Territory's Sustainable Transport Plan by:</p> <p>(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);</p> <p>(ii) developing a pedestrian action plan, in consultation with the community, to foster walking, particularly for commuter trips;</p>	<p>ESDD provided the following advice.</p> <p>2a. ESDD has advised that the Government's Transport for Canberra policy was released on 19 March 2012, and it replaces and updates the Sustainable Transport Plan. Transport for Canberra includes:</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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>	<p>ESDD reports:</p> <p>The development of a low-emission vehicle strategy is underway. The discussion paper is scheduled for release by the end of 2013.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
2b. amending the Territory's Sustainable Transport Plan 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;	2b. Transport for Canberra 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 <i>Weathering the Change</i> Action Plan 2.	
2c. 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 Sustainable Transport Plan to include any government-adopted options. An independently chaired, multidisciplinary taskforce should be charged with developing options, consulting the community and reporting to government.	2c. Transport for Canberra 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.	
d. the Commissioner's Office annually assessing the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Transport Plan;	<p>2d. The new policy and action plan, Transport for Canberra, replaced the Sustainable Transport Plan 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>TAMSD advises that:</p> <p>ACTION continues to introduce new environmentally friendly fuel efficient buses into its fleet meeting the latest emission standards. Increases in network scope, providing additional services to the Canberra community whilst increasing fuel usage across the ACTION fleet, have also served to assist with the overall greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by providing Canberrans with alternatives to using their cars.</p> <p>TAMSD also advises that:</p> <p>The MyWay ticketing system was implemented in April 2011.</p> <p>New network designs continue to progressively implement rapid bus services along key rapid transport corridors.</p> <p>All ACTION buses that can now legally be fitted with bike racks are fitted with bike racks, encouraging take-up of sustainable transport options.</p>

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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>2e. Transport for Canberra 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 continued to advocate that the community travels in a sustainable manner through its What can I do? Campaign.</p>	
<p>3. Manage land effectively by:</p> <p>a. continuing to implement the Canberra Spatial Plan, particularly focusing on achieving higher densities and maintaining ecological corridors;</p>	<p>EDD provided the following advice.</p> <p>3a. The ACT Government continues to focus on achieving a balance between greenfield and infill (particularly for higher density residential development) as articulated in the Canberra Spatial Plan. This is demonstrated through its land-release approach, as described in its ACT Indicative Land Release Programs 2012–13 to 2015–16.</p> <p>The ACT Government continues to maintain ecological corridors (as articulated in the Canberra Spatial Plan) as demonstrated through its work, in coordination with the Australian Government, through the strategic environmental assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (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:</p> <p>The Canberra Spatial Plan 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>EDD provides the following advice:</p> <p>3a. The ACT Government continues to focus on achieving a balance between greenfield and infill (particularly for higher density residential development) as articulated in the ACT Planning Strategy. This is demonstrated through its land-release approach as described in its ACT Indicative Land release Programs 2013–14 to 2016–17 with some 56% of all dwelling sites being released located within the existing urban boundary.</p> <p>The ACT Planning Strategy was adopted by the Government on 26 June 2012 and became effective as a Notifiable Instrument on 1 September 2012. The ACT Planning Strategy includes measurable indicators to track success towards 2030, with nine strategies each with short (5 year) and longer (10 year) term actions to be undertaken. The 2015 State of the Environment report findings are included as an indicator of the Strategy's implementation.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
		<p>The Strategy is whole of government policy and is overseen by an Inter-Directorate Committee (IDC).</p> <p>TAMSD advises that:</p> <p>Surveys of development areas for native vegetation, threatened species and endangered ecological communities occurred across the Territory with a particular focus on the Gungahlin region. Conservation advice was provided to relevant agencies involved in planning and development to assist with urban and conservation planning. In 2012–13 there was considerable focus on biodiversity offsets to address direct impacts of national environmental significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. As a result developers have committed to investment in threatened species research, connectivity modelling and mapping and woodland restoration to address the loss of biodiversity.</p>
<p>3b. undertaking a Territory-wide land degradation assessment of erosion and soil salinity, and mapping the results;</p>	<p>3b. ESDD 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>ESDD reports that:</p> <p>Soil monitoring kits have been trialled in projects that the Natural Resource Management Unit (in ESDD) is undertaking. ESDD has funded a digital Soil Landscapes Map and is in contract negotiations for a Hydrogeological Landscape Map which will, among other attributes, identify soils at risk of erosion and salinity.</p> <p>TAMSD advises that the previous update remains current.</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>3c. TAMSD 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	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
4. Further advance waste management by: 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, No Waste by 2010);	ESDD provided the following advice. 4a. 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 to 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.	
c. developing and implementing a Business Waste Reduction Strategy that includes: (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;	4c(i),(ii) The ACTSmart Business and Office recycling programs target recycling of waste as well as waste reduction. (iii) ACT NOWaste conducts an annual survey of business recycling rates. ACTSmart Business and Office participants also report their waste and recycling data for accreditation purposes. (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.	ESDD reports that: 4c(i), (ii) The ACTSmart Business and Office recycling programs have been rolled out to Queanbeyan businesses through a cross-border agreement with Queanbeyan City Council. As waste from Queanbeyan is disposed in ACT landfill a reduced impact on ACT landfill is achieved. TAMSD advises that: 4c(iii) ACT NOWaste conducted an annual survey of business recycling for 2012–13. This revealed that over 647,000 tonnes waste was recycled for the financial year. 4c(iv) ACT NOWaste undertook a business waste forum with ACTSmart in early 2013.
d. increasing community education and promotion to further reduce recyclables in potential landfill waste;	4d) See response to Recommendation 1(a), above.	

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
e. providing more facilities for recycling in public places and at major events.	<p>4e. 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. 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 Business 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>	<p>ESDD reports that:</p> <p>4e. In the ACTSmart Public Event recycling program, 49 events had participated in the program by 30 June 2013, including Floriade, the Multicultural Festival, the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show, school fetes and sporting events.</p> <p>TAMSD reports that:</p> <p>4e. A street level recycling trial in the city centre provided for the installation of 37 recycling bins and bin shrouds to increase the opportunities for the public to recycle rubbish at shopping centres and divert recyclables from landfill. While the recycling trial found that public place recycling in the city centre is an effective method of sorting recyclable material from general waste, the collection of street level recycling is considerably less cost efficient when compared to other recycling programs, e.g. kerbside recycling. Jurisdictions including the ACT are looking at more cost efficient ways to sort waste, which is a primary consideration before expanding street level recycling to other public places.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
Community wellbeing (SoER 2007–08)		
1. The community is kept informed and engaged in progressing the implementation of key government community strategies including: a. Affordable Housing Action Plan;	<p>EDD and the Community Services Directorate (CSD) provided the following advice.</p> <p>1a. During the reporting period, EDD released the second Affordable Housing Action Plan progress report. This report is available publicly on the EDD website and outlines progress against the 84 initiatives in that Action Plan. EDD advised the Office that 55 of these have been completed and 26 are ongoing or underway.</p> <p>The third phase of the Affordable Housing Action Plan 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>	<p>EDD has agreed to regular meetings with ACT Shelter and ACTCOSS to discuss the progress in implementing actions in the Affordable Housing Action Plan (AHAP) Phase which was released in June 2012. The outcomes of the most recent meeting are to explore opportunities to work together to progress specific initiatives under the Plan.</p> <p>EDD has also agreed to provide updates to the joint Community Government Reference Group to ensure the broader community sector is informed and engaged in the implementation of the AHAP.</p> <p>CSD advises that as at 30 June 2012, 26 homes were now occupied. 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. At 30 June 2013 two properties had been purchased under this scheme, three applications had been withdrawn and one applicant was on the waiting list.</p>
1b. A New Way — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006–11;	1b. The Health Directorate advised that the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum has recently reviewed the actions contained in A New Way ³⁴ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006–11. Actions that have been implemented and actions yet to be completed have been identified and will be carried forward into a new plan.	<p>ACT Health Directorate provides the following advice:</p> <p>The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006–2011 (The Plan) was developed in response to the requirement by the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH) that each jurisdiction should develop a local implementation plan. A review of The Plan was undertaken in 2012–2013 by the Aboriginal and Torres</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
	<p>The Commonwealth is leading the development of a new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan that will inform the future development of an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan.</p> <p>The Health Directorate is in the process of establishing a culturally appropriate ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Residential Rehabilitation Service for people aged 18 years and over requiring rehabilitation as well as prevention, education, and outreach programs. A Master Plan, Preliminary and Final Sketch Plans for the service have been prepared and a period of consultation allowing the community to comment on the designs commenced on 25 May 2012 and closed on 6 July 2012. A Development Application for the service was submitted to the Planning and Land Authority, and the Public notification period for the Development Application commenced on 25 June 2012 and closed on 13 July 2012.</p> <p>An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy has been developed. Focus testing of local strategies to support the national social marketing campaign has been undertaken and development of campaign resources for 'Beyond Tomorrow' is underway.</p>	<p>Strait Islander Health Forum, which includes membership from ACT Health Directorate, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services and ACT Medicare Local. Through this process, many factors were identified as affecting its implementation, most significantly the Closing the Gap Indigenous Reform agenda which was introduced halfway through implementation of the plan in 2008.</p> <p>Development of a new ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan commenced in 2013. The plan will incorporate learning from the review of the previous plan and outstanding action items which have been identified as ongoing strategies requiring implementation by the Health Forum. These areas relate (but are not limited) to Early Intervention, Health Promotion, Service Provision, Workforce Planning, Local research, Reporting and Leadership.</p> <p>'Beyond Today...it's up to you', a smoking cessation and healthy lifestyle social marketing strategy targeting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of the ACT and surrounding region, was launched in December 2012. The campaign is the culmination of a significant engagement process with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The campaign features local members of the community telling stories across a range of materials including posters, banners, a brochure, short videos and songs created locally and performed by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.</p> <p>Progress continues in the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Other Drug Residential Rehabilitation Service (Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm). This service will seek to improve health outcomes by addressing the complex issues that relate to drug and alcohol abuse. The service will provide culturally appropriate prevention, education, rehabilitation and outreach programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 18 years and over. Work is occurring to finalise the pre-tender cost estimate, construction program and governance arrangements for the service.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<p>1c. Towards 2020: Renewing Our Schools. Associated environmental and social equity implications need to be monitored in the long term.</p>	<p>The Education and Training Directorate (ETD) provided the following advice.</p> <p>1c. During the 2011–12 reporting period the capital works program component of the Towards 2020: Renewing our Schools strategy was reconciled. A list of schools and projects completed as part of the program was published on the Directorate’s web site.</p> <p>ETD also undertakes design, planning and construction works on a range of projects at new and existing schools. These works include consultation with the school staff and school communities and with the wider community through the schools.</p> <p>ETD progressed a number of projects in order to improve the sustainability and environment of Canberra’s schools, including: the certification of the Gold Creek School’s Environment Centre as a 6-Greenstar-rated facility; the certification of Harrison Secondary School and Coombs Primary School with 5-Greenstar ratings; the installation of photovoltaic cells on 19 ACT public schools; and the completion of installation of water tanks at all ACT primary and secondary schools.</p>	<p>The Education and Training Directorate (ETD) provides the following advice for the 2012–13 reporting period.</p> <p>ETD received a 5-Greenstar design rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. In addition, the roll out of photovoltaic (PV) panels included a further 55 schools. Data monitoring systems were also installed at 33 schools.</p>
<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 provided the following advice.</p> <p>2a. 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; 	<p>ACT Health Directorate provides the following advice:</p> <p>ACT Health has initiated a number of measures to improve community health in line with the Commissioner’s second recommendation relating to health promotion and care services. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • launching ‘Beyond Today...it’s up to you’, a community-based social marketing campaign to promote tobacco cessation and healthy lifestyle behaviours among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of the ACT; • promoting tap water as the drink of choice to the ACT community, including loaning portable ‘Tap into water everyday’ water dispensing units to community events, and working in partnership with ACT Education Directorate to trial fixed water units in schools;

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of the Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service®, a free information and telephone-based health coaching service, to assist adults to identify and reach their health goals; • local support for the Australian Government's 'Swap It, Don't Stop It' social marketing campaign, which encourages people to make sustainable, incremental changes in their lifestyle choices; • providing funding for a wide range of community-based health promotion activities through the ACT Health Promotion Grants program; • 'Kids at Play Active Play' and 'Eating Well Early Childhood' Project, which provides organisations responsible for early childhood services with support to promote healthy childhood habits; • SmartStart for Kids Program, funded to screen children for health risk factors and provide a school based program for higher-risk childcare; • the Healthy Food at Schools project, including support for schools to implement National Healthy Schools Canteen Guidelines in partnership with Nutrition Australia; • The Healthy Food at Children's Sports project in partnership with Sport and Recreation and local sporting organisations; • The Active Travel to Schools project; • Funding of the Heart Foundation's Active Living agenda—Heart Foundation Walking and Heartmoves program • Ongoing Implementation of the Australian Government's Healthy Communities Initiative; • implementation of a variety of workplace health promotion activities, including ACT Health; • Smoke-Free Workplace policy, development and piloting of a number of resources to support workplace health and wellbeing programs; • My Health, the Health Directorate's staff health and wellbeing programs.

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; <p>—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> <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; 	

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • 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>	

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
b. implementing an ongoing awareness program aimed at preventing vehicular collisions with kangaroos;	2b) 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.	TAMSD advises that no media releases in regards to kangaroos and vehicle collisions were released in 2012–13. TAMSD responded to a media enquiry in April 2013 about road kill numbers. As part of this response TAMSD cited information from the Kangaroo Management Plan that states there are a range of factors that contribute to the prevalence of vehicle–kangaroo accidents. For example the rate of crashes is higher from late autumn to early spring which correlates to the length of darkness at this time of year, peak hour traffic times and fresh green grass on roadsides that attract wildlife. In addition there is evidence for higher road-kill levels during the full and last moon phases. This is most likely related to changes in kangaroo behaviour associated with illumination levels.
3. Noise management is improved by: 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);	ESDD provided the following advice. 3a) 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.	

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<p>3b. 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>3b) 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>JACS advises that although ORS is not responsible for improving noise management they would, however, like to provide the following advice:</p> <p>In addition to any noise complaints received by the Environment Protection Authority, during the reporting period the Office of Regulatory Services received noise complaints about 19 liquor licensed premises.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<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 provided the following advice.</p> <p>4a. 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>	<p>ESDD reports:</p> <p>Heritage Council priorities for assessment and registration continue to focus on those places on Territory land for which the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> provides recognition and statutory protection.</p> <p>While places in the ACT located on National or Designated land can be entered in the ACT Heritage Register, development control for these places remains with the National Capital Authority and/or Commonwealth Government.</p>

Recommendation	Previous updates	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 updates
<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>4b. In 2011–12 the Heritage 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; • Unmarked burial (St Paul’s Cemetery); • 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>	

Table 11. Progress on implementing recommendations from the ACT State of the Environment Report 2011

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
Recommendation 1: Establish cross-boundary management of the ACT's water resources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. developing catchment policy and an integrated water supply catchment management strategy, as recommended in previous State of the Environment Reports; and b. strengthening integrated management action by facilitating improved exchange and use of information, such as spatial information, between government agencies, Natural Resource Management groups and Catchment Management Authorities, and by promoting sustainable catchment management with landholders and the community. 	<i>ESDD reports:</i> The draft ACT Water Strategy 2013, 'Water for the future — striking the balance', was released for public comment on 3 July 2013. An extensive report has been prepared for the development of a systems approach to catchment management for the ACT and surrounding region. An investigation into the form and function of a proposed catchment management body is being undertaken and is expected to be completed in 2013–14.
Recommendation 2: Complete assessment of the ACT's at risk groundwater resources.	<i>ESDD reports that:</i> This will be done as part of the ACT's groundwater resource planning for the ACT Basin Plan Implementation, pending available resources.
Recommendation 3: Update water management, monitoring and reporting programs to inform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. actions to mitigate impacts of urban development on water quality; b. the efficacy of Water Sensitive Urban Design measures; c. improvements in sediment and erosion mitigation actions; and d. management of ACT lakes. 	<i>TAMSD advised that:</i> The restoration of the foreshore along the Molonglo River has been completed. Works involved willow removal, revegetation using native trees, shrubs, low growing species and aquatic plants to stabilise the riparian zone, and follow-up weed control. The restoration works are expected to improve water quality by minimising sediment and nutrients entering the waterway and impacting on Lake Burley Griffin. They should also enhance habitat for native fauna and aquatic wildlife. The removal of pest willows, which were obstructing water flow, will also reduce flooding and debris deposition. Approximately 3 kilometres of waterway was cleared of debris in 2012–13. TAMSD undertakes routine maintenance programs to clean litter from ACT lakes. <i>ESDD reports that:</i> The ACT has made a submission to the Commonwealth as part of its business case for the Basin Priority Project to improve water monitoring and water management so as to significantly improve water quality and the management of the ACT's lakes and watercourses. A review of the effectiveness of the ACT's Water Sensitive Urban Design Code is being undertaken.

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>Improve monitoring to assess the impact of erosion on local land and water resources, and to help to understand the interactions between the ACT's catchment and ecosystem services in particular:</p> <p>a. undertake baseline soils mapping for the ACT to facilitate monitoring and assessment of soil condition;</p>	<p><i>ESDD reports that:</i></p> <p>a. Baseline soil mapping has been commissioned. Contracts have been signed and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is currently appointing a soil surveyor to commence on-ground work.</p>
<p>b. identify indicators of land health including soil heath, vegetation quality and change, and land use changes, and monitor and publicly report on these on a regular basis;</p>	<p>b. The ACT signed up to Australia's Vegetation Framework which was endorsed by COAG in 2012. The Framework requires monitoring of the condition of native vegetation. Native vegetation condition monitoring is also a commitment within the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. ACT-wide vegetation mapping has been commenced, a necessary first step in identifying indicators of vegetation quality and change. A project to assess vegetation condition is being developed.</p>
<p>c. improve limited land health data by including land health assessments in water catchment data to inform soil condition across the ACT; and</p>	<p>c. Baseline soil mapping has been commissioned. Contracts have been signed and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is currently appointing a soil surveyor to commence on-ground work. This will provide baseline data that will enable monitoring of some land health indicators. The ACT has also participated in a joint funded project 'Actions for Clean Water' which has identified a range of actions for improving land health in the Upper Murrumbidgee. Contract negotiations are underway to develop a hydro-geological landscape map which will assist in the assessment of land health.</p>
<p>d. improve actions related to sediment and erosion mitigation.</p>	<p>d. The ACT has also participated in a joint funded project 'Actions for Clean Water' which has identified a range of actions for improving land health in the Upper Murrumbidgee. The EPA reviewed sediment basin specifications for land development. Sizing has become more stringent for land development in areas with certain slopes, soil types and where regional water quality ponds are not available to treat runoff from development.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>Management of knowledge and the coordination of scientific research, data collection, monitoring and reporting (including public information) is an area of concern across all themes. A specific recommendation to address this is provided under the recommendations section of the Biodiversity Theme paper.</p>	

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>Strengthen research, planning and practical projects to enhance biodiversity conservation in the ACT through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. developing a biodiversity monitoring strategy, building on existing government and non-government skills, capacity and programs, and focused on periodic reporting. This should include, where appropriate, systematic statistical methodologies which support monitoring of trends and changes to biodiversity assets in the ACT; b. funding a dedicated senior officer position to facilitate knowledge development and consolidation, across disparate sources, including more strategic integration within and between government, research/academic institutions and community groups and members. To support this role, systems should be developed to provide wide public access to information to guide research, teaching, planning and practical projects to enhance the sustainability of the ACT and Region; c. identifying opportunities to integrate multiple environmental assessments. For example, when monitoring nature reserves for vegetation qualities, land-health indicators and grazing impacts should also be monitored at the same sites. Assessing sites in Canberra Nature Park on a rolling 3-year basis over a 10-year period would provide the basic information for monitoring trends in environmental condition; d. publicly reporting decisions and activities relating to individual species, populations and ecological communities in the ACT. This should include both qualitative and quantitative information; e. reviewing and updating Action Plans where appropriate, and publicly reporting on progress against Action Plan objectives and proposed actions; and 	<p>ESDD collaborates with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage regularly. Projects that involve collaborative processes include vegetation mapping, soil mapping, hydro-geological mapping and connectivity mapping. Vegetation mapping is using classifications similar to those in NSW, and connectivity mapping used in NSW processes is being used to derive a connectivity map for the ACT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitoring of biodiversity is a commitment within the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. The Strategy also has a strong emphasis on citizen science. Conservation Planning and Research has implemented an annual research strategy that involves: monitoring the population trends of all threatened plants and selected threatened fauna, monitoring the distribution and abundance of a number of rare plants and fauna, assessing the condition of grasslands and woodlands using quantitative measures, and assessing the impacts of various threats such as grazing, fire and invasive species. b. Native vegetation condition monitoring is also a commitment within the draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. Conservation Planning and Research provides data to the Atlas of Living Australia, which integrates data from disparate sources, including universities, community groups, citizen science projects and individuals. Conservation Planning and Research also provides spatial information on various ecological themes for public distribution via ACTMAPi. The ACT Government works on various collaborative projects with Greening Australia, the National Herbarium, Australian National Botanic Gardens, the Myer Foundation, the Australian National University, University of Canberra and Healesville Sanctuary, to name just a few. c. The Nature Conservation Strategy proposes monitoring of five ecosystems: forests, woodlands, grasslands, riparian and alpine/sub alpine. This will provide an integrating framework for long-term monitoring. d. Monitoring of individual species and ecological communities occurs through Conservation Planning and Research. Threatened species protected under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> are the priority. Conservation Planning and Research Annual Reports contain summaries and data of all these activities. Action Plans and key reports are available on the ESDD website, including threatened species and ecosystems. e. Action plans are reviewed regularly. Where plans are identified by the Flora and Fauna Committee as needing to be updated, they are subjected to public consultation. Since 2011 the Flora and Fauna Committee has reviewed Action Plans 28 and 29 and it will soon review Action Plan 27.

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>f. collaborating with NSW Government and regional organisations to contribute to regional and national biodiversity data sets.</p>	<p>f. A key action in Action Plans is to collaborate with NSW agencies in the conservation and research of threatened species and communities.</p> <p><i>TAMSD advised that:</i></p> <p>Surveys of development areas for native vegetation, threatened species and endangered ecological communities were undertaken across the Territory with a particular focus on the Gungahlin region. Conservation advice was provided to relevant agencies involved in planning and development to assist with urban and conservation planning. In 2012–13 there was a particular focus on biodiversity offsets to address the matters of national environmental significance under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. As a result, developers have committed to investment in threatened species research, connectivity modelling and mapping and woodland restoration to address the loss of biodiversity.</p> <p><i>CMTD comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD and TAMSD.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7:</p> <p>Better integrating biodiversity values within urban planning through:</p> <p>a. integrating biodiversity corridors and habitat connectivity in the Territory Plan process;</p> <p>b. identifying, where possible, appropriate clearance thresholds for ecological communities across the ACT to maintain and improve biodiversity values and guide development decisions. To complement this, the draft biodiversity offset policy should be finalised to ensure no net loss in ecosystems.</p>	<p><i>ESDD reports that:</i></p> <p>A habitat and connectivity analysis has been completed and multiple connectivity tools are available over ACTMAPi. The connectivity tools and data are being used in planning processes such as the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.</p> <p>Vegetation mapping across the ACT has commenced. This mapping will provide contextual information for determining appropriate clearance thresholds.</p> <p><i>TAMSD advised that:</i></p> <p>Action Plans prepared in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act 1980 provide guidance for the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities. Specific activities undertaken in 2012–13 involved monitoring of several species including the Golden Sun Moth, Grassland Earless Dragon and Macquarie Perch. Ongoing monitoring of population densities of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and their grazing impacts occurred in some Canberra Nature Park Reserves.</p> <p><i>Economic Development Directorate advised that</i> the Land Development Agency (LDA) implements best practice within the Territory Plan statutory requirements and codes. Beyond compliance the LDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues to sponsor research into biodiversity throughout the Australian National University, • achieved Envirodevelopment recertification in Molonglo, • with other Government land organisations, has been a sponsor of the Green Start Communities Tool being developed by the Green Building Council of Australia, • entered into agreement with NSW Landcom to adapt Precicx for use in the ACT, and • implemented an environmentally sustainable design rebate scheme in the New West Industry Park Stages.
<p>Recommendation 8:</p> <p>Improve transparency of biodiversity integration into legislative and planning frameworks through:</p> <p>a. including objectives for the protection of biodiversity and a definition for 'biodiversity' as part of the <i>Nature Conservation (NC) Act 1980</i> review;</p>	<p><i>ESDD reports that:</i></p> <p>a. Objectives for the protection of biodiversity and revised definitions are being considered through the Review of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>.</p>

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
b. aligning provisions in the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i> and Planning and Development Act with any relevant changes to the NC Act including biodiversity definitions, and reviewing the definition of environmental harm to determine whether unauthorised loss of biodiversity should be included as an offence;	b. Relevant provisions in the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i> and <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> will be amended through consequential amendments to the Nature Conservation Act.
c. assessing the effectiveness of managing threatening processes through Action Plans and determining if management of key threatening processes needs strengthening through listing under the NC Act.	c. Threatening processes are able to be listed under the current <i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i> and this is likely to remain. Action Plans are reviewed on a regular basis. Reviews include consideration of the effectiveness of management. <i>TAMSD advises that a methodology will be developed in 2013–14 to undertake Reserve Condition Assessments and Monitoring. This will include utilising condition assessment and monitoring techniques suitable for use by volunteer groups such as ParkCare.</i>
Recommendation 9: To improve knowledge of our indoor air quality, the Chief Health Officer should consider the health impact of indoor air quality in the ACT in the 2014 Chief Health Officer Report.	ACT Health Directorate advises that the Chief Health Officer has decided against including health impact of indoor air quality in the ACT in the 2014 Chief Health Officer Report. It is not considered a health priority at present.
Recommendation 10: Improve local air quality outdoors through: a. requiring air quality assessments in all new greenfield developments, to identify and manage air emissions, potentially detrimental to human health and the environment;	a. ACT Health Directorate supports the recommendation. ESDD is responsible. <i>ESDD reports that:</i> Canberra's air quality has been improving over the last few years as a result of a number of ACT Government air quality initiatives. To ensure this improving trend continues, a restriction to the installation of wood heaters in the Molonglo Valley was announced on 9 July 2012. This restriction requires a development application to be submitted and assessed prior to any wood heater being installed.
b. installing and operating a second performance air monitoring station to ensure that the ACT is compliant with NEPM standards; and	<i>ACT Health Directorate reports:</i> b. The budget bid for the installation and operation of the second performance air monitoring station was successful. Equipment and land for the station have been procured. ACT Health is currently in the process of getting minor works for the installation completed. <i>ESDD reports:</i> The Government allocated money in the 2012–13 budget for the establishment of another ambient air quality monitoring station in Belconnen to get a better understanding of the air pollution levels in the Canberra airshed.
c. determining the feasibility, including costs, of mobile monitoring of appropriate ambient air quality NEPM standards at locations in and around Canberra.	<i>ACT Health Directorate reports:</i> c. This recommendation is not supported. It would be cost-prohibitive and the quality of obtained data would be insufficient for any meaningful evaluation/policy making. <i>ESDD reports:</i> This recommendation is not supported. The evidence of the benefits provided by this type of measuring tool in terms of quality data that could meaningfully inform is not sufficiently clear to support the likely high cost of such a program.

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 11:</p> <p>As a priority the ACT Government develop and implement pathways to achieve carbon neutrality in ACT Government buildings and services. These should be implemented through the second Action Plan of <i>Weathering the Change</i> and include monitoring, evaluation of actions and annual public reporting on progress.</p>	<p><i>CMTD comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD.</p> <p><i>Education and Training Directorate (ETD) advises:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETD is finalising the installation of roof-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar panel systems at all ACT public schools. Concurrently, ETD is installing data monitoring systems into ACT public schools. • ETD is implementing project tasks under the Carbon Neutral Schools program, including roof insulation and lighting upgrades at eight schools and full trial projects at Canberra High School and Theodore Primary School. • ETD has been approved grant funding under the Carbon Neutral Government Loan Fund to install LED T8 lamps at 10 schools. • During the 2013–14 year, ETD will prepare a carbon neutral strategy to guide future initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality across ACT public schools. <p><i>ESDD responds that:</i></p> <p>The Government is working to achieve carbon neutrality in its own operations by 2020 through the implementation of the Carbon Neutral ACT Government Framework. Endorsed in August 2012 and due for release in 2013, the Framework enables and coordinates a whole of government approach to achieving carbon neutrality in a cost-effective manner. The Framework focuses on embedding sustainability into core business and investing in cost effective energy efficiency to 2020.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12:</p> <p>The ACT Government develop and implement a pathway to achieve the legislated climate change emission reduction and renewable energy targets. This should be implemented through the second Action Plan of <i>Weathering the Change</i> and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a focus on reducing emissions from transport and our buildings (especially improving energy efficiency of old building stock); responsive regulatory, governance and investment arrangements for renewable energy; continued engagement with ACT community; and regular monitoring, evaluation of actions and public reporting on progress against the targets. 	<p><i>CMTD comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD and TAMSD.</p> <p><i>ESDD responds that:</i></p> <p>In October 2012, the ACT Government released AP2: A new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory.</p> <p>The primary focus of AP2 is to set the Territory on the path to meet its 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target and establish a strong foundation for the achievement of the overall target of being carbon neutral, or having zero net emissions, by 2060.</p> <p>AP2 contains 18 actions to achieve four primary outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimizing the ACT’s contribution to global warming by achieving the ACT’s legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets; • ensuring a fair society in a low-carbon economy; • strengthening the ACT’s capacity to respond to a changing climate; and • creating a more sustainable future.

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 13:</p> <p>Develop a climate change adaptation planning and implementation response through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> building on existing and undertaking additional sector vulnerability risk assessments; establishing a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement methodology and framework as a consistent guide for Government, to develop, progress and report against adaptation planning; and integrating adaptation planning outcomes into existing ACT planning and management frameworks. 	<p><i>CMTD Comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD and JACSD.</p> <p><i>Justice and Community Services Directorate (JACSD) advises that</i> the response to this section should primarily be through ESDD and referencing <i>Weathering the Change</i>, Draft Action Plan 2.</p> <p><i>ESDD responds that:</i></p> <p>While reducing the ACT's carbon footprint is the primary focus of AP2, there is also a need to prepare for some unavoidable changes in the climate. AP2 sets out three adaptation actions.</p> <p>Adaptation planning has informed, and is recognised in, the Nature Conservation Strategy. Climate change adaptation together with natural hazard resilience is considered in forward land planning and built into structure plans and concept plans. Specifically, stormwater management, flooding and bushfire assessments are undertaken to inform infrastructure and subdivision design and to build in risk minimization in new suburbs.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14:</p> <p>Develop a regional approach to planning for climate change. This needs to be done in partnership with NSW Government, local councils and regional organisations. Key areas of focus should include opportunities for renewable energy development, water security, urban and regional planning, transport management and adaptation of ecosystem services to climate change.</p>	<p><i>CMTD Comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD.</p> <p><i>ESDD responds that:</i></p> <p>Adaptation planning has informed, and is recognised in the Nature Conservation Strategy within a regional context.</p> <p>The ACT/NSW Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2011 committed to working together on strategic regional planning for land use and infrastructure. This project, referred to as C+1 (Canberra plus one hour commute), is progressing, with its final shape and scope responding to changes in cross-border priorities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15:</p> <p>Finalise and implement the draft ACT Planning Strategy to provide an integrated approach to future planning. Particular attention should be paid to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> determining indicators and measures for urban quality in the ACT that includes the benefits provided by green infrastructure and access to open space; and developing greenfield and infill targets, which take into account the need for green infrastructure as well as strengthening a sense of community and self containment. 	<p><i>Economic Development Directorate advises that</i> the LDA has continued to ensure that new developments have a high level of urban quality through a range of measures which correspond with the nine strategies of the ACT Planning Strategy. This includes the provision of open spaces and pedestrian networks which the LDA Statement of Intent requires. Greenfield developments are to include 20% affordable housing which supports Strategy 3 of the ACT Planning Strategy.</p> <p>The LDA develops both greenfield and infill areas and maintains the balance between these in accordance with the targets included in the ACT Planning Strategy and the indicative Land Release programs.</p> <p>The infill program focuses development around existing Town Centres, group centres and transport corridors, consistent with Strategy 1 of the ACT Land Planning Strategy. The LDA developments also aim to incorporate sustainability and provide a high standard of urban quality. The LDA runs community programs, such as the Mingle community development program, in a number of estates to help foster stronger communities.</p> <p><i>ESDD reports that:</i></p> <p>On 1 September 2012, the ACT Planning Strategy includes a number of target outcomes and indicators intended to deliver more integrated, sustainable land planning, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of new housing provided urban infill; reduction of land taken per person; improved and expanded role for existing local group and town centres; more involvement by people in natural resource management activities; the use of exemplar developments to sustainability guide standards; and a push for achieving 6-star Greenstar (or equivalent) ratings for new buildings.

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 16:</p> <p>Develop a housing strategy to address the needs of changing population demographics into the future.</p>	<p><i>Economic Development Directorate (EDD) advises that</i> the Indicative Residential Land Release program includes release targets aimed at supplying adequate land to meet current housing demand and establish an inventory for serviced land for the future. The Indicative Land Release Program includes targets for particular needs including urban infill and aged care accommodation. Initiatives arising from the Government's Affordable Housing Action plan are taken into account.</p> <p>EDD continues to consider both changing demographics and housing needs. This has resulted in targeted land releases for aged care and the provision of suitable land and development opportunities for the social housing sector.</p> <p><i>Community Services Directorate (CSD) advises that</i> the Public Housing Asset Management Strategy 2012–17 recognises the issues associated with the changing population demographics. As with the general population, the property requirements for people in need of public housing continue to change. The number of people seeking 2 or fewer and 4 or more bedroom housing is growing, while the number seeking 3 bedroom housing is falling.</p> <p>2012 data show that 53% of applicants seek 2 or fewer bedrooms, with 26% seeking 3 bedrooms and 20% seeking 4 or more bedrooms.</p> <p>This change in demand reflects a number of factors. The growth in demand for smaller properties, for example, reflects the growth in the number of older people requiring public housing and an increase in the number of single parent families and single person households.</p> <p>While the proportion of 3-bedroom properties (42% of the stock) no longer reflects the demand (26% of applicants), realigning the stock takes time. The movement of people through 3-bedroom properties is slower than through other properties, and 3-bedroom properties are able to be allocated to a broader range of tenants.</p> <p><i>CMTD Comment:</i></p> <p>Principal responsibility is with EDD and CSD. CMTD inputs on regional demography http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/actstats/profiles#Regional%20Profiles</p>
<p>Recommendation 17:</p> <p>Finalise and implement the draft Sustainable Transport Action Plan to provide an integrated approach to transport and urban planning. In doing so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> obtain additional non-work related travel data, similar to the annual Sydney Household Travel Survey, to ensure a more complete understanding of Canberra's transport habits; focus on strategies and targets to improve access to sustainable forms of transport outside of transport corridors; develop targets for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reducing in greenhouse gas emissions from transport; and increasing sustainable transport usage for non-work travel to complement the existing targets for work travel; and track progress towards Sustainable Transport targets on an annual basis. 	<p><i>ESDD advises that:</i></p> <p>Transport for Canberra, an integrated transport strategy document, was released in March 2012. Transport for Canberra provides an action plan for sustainable transport. Implementation of this action plan across agencies is monitored through an inter-agency working group and an Implementation Tracking Plan. The annual Transport for Canberra report card that tracks the progress towards achieving a sustainable transport system is currently underway and is expected to be released in early 2014.</p>

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 18: Finalise and implement a new ACT Waste Management Strategy with a focus on reducing waste generation, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> examine and implement options for diverting wastes from landfill to higher order beneficial reuse opportunities. These actions should be measured, recorded and reported publicly. focus community education on the link between consumption and waste; and target specific programs to reduce waste from the construction and demolition, and commercial and industrial sectors. 	<p>TAMSD advises that ACT NOWaste has signed an agreement with SITA Australia to construct a facility to sort and recycle material from commercial and industrial waste streams that are currently unsorted. This is expected to divert approximately 20% of current waste from landfill.</p> <p>In 2012–13 ACT NOWaste had a strong focus on educating the broader community on the link between consumption and waste. Over 12,000 ACT residents from preschoolers to seniors were reached through visits to the Materials Recycling Facility at Hume, visits to schools, guest speaker opportunities, manned displays at local shopping centres during Recycling week and attendance at large-scale community events such as the Home and Leisure Show, Green Savvy Sunday and Retirement Expo.</p> <p>New resources and promotional campaigns were also developed to engage ACT residents in traditionally hard to reach demographics. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of free card media campaigns displayed in cafes and cultural venues to appeal to 15–30 year olds; the design of interactive visual displays; increased use of bus advertising; competitions and live reads on commercial radio; resource boxes, puppets and posters for loan to early childhood educators; information flyers that rely on photographs and universal visual cues like red crosses and green ticks rather than text; materials translated into eight languages to inform new Australians about waste and recycling services in the ACT. <p>ACT NOWaste is currently developing school programs that link to the new national curriculum on sustainability and address responsible consumption and reduced packaging.</p> <p>ACT NOWaste has extended the agreement to recover material from construction and demolition waste, increasing the minimum recovery from 25% to 35%.</p> <p>A street-level recycling trial in the city centre provided for the installation of 37 recycling bins and bin shrouds to increase the opportunities for the public to recycle rubbish at shopping centres, diverting recyclables from landfill.</p> <p>While the recycling trial found that public place recycling in the city centre is an effective method of sorting recyclable material from general waste, the collecting of street level recycling is considerably less cost efficient when compared to other recycling programs, e.g. kerbside recycling.</p> <p>Jurisdictions including the ACT are looking at more cost-efficient ways to sort waste, which is a primary consideration before expanding street-level recycling to other public places.</p> <p><i>ESDD advises that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new resource recovery targets were adopted as part of the ACT Waste Management Strategy; organic waste recovery options are being investigated in 2013 market sounding; ACTSmart programs are targeting business waste. SITA was contracted to develop a Commercialwaste Material Recovery Facility in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate in 2012. new community waste education program launched by ACT NOWaste (TAMSD); public place recycling established in Civic in 2011 and ACTSmart event recycling will cover all major events in 2013; free drop-off at two ewaste recycling depots was established in 2012.

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 19:</p> <p>Strengthen heritage protection in the ACT by:</p> <p>a. developing an action plan for heritage which addresses the backlog of heritage nominations and recognises key future sites for protection;</p>	<p>ESDD reports that:</p> <p>a. In 2010 the ACT Government and Heritage Council identified a priority list for addressing the backlog of nominations to the ACT Heritage Register. This strategy was reviewed by the Heritage Council in January 2013. The ACT Government and Heritage Council continue to prioritise the following nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those identified on the indicative land release program by the ACT Department of Land and Property Services (LAPS) to ensure the assessment of places is undertaken as early as possible; • nominations that affect the development / capital works programs of other ACT Government Directorates; • those that are under impending development threats; • those that will address a thematic gap in the register (e.g. natural heritage, contact history and 20th century heritage); and • high quality nominations, which may be prioritised above those that are lacking in information and are likely to consume greater resources during assessment. <p>The Heritage Council has also undertaken a detailed review to identify nominations not on Territory land, and for which other protection mechanisms already exist through Commonwealth and/or National listing. These nominations are being systematically removed from the nominations backlog, as the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> does not provide development control and statutory protection for these places. Those places on the former Register of the National Estate that are not protected on the Commonwealth or National Heritage Registers will continue to be assessed for the ACT Heritage Register.</p>
<p>b. strengthening audit, compliance and enforcement processes in line with recommendations of the Marshall report; and</p>	<p>b. The 2010 Review Report made 111 recommendations, some of which are legislative in nature, while others address policy and resourcing issues. The development of a five-year Heritage Strategy will provide opportunity to explore options and priorities for auditing existing Heritage Guidelines for a range of precincts.</p> <p>Two Heritage Unit staff members have recently undergone intensive compliance training, to improve the Heritage Unit's ability to attend to compliance matters where appropriate.</p> <p>ACT Planning and Land Authority is the decision-maker on Development Approvals and will remain the key enforcement body that ensures that works are undertaken in accordance with a DA. This role is set out under the <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i>. The Heritage Unit will continue to undertake all other heritage compliance matters.</p>

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
c. promoting ACT heritage values as a part of the Canberra 2013 Centenary celebrations.	<p>c. The Canberra Centenary in 2013 provided an extra spotlight to promote Canberra’s heritage and bolster our values of identification, protection, maintenance, conservation and enhancement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canberra and Region Heritage Festival linked in its theme <i>Milestones</i> with the centenary and other anniversaries in the region. • The 15-day festival provided access to heritage-listed places and other sites of interest, not usually open to the public. • Exhibitions that received funding through the ACT Heritage Grants Program were promoted by the Centenary Team as well as in the Heritage Festival’s program. • Special assistance funding was made available for the first time to Heritage Festival organisers to further enhance their event for the Centenary. Seven organisers were successful in sharing \$6000 made available through the Heritage Community Partnership program. • Ongoing legacies created by the Canberra Centenary will be incorporated, where possible, in future community engagement events.
<p>Recommendation 20:</p> <p>Align and integrate climate adaptation planning and disaster risk management where appropriate. This should include lessons learned from changes to fire management.</p>	<p><i>ACT Health supports</i> the recommendation. This is a whole-of-government issue and has little direct health program input.</p> <p><i>JACSD advises that</i> the Territory Wide Risk Assessment 2012 (TWRA) prioritises natural disaster risk in accordance with relevant Australian standards and supports measures to strengthen communities, individuals, businesses and institutions to minimise the adverse effects of disasters, including the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The next review of the TWRA will consider future climate scenarios including information provided through the delivery of regional climate projections from the <i>NSW and ACT Region Climate Model</i> (NARclim). Preliminary results of NARclim will be provided in 2013.</p> <p>Climate change impacts are integrated into emergency management planning through the ongoing review of the ACT Emergency Plan and Sub-Plans to ensure they reflect risk priorities.</p> <p>The ACT has developed specific sub-plans to address issues that will be associated with future climate change impacts, including the <i>Extreme Heat Plan (2010)</i> and the <i>Elevated Fire Danger Plan (2011)</i>. These will be reviewed to reflect research and lessons learned.</p> <p>Under the <i>National Strategy for Disaster Resilience</i> (COAG, 2011) the ACT Government will provide the lead on building resilience in the ACT through the development of the ACT Resilience Strategy.</p> <p>This will include consideration of climate change impacts and will provide a framework and tools for government, business and the broader ACT community to build resilience.</p> <p>Resilience is reliant upon physical assets and learned skills and equally upon organisational and community cultures, attitudes and expectations. Business and community engagement will be a vital part of building resilience in the ACT.</p> <p><i>CMTD Comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD and TAMSD.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21:</p> <p>In collaboration with NSW Government and local councils, develop a regional approach to planning and risk management to address future challenges of population and climate change.</p>	<p><i>CMTD Comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD.</p> <p>ESDD reports that:</p> <p>NARclim is a collaboration between the NSW Government, the University of NSW and the ACT Government. This project will provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive and reliable, and finest resolution (space and time), climate change data and tools available for the region.</p>

Recommendation	Progress in 2012–13
<p>Recommendation 22:</p> <p>Strengthen community engagement in sustainability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. undertaking research on attitudes to sustainability and consumption patterns and behaviours. This could be done through regular community surveys similar to the annual NSW ‘Who cares about the environment?’, with the outcomes informing focus areas for community engagement; and b. fostering behaviour change through community engagement to reduce our ecological footprint with a particular focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sustainable transport; and ii. impacts of consumption. 	<p><i>CMTD Comment:</i> Principal responsibility is with ESDD and TAMSD.</p> <p><i>ESDD reports that:</i></p> <p>An ‘Active travel to school’ strategy was launched in September 2012 and the program is currently underway, encouraging school students on active travel. Updates of walking and cycling maps have been released and more than 16,000 copies distributed since January 2013 to encourage active travel. The ACT Government trialled car-pooling for the employees.</p>

Follow-up 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 Commissioner to undertake an inquiry into Lowland Native Grassland ('the Grasslands Investigation'). The final report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 2009 by Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell.

Following an audit of the 32 recommendations about the Grasslands Investigation, reported in the 2011–12 Annual Report, the Office has engaged Dr Ken Hodgkinson to further inspect specified Natural Temperate Grassland sites and undertake photographic and floristic assessments. He will also review the relevant management arrangements.

Dr Hodgkinson's report is due following summer 2013–14.

The Directorates have not reported any activity since that reported in the 2011–12 Annual Report.

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.

This year's audit examined a selection of recommendations from this investigation. The outcomes are reported above in Table 8. No further activity has been reported by the Directorates.

Recommendations of the Report on the state of the watercourses and catchments of Lake Burley Griffin

In 2011 the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) was directed to investigate the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin.

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 OCSE website.

The Government responded to this report on 17 June 2013: eight recommendations were agreed in principle; the rest were agreed. The Government response can be viewed on the OCSE website, www.envcomm.act.gov.au/.

Progress on implementing the Government's response will be reported in the 2013–14 Annual Report.

Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993 — Section 23 requirements

Our Office has no additional information to include for the 2012–13 reporting period.

A.10 Triple bottom line report

Indicator		2011–12 result	2012–13 result	% change
Economic	Employee expenses			
	Number of staff employed (head count, not FTE)	7	7 ^(a)	0
	Total employee expenditure (\$)	\$951,000	\$871,000	–8.41
	Operating statement			
	Total expenditure (\$)	\$1,712,000	1,438,000	–16%
	Total own source revenue (\$)	0	0	0
	Total net cost of services (\$)	\$1,712,000	1,438,000	–16%
Environmental	Economic viability			
	Total assets (\$)		N/a	0
	Total liabilities (\$)		n/a	0
	Transport			
	Total number of fleet vehicles	1	1 ^(b)	0
	Total transport fuel used (kilolitres)	3.7	0.21	–94.32
	Total direct greenhouse gas emissions of the fleet (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	9.48	0.4	–95.78
	Energy use (megajoules)			
	Total office energy use	126,540 ^(c)	108,380	–14.35
	Office energy use per person	9034.4	15,482.85	71.28
	Office energy use per square metre	409	463.28	13.27
	Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂-e)			
	Total office greenhouse gas emissions, direct and indirect	20.41	22.86	12
	Total office greenhouse gas emissions, per person	2.92	3.27	11.98
	Total office greenhouse gas emissions, per square metre	0.13	0.18	38.46
	Water consumption (kilolitres)			
	Total water use	46.69	79.05	69.31
	Office water use per person	7.10	11.29	59.01
	Office water use per square metre	0.3	0.6	100
	Resource efficiency and waste			
	Total co-mingled office waste, per FTE (litres)	30	877	2823.33
	Total paper recycled (litres)	1620	1671.9	3.20
	Total paper used (reams), per FTE (litres)	10	3.42	–65.8
	Percentage of paper recycled (%)	90	100	0
Social	The diversity of our workforce			
	Women (female FTEs as a % of total workforce)	86	88	2.33
	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
	Staff health and wellbeing			
	Occupational health and safety incident reports	0	0	0
	Accepted claims for compensation (as at 27 July 2012)	0	0	0
	Staff receiving influenza vaccinations	2	5	150
	Workstation assessments requested	2	7	250

Notes:

(a) The Office establishment is six. An additional contractor in 2012–13 was the Project coordinator for the ACT State of the Environment Report 2015.

(b) This is the Commissioner's package vehicle which is available for use by our staff.

(c) The value published in last year's report was incorrect.



B.1 Community engagement

Our Office undertook a variety of community engagement activities involving a number of engagement techniques, including social media, workshops with academics, government and community, face to face meetings and public submissions (see Table 12).

The Office's major engagement activities for this year involved:

- reviewing the previous State of the Environment Report (SoER) framework and developing a framework for use in the 2015 SoER;
- finalising complaints through liaising with members of the community and government;
- research and preparation for 20th Anniversary of the Office, and source materials for the publication;
- site visits and meetings with community members to discuss and assist with general environmental enquiries.

The Commissioner gave a number of presentations, including: at the Australian Water Association in Sydney; to students at Lanyon High School, the Australian National University and University of

Canberra about the role of the Office; to Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF); to the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROCC); and at the South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) renewable energy showcase day.

In addition, the Office participated in events with ACTSmart *Office* and *Business*, and met with academics at the Australian National University Fenner School of Environment and Society and University of Canberra.

The Commissioner also met with the ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Canberra Business Council, the Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra, the Environmental Defender's Office, the Friends of Grasslands, the Friends of Aranda Bushland, the ACT Equestrian Association, a range of ACT Government Directorates and Advisory Boards, ACT Commissioners, and the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.

Table 12: Community engagement

Line area	Project	Consultation process (tools used)	Groups/ Individuals consulted	Outcome
Advocacy	Advocacy Tertiary and Advocacy Schools	Semi-regular meetings with schools and universities, workshops, event days and presentations.	Young people, school-age to university-age, teachers, lecturers, government, 'green' groups.	Increased interaction with young people with the long-term aim of forming a self-sustaining group to comment on all aspects of environment and sustainability in the ACT.
Advocacy	State of the Environment Report 2015	Analysis and review	Professional associations, Government Directorates and universities.	Revised approach to data presentation in the State of the Environment Report (SoER) 2015.
Advocacy	Regional State of the Environment reporting	Workshops and presentations	Councils within the Australian Capital Region.	Increased facilitation of environmental reporting in the Australian Capital Region.
Statutory				
Investigations	Lake Burley Griffin	Public submissions	Community	Informing the investigation.
Investigations	Lake Burley Griffin	Government response	Government	Informing OCSE response.
State of the Environment Report	State of the Environment Report 2015	Peer review groups: one group to review and two groups to comment on framework.	Experts, ACT Government and community members by invitation.	Peer review of SoER 2011, plus preparation and finalisation of framework for SoER 2015.
State of the Environment Report	State of the Environment Report 2015	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 2012–13.

B.3 Legislative Assembly Committee inquiries and reports

Table 13: Legislative Assembly Committee inquiries and reports — Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services

Report number	Title	Date presented
1	<i>Report on Annual and Financial Report 2011–12</i>	4 March 2013 ^(a)
Recommendation	Government response	Implementation
The Committee recommends that better mechanisms and reporting procedures be instituted in all Directorates to ensure that the implementation of Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment report recommendations can be properly monitored and assessed.	No response to date.	N/A
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 ACT <i>Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993</i> be amended to incorporate a formal responsibility for biennial reporting on the ACT ecological footprint.	<p>The Government responded on 23 August 2012.</p> <p>Not agreed. Under the <i>Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993</i> (the Act) there is a requirement for a State of the Environment Report to be released every four years. Any change in the current reporting timeframes specifically for the purpose of biennial reporting on the ACT ecological footprint is not considered warranted.</p> <p>The ACT Government is supportive of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (the Commissioner) conducting an assessment of pressures and sustainability trends; it has amended the Act, in May 2012, to be consistent with this approach. The Commissioner currently considers an ecological footprint as part of current reporting.</p>	We intend to continue reporting on the ACT ecological footprint as part of our State of the Environment reporting.
The Committee recommends that additional funding be provided to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, 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 Australian Capital Region ecological footprints.	<p>The Government responded on 23 August 2012.</p> <p>Government response: Noted.</p>	N/A
<p>This inquiry report was delivered on 24 August 2012.</p> <p>No recommendations were made to the Office of the Commissioner.</p>	<i>Inquiry into Current and Potential Ecotourism in the ACT and Region</i>	17 May 2011 ^(a)

Notes: (a) Date the Commissioner presented to the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services

B.4 Legislation report

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



Section C – Legislative and policy based reporting

C.1 Risk management and internal audit

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

C.2 Fraud prevention

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

C.3 Public interest disclosure

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

The Office did not receive any public interest disclosures during 2012–13.

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 2013. 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 Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*. 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.

The Act includes an Objects clause and specified timelines. The Minister must present reports to the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receiving each report, and must provide a Government response to a State of the Environment Report within six months of the day on which the Minister receives the report. This Office administers the Act.

Public participation

This Office has consulted with various government and non-government stakeholders during the reporting period, on a range of activities, including the Grasslands Investigation, scoping for ecologically sustainable development, the Government response to the Lake Burley Griffin Investigation, *Weathering the Change* Action Plan 2 (Implementation Status Report), and preparation for, and review of, the 2011 and 2015 State of the Environment Reports.

The consultation processes included:

- public submissions (City Basin Plan, Review of the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy, Select Committee on Regional Development, Review

of the Environment Protection Act discussion paper);

- 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.

Documents

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

- annual reports from 1997 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;
- discussion papers, information pamphlets and fact sheets;
- recommendations from State of the Environment Reports and Investigations.

These documents are also available by phoning or emailing the Office and can be posted to any member of the community. The Office prefers that readers download documents from the website.

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 this Office are available to the public as accessible pdf files on the OCSE website <www.envcomm.act.gov.au> or in hard copy (where available) upon request.

The Office can be reached by public transport and has access for people with disabilities.

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 the Office's 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 this 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 2012–2013 the Office did not receive any requests for access to documents.

In processing requests, this 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
- workload and resource issues within the Office at the time.

In situations where it appears that the 30-day timeframe for a response will not be met, this Office will 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 30-day timeframe to respond to an FOI request to be extended by 30 days for documents on which third-party consultation is necessary.

C.5 Internal accountability

Organisational structure

Mr Robert Neil was appointed as the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on 1 December 2012, after a period as acting Commissioner.

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 this Office at 30 June 2013 is shown in Figure 3.

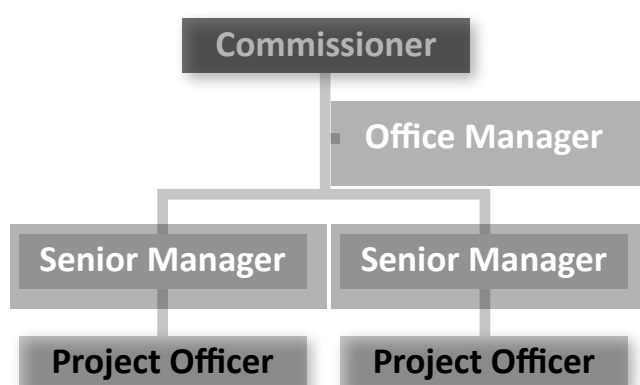


Figure 3: Organisation Chart, 2012–13

Senior committees

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

Key corporate plans

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

C.6 Human resource performance

This Office has a Strategic Plan, which reflects the environmental context in which we operate and

sets a clear direction for us. The Strategic Plan states our vision, mission, values and objectives as detailed in Section A.1 'The organisation'. The Strategic Plan is reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains valid. In December 2012 a Staff Development and Planning Day was held, with an external facilitator.

This year, staff members of this Office have been on a range of training and development exercises. Achievement plans have been in place since September 2012.

C.7 Staffing profile

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

C.8 Learning and development

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

During 2012–13, staff from the Office attended seminars and forums on adaptation to climate change, current biodiversity and ecosystems research, renewable energy, State of the Environment reporting and behavioural change, and one staff member was accredited as a competent mediator under the Australian National Mediator Accreditation System (NMAS).

C.9 Workplace health and safety

This Office is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace and maintaining the health, safety and welfare of its employees. Occupational health and safety are managed in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, effective as of 14 June 2013.

During 2012–13 the Office did not receive any notices under the revised Act, and there were no notifiable incidents.

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

The 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. In addition, the Office is in the process of providing a 'stand-up' desk to aid in staff health management.

C.10 Workplace relations

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

C.11 Human Rights Act 2004

The *Human Rights Act 2004* (HRA) came into force on 1 July 2004. Its purpose is to respect, protect and promote human rights in the ACT. The HRA aims to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that all Territory statutes and statutory instruments are interpreted in a way that respects and protects human rights. The HRA also expects public authorities to act consistently with human rights. All of this Office's work policies and practices adhere to the HRA. In addition, HRA principles are adopted by the Office through the promotion and advocacy of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

The staff members of this Office are employed through the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate. All staff receive an induction which includes training on the ACT Public Service Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) framework. The RED framework aims to foster a workplace that values individual differences and is respectful, courteous and fair. RED training includes information on legislative obligations, including the Human Rights Act (HRA).

C.12 Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

This 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

This Office does not own or manage any major assets, but maintains a portable and attractive asset register.

Office accommodation

During 2012–13 this Office was accommodated on Level 2 of the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Building at 13–15 Challis Street, Dickson, until 7 October 2012. There it occupied 155 square metres, in a multi-purpose building being used for office accommodation, a shopfront and a vehicle inspection station area (light industry).

Since early October, the Office has been accommodated at 1 Constitution Avenue, on Level 2 of the Canberra Nara Centre. This building is a single-purpose office building which houses staff from various Directorates across the ACT public service: predominantly staff from the Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate (CMTD). The Office now occupies 118.55 square metres.

This Office is working with programs of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate to finalise ACTSmart accreditation of our current office area. This initiative was begun on 12 February 2013, with 100% of our office staff present. More recently, the Office has been working with Facilities Management at Nara House to bring the whole building into accreditation under the ACTSmart program.

C.14 Capital works

This Office has no capital works projects.

C.15 Government contracting

Procurement principles and processes

Consistent with the newly updated provisions governing procurements up to \$200,000, this Office has worked, and will continue to work with ACT Procurement Solutions to complete procurement actions where necessary.

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

During 2012–13 the Office arranged one contract exceeding \$25,000 (details below).

Individual contracts for works and services that exceeded \$25,000, and smaller contracts awarded to the same contractor that in total exceeded \$25,000, are detailed in Table 14.

The Office will continue to work to identify and preserve valuable records as part of its records management program. The Office uses the tools developed by ArchivesACT to assist members of the community to interpret older records that are released for public access.

In 2012–13 the Office received no requests for information under the open access to records provision of the Act.

C.16 Community grants/assistance/sponsorship

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

C.18 Commissioner for the Environment

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

C.17 Territory records

This Office is independent of the ACT Government. However, its records are managed in accordance with the *Territory Records Act 2002*.

Objective, an Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS), has been adopted by the Office and is now used for record and file management with support from 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.

Table 14: Summary of contracts over \$25,000

Contractor	Description and reason for contract	\$ (inc GST)	Procurement type	Date contract let
Dr Ken Hodgkinson*	Inspection of specified Natural Temperate Grassland sites within urban Canberra, and photographic and floristic assessments	\$47,500 over two years	Single Select	13/04/2013

*Dr Hodgkinson was single select. The minute was signed off for the following reasons: Dr Hodgkinson could meet the necessary timeframes, as implementation was urgent to cover both Autumn and Spring periods for 2013; the project was also specialist in nature and required specific skills and knowledge; from his work on the Grassland Investigation, Dr Hodgkinson was also familiar with the background of the advice required.

C.19 Ecologically sustainable development

Because the Office moved location in October 2012, two tables detailing Ecologically Sustainable Development are supplied. The first (Table 15) covers the period from 1 July 2012 to 7 October 2012, while the Table 16 details the period from 8 October 2012 to 30 June 2012.

Table 15: (Office based at Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry, 1 July 2012 to 7 October 2012)

Indicator as at 01 July		Unit	2012–13	2013–14
Line	General			
L1	Occupancy — staff full-time equivalent(a)	Number (FTE)	7 ^(a)	7
L2	Area office space — net lettable area	Square metres (m ²)	155	155
Stationary energy				
L3	Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	35,768	15,261.12
L4	Renewable energy use (GreenPower + EDL landfill gases)	Kilowatt hours	16,614	8241
L5	Percentage of renewable energy used (L4/L3 x 100)	Percentage	46.5	54
L6	Natural gas use	Megajoules	0	0
L7*	Total energy use	Megajoules	126,540 ⁽ⁱ⁾	54,490
Intensities				
L8	Energy intensity per FTE (L7/L1)	Megajoules/FTE	9039.4	7848.6
L9	Energy intensity per square metre (L7/L2)	Megajoules/m ²	409	354.5
Transport				
L10	Total number of vehicles ^(c)	Numeric	1	1
L11	Total vehicle kilometres travelled	Kilometres	19,540*	242
L12	Transport fuel (Petrol) ^(d)	Kilolitres	3.7	0.023
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	126.5	0.79
Water				
L17	Water use	Kilolitres	46.69	17.6
Intensities				
L18	Water use per FTE (L17/L1)	Kilolitres/FTE	7.10	2.51
L19	Water use per square metre (L17/L2)	Kilolitres/m ²	0.3	0.1
Resource efficiency and Waste^(e)				
L20	Reams of paper purchased	Reams ^(f)	70	7
L21	Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	90	100
L22	Estimate of general waste (based on bins collected) ^(g)	Litres	210	70
L23	Estimate of co-mingled material recycled (based on bins collected) ^(h)	Litres	240	80
L24	Estimate of paper recycled (based on bins collected)	Litres	1620	540
L25	Estimate of organic material recycled (based on bins collected)	Litres	120	40
Greenhouse gas emissions				
L26*	Total stationary energy greenhouse gas emissions (All scopes)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	20.41	7.48
L27*	Total transport greenhouse gas emissions (All scopes)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	9.48	0.05
Intensities				
L28	Greenhouse gas emissions per person (L26/L1)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e FTE	2.92	1.07
L29	Greenhouse gas emissions per square metre (L26/L2)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	0.13	0.048
L30	Transport greenhouse gas emissions per person (L27/L1)	Tonnes CO ₂ -e FTE	1.35	0.007

Notes to Tables 15 and 16:

- (a) The Office establishment is six. An additional contractor in 2012–13 was the Project Coordinator for the State of the Environment Report
- (b) These data are calculated on the basis of totals provided by ACT Property Group (part of the TAMS Directorate) 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 energy, water and electricity are not accurate.
- (c) This is the Commissioner's package vehicle, which is available for use by our staff, totals provided are based on business usage only.
- (d) Figures are calculated as 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.
- (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).
- (i) The value published in last year's report was incorrect.

*Calculated with information entered into OSCAR.

Table 16: (Office based at Nara House Civic from 8 October 2012 to 30 June 2013)

	Indicator as at 01 July	Unit	2012–13	2013–14
Line	General			
L1	Occupancy — staff full-time equivalent(a)	Number (FTE)	7 ^(a)	
L2	Area office space — net lettable area	Square metres (m ²)	118.59	
Stationary energy				
L3	Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	14,843.30	
L4	Renewable energy use (GreenPower + EDL landfill gases)	Kilowatt hours	1901.80	
L5	Percentage of renewable energy used (L4/L3 x 100)	Percentage	20%	
L6	Natural gas use	Megajoules	24,259.66	
L7*	Total energy use	Megajoules	53,440	
Intensities				
L8	Energy intensity per FTE (L7/L1)	Megajoules/FTE	7634.29	
L9	Energy intensity per square metre (L7/L2)	Megajoules/m ²	450.63	
Transport				
L10	Total number of vehicles ^(c)	Numeric	1	
L11	Total vehicle kilometres travelled	Kilometres	2036	
L12	Transport fuel (Petrol) ^(d)	Kilolitres	0.0191	
L13	Transport fuel (Diesel)	Kilolitres	0	
L14	Transport fuel (LPG)	Kilolitres	0	
L15	Transport fuel (CNG)	Kilolitres	0	
L16*	Total transport energy use	Gigajoules	0.65	
Water				
L17	Water use	Kilolitres	61.45	

Indicator as at 01 July		Unit	2012–13	2013–14
Line	General			
Intensities				
L18	Water use per FTE (L17/L1)	Kilolitres/FTE	8.78	
L19	Water use per square metre (L17/L2)	Kilolitres/m ²	0.52	
Resource efficiency and Waste^(e)				
L20	Reams of paper purchased	Reams ^(f)	17	
L21	Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	100	
L22	Estimate of general waste (based on bins collected)(g)	Litres	6069.1	
L23	Estimate of co-mingled material recycled (based on bins collected)(h)	Litres	1258.94	
L24	Estimate of paper recycled (based on bins collected)	Litres	1601.93	
L25	Estimate of organic material recycled (based on bins collected)	Litres	829.50	
Greenhouse gas emissions				
L26*	Total stationary energy greenhouse gas emissions (All scopes)	Tonnes CO ² -e	15.38	
L27*	Total transport greenhouse gas emissions (All scopes)	Tonnes CO ² -e	0.05	
Intensities				
L28	Greenhouse gas emissions per person (L26/L1)	Tonnes CO ² -e FTE	2.20	
L29	Greenhouse gas emissions per square metre (L26/L2)	Tonnes CO ² -e	0.13	
L30	Transport greenhouse gas emissions per person (L27/L1)	Tonnes CO ² -e FTE	0.007	

C.20 Climate change and greenhouse gas reduction policies and programs

This Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) Annual Report. In addition to ESDD programs and policies such as ACTSmart, the Office has bicycles available for staff use. The staff is 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

This Office is covered under the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Annual Report. However, the office provides data and analysis on Indigenous Heritage as part of the State of the Environment reporting.

C.22 ACT Multicultural Strategy 2010–13

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

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

This 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 factor in objectives from the ACT Women's Plan, particularly those relating to education, housing, community and well being.

This Office provides a supportive environment for women (the majority of staff in the office are women) through training and development which is encouraged through active engagement via staff meetings and promoting flexible working arrangements to encourage a strong work/life balance.

C.25 Model Litigant Guidelines

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

C.26 Notices of noncompliance

This Office did not receive any notices of noncompliance in 2012–13.

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

Professor Ian Lowe

