



COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016





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CONTACT OFFICER

Dr Aileen Power
Senior Manager
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
aileen.power@act.gov.au

Level 2, Telstra House
490 Northbourne Avenue

GPO Box 158 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: 02 6207 2626

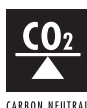
Facsimile: 02 6207 2630

Email: envcomm@act.gov.au

www: envcomm.act.gov.au

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COMMISSIONER
FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT

TRANSMITTAL CERTIFICATE

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

Dear Minister

This Report has been prepared under section 6(1) of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* and in accordance with the requirements under the Annual Report Directions.

It has been prepared in conformity with other legislation applicable to the preparation of the Annual Report by the Office for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

I certify that the attached Annual Report is an honest and accurate account and that all material information on the operations of the Office for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment during the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 has been included.

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

Section 13 of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* requires that you cause a copy of the Report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly within four months of the end of the financial year.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kate Auty
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

23 August 2016

Commissioner: Dr Kate Auty
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
ABN: 66 893 463 785

T: (02) 6207 2626 E: envcomm@act.gov.au W: www.envcomm.act.gov.au

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Photo: ACT Government

Aboriginal rock art at Yankee Hat Namadgi National Park.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAEE	Australian Association for Environmental Education
AAO	Ambient Air Quality
ACAT	ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTPLA	ACT Planning and Land Authority
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
ACU	Australian Catholic University
ANU	Australian National University
AP2	<i>AP2: A new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory</i>
AYCC	Australian Youth Climate Coalition
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BRAMP	Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program
CEMP	ACT Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program
CIT	Canberra Institute of Technology
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury, Economic Development Directorate (formerly Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate)
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CSD	Community Services Directorate
CSE	Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DPSIR	Driver–Pressure–State–Impact–Response
EDM	Electronic Data Management
ELIANZ	Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
EnAACT	Enabling Adaptation in the ACT
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>
EPD or ESDD	Environment and Planning Directorate (formerly Environment Sustainability and Development Directorate – ESDD)
ESA	ACT Emergency Services Agency
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development
ESP	Enterprise Sustainability Platform
EDU or ETD	ACT Education Directorate (formerly Education and Training Directorate – ETD)
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPTs	Gross pollutant traps
HGL	Hydrogeological landscape
IAPZ	Inner Asset Protection Zone
ISR	Implementation Status Report
JACSD or JACS	Justice and Community Safety Directorate
LEVS	ACT Low Emissions Vehicle Strategy
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas

LSC	Land and soil capability
MLA	Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARClIM	NSW and ACT Regional Climate Model
NCA	National Capital Authority
NC Act	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1980</i>
NEPM	National Environmental Protection Measure
NES	National environmental significance
NGA	National Greenhouse Accounts
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSW	New South Wales
OAG	Office of the Auditor General (Commonwealth)
OAPZ	Outer Asset Protection Zone
OCSE	Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
PCO	Parliamentary Counsel's Office
PMS	Performance Monitoring Station
POM	Plan of management
PUL	Public Unleased Land
PULA	<i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i>
RET	Renewable Energy Target
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SBMPv3	<i>ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2014</i>
SEEA	UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012
SERREE	South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence
SoER	State of the Environment Report
SPEL	SPEL Environmental: Water Quality Improvement Solutions
SRS	ACT Sport and Recreation Services
TAMSD or TAMS	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (From 1 July 2016 identified as Transport Canberra and City Services – TCCS)
TCCSD or TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate
UC	University of Canberra
WSUD	Water-sensitive urban design

SECTION B: ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE

B1 ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

B1.1 THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (CSE) is appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development under the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*. The Commissioner is accountable to the Legislative Assembly through the Minister.

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

The *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*, the current enabling legislation, 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 (ESD)
- » 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
- » make recommendations for consideration by government and include in its annual report the outcomes of those recommendations.

No other legislation is administered by the Commissioner who also has no other regulatory activities.

B1.2 OUR VISION

The vision of the Commissioner is to be an independent voice for the environment and sustainability in the ACT. The vision captures a commitment to encouraging and advocating

for sustainable living in the ACT and helping the community and government act in ways that advance sustainability and good management of the environment.

B1.3 OUR MISSION

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

B1.4 OUR VALUES

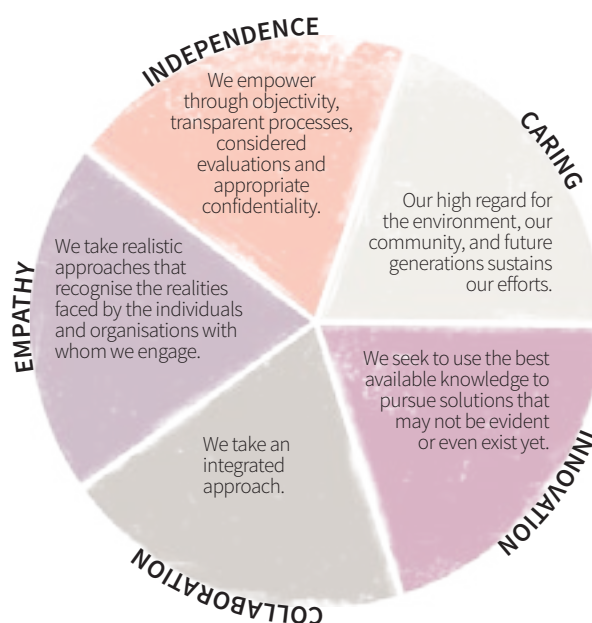


Figure 1: Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment values

B1.5 OUR OBJECTIVES

The CSE 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.

B1.6 CSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ACT GOVERNMENT DIRECTORATES

The ACT Government via the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) provides corporate support for matters such as accommodation, financial reporting, recruitment and other personnel services. Shared Services ICT – located within Commerce and Works of the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) – provides information management, procurement and information technology support.

B1.7 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The ACT Commissioner is an SES 2.5 ministerial appointment. The Commissioner is supported by a core team of two full-time senior managers (SOG B equivalent), two project officers (PO 2) and one office manager (ASO 6) – see **Figure 2**. While this level of staffing reflects our standard allocation and organisational structure some variability occurs at times where workloads are increased or when particular opportunities become evident. For instance, an additional person at SOG B level was transferred into CSE from early 2015 until early 2016 to assist with the drafting of the *2015 ACT State of the Environment Report* (SoER).

The 2015–16 year was a period of considerable change with three people appointed to the role of Commissioner over the reporting period. In July 2015, Mr Robert Neil, who had held the position since 2011, retired. Ms Ann Lyons Wright was appointed as acting Commissioner until the appointment of Dr Kate Auty as Commissioner in May 2016. The remuneration tribunal sets the remuneration for executives and an independent assessment takes place to ensure positions are remunerated at the most appropriate level.

Top: Mr Bob Neil
Middle: Ms Ann Lyons Wright
Bottom: Dr Kate Auty

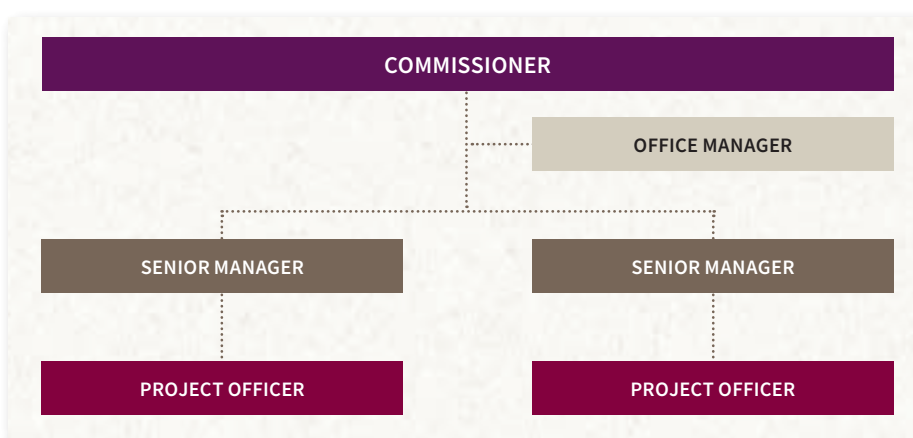


Figure 2: Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment organisational chart

B1.8 OUR CLIENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

CSE work is relevant to both current and future generations of the general ACT community, as well as particular clients and stakeholders who include:

- » ACT Government directorates and agencies
- » Members of the Legislative Assembly
- » environment and sustainability interest groups
- » subject experts and advisory groups – environment, sustainability and other sectors
- » other commissioners locally, nationally and internationally
- » business and industry
- » universities and other tertiary education institutions
- » research institutions, such as CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology
- » academics and researchers
- » professional bodies and interest groups
- » local and national media
- » councils of the Australian Capital Region
- » NSW and Australian Government.

SIGNIFICANT COMMITTEES AND THEIR ROLES

CSE relies on and appreciates the contributions made by executive and staff of various ACT Government directorates, as well as the expertise and time provided on a voluntary basis by numerous academic and other subject matter experts. Individually, and as members of expert advisory panels, they support and enable the work of CSE.

Members of panels convened during 2015–16, and their roles, are listed at **Appendix 1**.

B1.9 CSE ACHIEVEMENTS

A summary of CSE 2015–16 achievements against each key function follows:

B1.9.1 COMPLAINTS

Responding to resident complaints is one of the CSE's statutory requirements. Historically, this aspect of our work has been quite confined, with typically only a few complaints received and accepted by the Commissioner for investigation each year.

As part of our legislative responsibility, the CSE always forwards complaints to the appropriate agency for their attention. Only when this step results in a less than satisfactory outcome does the CSE explore the issues raised or consider undertaking a complaint investigation.

Details of complaints received and how these were addressed are included in **Section B2**.

B1.9.2 2015 ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The 2015 ACT SoER was delivered on time to the Minister for Environment, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, on 21 December 2015. The Minister tabled the report in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 18 February 2016. The government released their response to the SoER on 6 June 2016. Further details about the 2015 ACT SoER are available in **Section B2.1.1** of this Report and <http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2015/index.html> on the CSE website.

B1.9.3 SPECIAL REPORTS

There were no Minister or Commissioner-initiated investigations during 2015–16. However, discussions were held with EPD executive personnel to draw attention to a practice of nominating the Commissioner to undertake review and/or audit functions for a number ACT environmental policies and strategies. This practice, which has been occurring over the past few years and through various mechanisms, includes requirements for monitoring and reporting on progress set out in this report.

The progress of these special reports include:

- » **ACCEPTANCE** by the government of Auditor-General's Recommendation 12 in the *Restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment – Auditor General's Report* (2015).
- » **ENDORSEMENT** by the Australian Government of the *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan Final* (2013) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- » **ADOPTION** by the government of AP2: *A new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory* (2012).

The EPD Legal Section and the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) advised that there was some legal ambiguity around the status of any report produced by the Commissioner which is not strictly prescribed by the Act. Accordingly, the Minister reviewed the various investigating and reporting functions of the Commissioner and concluded there was a need to remove this ambiguity in respect of the reports and plans listed above. To this end the Minister directed that the Commissioner conduct these reviews as special reports (in accordance with sections 12(1)(b) and 21(1)(a) of the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*).

B1.9.4 ADVOCACY

CSE has undertaken to reach a wider audience, including young people, via regular social media communications. We have promoted the CSE website and the 2015 ACT SoER in particular.

Many meetings have been held with key stakeholders in ACT Government directorates, as well as with individuals and groups across many different sectors within universities and colleges, business, and community organisations. The aim of this advocacy is to identify needs, concerns and opportunities for collaboration in relation to sustainability and the environment. Further details are included in **Section B2**.

B1.9.5 OTHER PROJECTS

Encouraging sound environmental practices and procedures to progress ecologically sustainable development

Throughout the year, CSE continued to engage with ACT Government directorates to encourage sound environmental practices and procedures as the basis for ecologically sustainable development. An important aspect of this work has been the provision of feedback on various draft strategy and planning documents as outlined in **Section B2**.

Second Implementation Status Report (ISR) for AP2

The ACT Government's AP2: *A new climate change strategy and action plan for the Australian Capital Territory* (2012) includes requirements for reviewing progress and reporting on the status of implementation every three years.

The second review is due in 2017. Our experience in developing the first implementation status review has positioned us well to provide valuable input and guidance in developing the 2017 assessment.

Gungahlin strategic assessment

When the Australian Government endorsed the *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan Final* (2013) under the EPBC Act, this included a role for CSE to undertake an independent audit of the plan.

The audit occurs every five years, with the first due in 2018. The purpose of the audit is to verify the outcomes reported by the Plan Implementation Team (a multi-stakeholder team established under the plan) and to audit the financial performance of the plan. Scoping for this project was undertaken within the 2015–16 reporting year.

Initial discussions indicate EPD's interest in CSE also having an audit/review role in other strategic assessments under the EPBC Act – potentially including Eastern Broadacre and Riverview.

Lower Cotter Catchment

As part of the ACT Government's acceptance of Recommendation 12 in *Restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment – Auditor General's Report* (2015), the Commissioner is expected to evaluate the restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment against the management goals of the Strategic Management Plan. By December 2017, the Commissioner will also recommend priorities to the Minister for the Environment covering the next decade.

Scoping for this project commenced in 2015–16 and included input from experts in ecology, hydrology, ecological restoration assessment and fire ecology.

B1.10 OUTLOOK: CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

B1.10.1 CLIMATE CHANGE

The ACT Government has set significant targets for our community to deal with our biggest environmental challenge: climate change. In doing so, the ACT is leading the way nationally, with very strong emission reduction targets and a robust suite of programs to achieve them. Our achievements in this regard were recognised at the Paris COP21 United Nations Conference on Climate Change in 2015.

Our targets represent both vision and ambition of a very high order and they are necessary and welcome. Their establishment and implementation demonstrates real leadership.

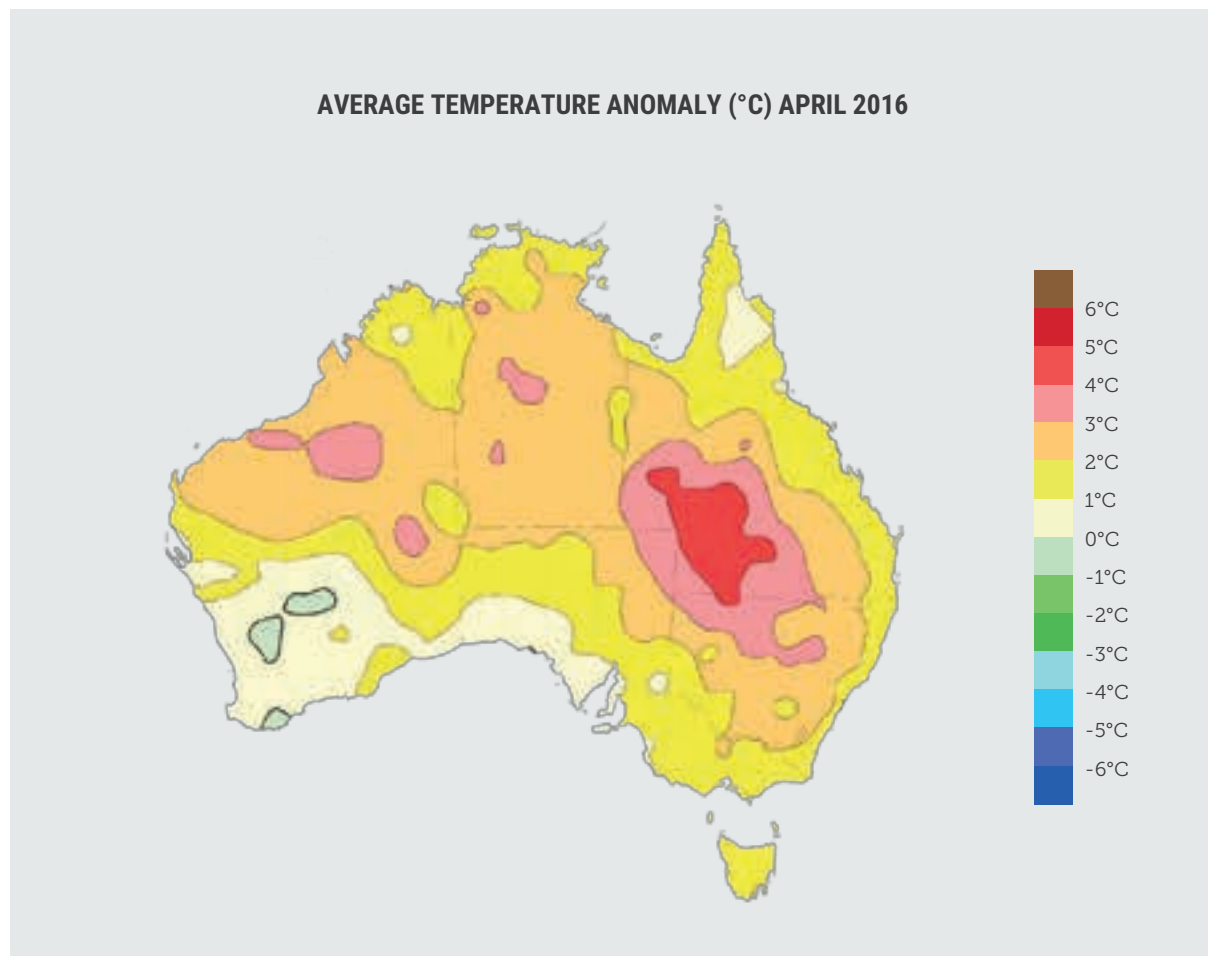


Figure 3: Average temperature anomaly (°C) April 2016

Evidence presented by Australia's Climate Council¹ indicates that 2015–16 was a record-breaking period with 14 of the 15 highest monthly temperature departures on record occurring since February 2015. The seasons are also changing – autumn 2016 was the warmest on record in Australia.^{2,3}

These kinds of shifts are being felt globally. Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)⁴ has confirmed that June 2016 was the hottest month on record globally. June also marked the 14th consecutive month to break its temperature record, the longest such streak in NOAA's 137 years of record-keeping.

Australia is now one of more than 160 nations signed up to the Paris Agreement (2015). We have committed ourselves to action to address climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions. The ACT is embracing its role as a sub-national city state. There is increasing recognition that this sector will play a major role in implementing necessary changes.

In the ACT we recognise that climate change will increasingly impact every aspect of our environment and bring with it social and economic consequences. According to the Australian Government,⁵ the impacts of climate change in the ACT are predicted to include:

- » rising temperatures and a greater number of extreme hot days
- » the threat of an increase in the number, frequency and intensity of bushfires across the region

- » threats to water supply through reduced rainfall and runoff into the ACT's Cotter and Googong catchments
- » changes to the distribution of pest species
- » changes to the distribution of species as they adjust to climate change – the process described as phenology
- » impacts on the productivity of the ACT region's agricultural industries, including its regional wine industry
- » an increase in the number of illnesses and heat-related deaths in the ACT, which could more than double amongst elderly people who are particularly vulnerable.

Notwithstanding our current efforts, we still face challenges. With emissions from energy being effectively addressed by the innovative reverse auction process and the support this provides for renewable energy installations, our next challenge will be to reduce vehicle emissions which we expect to become our biggest emissions contributor.

The ACT population is predicted to grow to 500,000 by 2033.⁶ While mitigation strategies are important, as a small jurisdiction, effective local adaptation measures that support resilience and capacity for change need to inform thinking and planning across all agencies and policy areas. Examples of appropriate actions include taking a more strategic approach to conserving vegetation and improving habitat connectivity to enable a better understanding of the impacts of greenfield and need for brownfield and greyfield developments.

1 <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/14-months-in-a-row-of-record-breaking-heat>

2 <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/season/aus/summary.shtml>

3 <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/ff027ecb2c91153d9eae9ff735e3cc6f.pdf>

4 <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/201606>

5 <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/climate-science/impacts/act>

6 <http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/demography/projections/act/total>

B1.10.2 OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

We reflected our continuing challenges in the 2015 ACT SoER.⁷ The ACT has the largest average per person ecological footprint of any Australian jurisdiction (8.9) – this is about three and a half times the global per person average. This means that Canberrans impact the global environment more than people in most other places on earth. Although our footprint per person has moderated very slightly over the past four years, our total footprint is about 14 times the land area of the ACT, indicating a continuing trend of increasing impact on our ecological systems and their capacity to sustain us.

As a growing urban centre and city, Canberra and the ACT is experiencing housing, road and other infrastructure development. Threats to biodiversity and ecosystems are very real. So too are the associated risks to human health, wellbeing and the economy. As we continue to build across the Territory, we will be exposed to heightened ‘heat island’ vulnerability and the implications of storm water run-off. To help

counter these, strategies including stormwater management, silt control, water sensitive urban design and habitat and connectivity planting will become even more important. Policy responses to these issues are an important piece of the implementation jigsaw puzzle in this climate change environment. Our reporting will continue to speak to and offer solutions on all these issues.

As we have in the past, we will be engaging the community – young and old, business and the public sector – in the work we do and in the promotion of improved outcomes. We will also be building on the capacity of big data and technology to assist us in this work as we seek to meet the challenges of climate change, environmental sustainability and science communication.

Within this challenging context CSE will continue to undertake projects, investigations and assessments to meet our statutory requirements and the objectives of our Act.

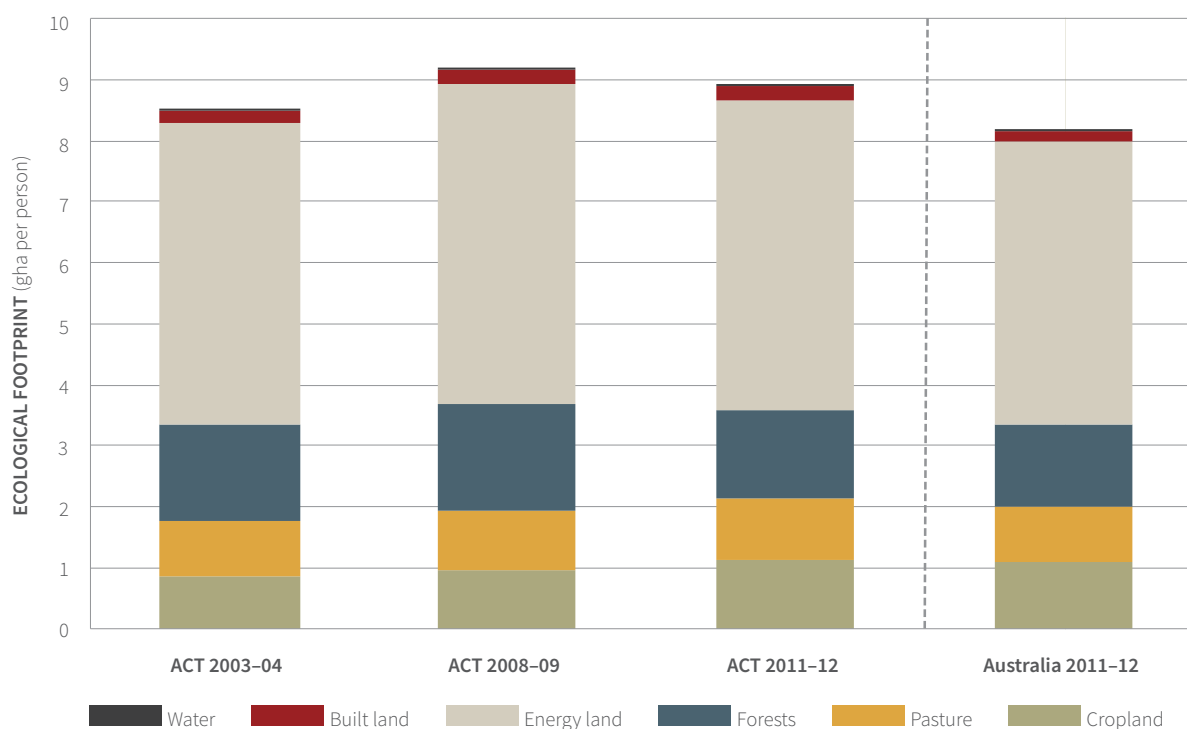


Figure 4: ACT ecological footprint per capita (2003-04, 2008-09 and 2011-12)

⁷ <http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2015/resources/index.html>

B1.10.3 LOOKING TO 2019 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

As noted, Canberra's population is expected to reach 500,000 by 2033. By the 2040s, we'll reach 600,000. It is crucial that the next SoER (due in late 2019) is able to inform the policy decisions needed to support the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of such population growth.

Scoping for this work has established that the report should be based on an internationally recognised environmental accounting and biophysical modelling framework.

Environmental accounts have several significant advantages over other environmental information frameworks, including:

- » **CONSISTENCY** of data, by conforming to an international standard such as the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 (SEEA)
- » **CONTINUITY** and therefore the capacity to generate reports at any desired interval
- » **COMPREHENSIVENESS** by recording transactions so accounts reveal not only the use and replenishment of environmental resources, but also the classes of those using and replenishing these resources and the corresponding draw-down or replenishment of environmental stocks.

The SoER includes recommendations, which must be responded to by government. The accounts will provide the tool for evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of environmental management as required by section 19(2)(b) of the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*. They will thereby provide the basis for the Commissioner's policy-based recommendations.

The 2019 SoER is being developed in collaboration, primarily with the Australian National University (see **Appendix 2**), as well as a team of experts from CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Bureau of Meteorology, and a number of other tertiary and research institutions.

B1.10.4 FUTURE COMPLAINTS

While it is difficult to accurately forecast and budget for work to manage community-generated complaints, our environmental scan suggests that possible issues for the 2016–17 financial year include:

- » planning – issues around infill and building heights in town centres
- » development and other proposals for greenfield sites including proposed developments in north and south western ACT
- » light rail
- » approaches to conservation management including the ACT annual cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos
- » implementation of cat containment legislation
- » environmental offsets.

B1.10.5 FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS

As usual, we will undertake investigations if directed by the Minister. Possible Commissioner-initiated investigations include targeted audits on progress of recommendations from past investigations.

B1.10.6 ADVOCACY

The ACT population is generally highly educated and relatively affluent with many residents environmentally aware and concerned. As a result there is strong community support for efforts to increase sustainability, and government commitment and action to preserve and protect our local landscapes, habitats and biodiversity. While direct engagement with our stakeholders and key target groups will remain important, we will increasingly use mediated communications, in particular social media, as a means to reach wider audiences.

CSE will continue to engage with, foster and appreciate the commitment and input of ACT tertiary institutions, in particular researchers at ANU and the University of Canberra (UC). We will also increase outreach efforts to Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) as more vocationally-oriented institutions.

Likewise, working with environmental groups and the many subject matter experts who contribute to the work of CSE will continue; for example, with the Conservation Council ACT and Region, Canberra Environment Centre, SEE-change and Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ).

However, our continuing challenge is to reach out to groups that are generally less directly engaged with environment and sustainability issues, yet are vital to the work of CSE. Priority sectors for 2016–17 include:

- » **Young people as future custodians of the environment.** Engaging with young people through schools and universities remains a priority. This is seen not only as a way to increase awareness and engagement of young people in environment and sustainability issues, but also to work with educators and family members.
- » **The health, renewable energy and urban planning and design sectors,** along with stakeholders such as the National Heart Foundation, Pedal Power and Living Streets, that encourage active transport. Strategies will include identifying local ‘high environment and sustainability performers’ and highlighting their strategies and achievements, attending and presenting at industry and professional seminars and conferences, hosting graduates, and offering internships.
- » **Residents who are currently not aware, concerned or engaged** with efforts towards increased sustainability and environmental protection, in particular in relation to climate change, both locally and globally.
- » **ACT directorates** other than EPD and Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD), with core business not directly associated with environment and sustainability.
- » **Regional groups and organisations** such as the Canberra Region Joint Organisation of Councils, the Canberra Business Chamber, the South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) and the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group.

B.1.10.7 OTHER ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS

A number of projects are due for delivery in 2018:

- » AP2 second implementation status report
- » Gungahlin strategic assessment
- » evaluation of the Restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment.

Considerable work has been done in scoping, establishing frameworks and identifying data sources during 2015–16. Details of these projects are included in **Section B1.9**. Work will continue on these projects during 2016–17.

B2 PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

B2.1 PERFORMANCE AGAINST INDICATORS

This section of the report provides an assessment of CSE performance against our key statutory functions as indicators, including:

- » publication of the ACT SoER
- » responding to community complaints
- » undertaking investigations by ministerial direction or as initiated by the Commissioner.

Comment is also provided on progress in other major projects and initiatives.

Table 1: Summary of performance against CSE accountability indicators⁸

ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS	Original target 2015–16	Actual result 2015–16	Variance from amended target
a. Report on the uptake of recommendations on the ACT State of the Environment and special reports as part of the annual report.	Sept 2015	Sept 2015	0%
b. Undertake Ministerial initiated investigations in accordance with the Minister's direction.	100%	100%	0%
c. Undertake Commissioner initiated investigations in accordance with the Terms of Reference.	100%	100%	0%
d. Undertake complaints generated investigations in accordance with the Terms of Reference.	Sept 2015	Sept 2015	0%
e. Report on complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a Territory agency as part of the annual report.	Sept 2015	Sept 2015	0%

B2.1.1 PUBLICATION OF THE 2015 ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The reporting period for the 2015 ACT SoER was from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015 and was due to the Minister on 21 December 2015.

In 2012, CSE undertook a review of the 2011 SoER and incorporated findings and feedback received in developing a new framework for the 2015 SoER.

The revised framework continued to use the driving forces, pressures, state, impacts and responses (DPSIR) model, and reported on themes and indicators as in the 2011 report. However 2015 SoER included new aspects such as commentary on ecosystem services, report cards and an independent review of management responses. Some new indicators such as offsets (pressure) were also included.

⁸ 2015–16 Budget Statements, Environment and Planning Directorate, p17 http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/733812/E-EPD-Budget-Statements.pdf

Much of the writing of the 2015 SoER was done in-house by CSE's staff members, with expert input and advice for particular sectors. CSE contracted a range of subject matter experts to provide advice and assistance. We again gratefully acknowledge the many voluntary contributions of expertise, as well as the cooperation from ACT Government staff, particularly in EPD and TAMSD, but also other directorates with less immediate responsibility and actions for environmental protection (see participant list at **Appendix 1**).

A formal review process, with guidelines and an expert review panel for each theme and the report as a whole, was included in the 2015 SoER and was made publicly available on the CSE website. As for the three previous ACT SoERs, an *ACT Ecological Footprint Report* was commissioned for inclusion within the 2015 ACT SoER.



ENVIRONMENT REPORTING IN THE REGION

The broader work of CSE continues to focus on Canberra within the wider region. We recognise the need for a greater focus on how decisions made, and actions taken, in the ACT impact the region and vice versa.

CSE continues to engage with regional groups such as the Canberra Region Joint Organisation of councils on environmental reporting in the region. Changes to NSW reporting legislation in 2012 (via the *Local Government Amendment [Planning and Reporting] Act 2009 No 67*) changed the way that councils report on the state of the environment. As a result, a comprehensive regional SoER has not been feasible since 2009.

B2.1.2 RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Responding to community complaints is one of the statutory functions of the Commissioner. However, the existing legislation is not specific about what constitutes a complaint. Individuals and groups express concerns and request information in many different ways – for instance personal approaches, emails, phone calls, and letters. It is often difficult for CSE to determine whether the approach actually constitutes a complaint or is simply opinion or a request for information.

The CSE Act allows for the provision of a complaint form, which if available, must be used by those wishing to make a complaint. Although, historically, and for a range of reasons, such a form has not been prepared by CSE, this is now under consideration. CSE envisages that a form of this kind would assist greatly in identifying complaints and differentiating them from enquiries and expressions of opinion where no action by CSE is required.

As noted in **Section B1.9**, CSE typically only responds to a few of complaints each year. Our first responsibility is to forward the complaints back to the appropriate agency for their attention.

Two examples of this type of complaint were received from members of the ACT legislative assembly (MLAs) on behalf of their constituents. One was in relation to the proposed relocation of Gungahlin bus station to Gungahlin Place

and the other was about increased traffic noise and emissions along Melrose Drive after the installation of traffic lights in the area. In both instances the complaints were forwarded to the relevant directorate and the complainant notified of the action. They were invited to contact the Commissioner again if the issue was not resolved satisfactorily. No further correspondence was received on these matters.

Only when this step results in a less than satisfactory outcome would the Commissioner consider exploring further and registering a complaint for investigation. Draft investigation reports are sent to the relevant directorates for fact checking, and the final reports are provided to them, the complainant and relevant minister/s. The reports contain Commissioner recommendations, but as they are not tabled in the Legislative Assembly, they do not have the same status as special reports under s21 of the Act.

In addition to formal complaints, the CSE receives various requests for information and general inquiries in relation to the environment. In many cases, these matters are commonly resolved by direction to a publication or website of the CSE, an ACT directorate or Australian Government. In other cases enquiries are directed to Access Canberra. In some cases, where concern has been conveyed to the Commissioner about a future or planned action by an ACT Government agency, the Commissioner will write to the individual providing information as well as an appropriate contact in the relevant directorate.

One example of this process was a response from Commissioner Lyons Wright to a phone enquiry in February 2016 by a community member with concerns about potential damage to Isaacs Ridge Reserve from a planned trail upgrade in the area. The Commissioner was also asked whether this matter had been investigated previously.

The Commissioner wrote to the person making the enquiry directing them to the TAMSD publication *Isaacs Ridge Trails Plan 2015*⁹. That document identified a number of measures aimed at minimising the impacts associated with the planned construction. The enquirer was also informed of an investigation in 2012 in relation to mountain bike paths in Bruce Ridge, which found that the ACT Government took steps to work with mountain bike user groups to consolidate the trail network while minimising impacts on other recreational user groups and environment. The management of Bruce Ridge is considered by the ACT Government to be a generally positive example of land management for multiple purposes and values, including recreation and conservation.

As is the case with all approaches to the Commissioner, the individual was advised to raise any concerns with the relevant directorate, in this case, the Isaacs Ridge mountain bike trial network upgrade project officer, TAMSD. No further communication was received on this matter within the 2015–16 reporting period.

On the following pages, **Table 2** summarises the complaints investigated in the 2015–16 reporting year, while **Table 3** summarises the subject areas of complaints. **Table 4** sets out brief summaries and status of all pending complaints from previous years and those received during 2015–16.

9 http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/recreational_activities/isaacs-ridge-mountain-bike-trail-upgrade

Table 2: Summary of complaints addressed in 2015–16

COMPLAINTS STATUS	Number of complaints	Topic
Complaints pending from 2014–15	3	Annual cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos Building heights in Belconnen Town Centre Alleged damage to unleased public land in Hackett
Complaints received in 2015–16	6	Cat containment at 'The Fair' in north Watson Traffic noise along Melrose Drive 2 – Eastern Grey Kangaroo cull Relocation of Gungahlin bus station to Gungahlin Place Foul smell in Tuggeranong
Complaints completed in 2015–16	6	Building heights in Belconnen Town Centre Alleged damage to unleased public land in Hackett 1 – ACT annual cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos Cat containment at 'The Fair' in north Watson Traffic noise along Melrose Drive Relocation of Gungahlin bus station to Gungahlin Place
Complaints pending in 2015–16	3	2 – ACT annual cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos Foul smell in Tuggeranong

Table 3: Summary of broad subject area of complaints received in 2015–16

BROAD SUBJECT AREA	Number of complaints
Air quality / Noise	1
Biodiversity	1
Water	0
Trees	0
Waste	0
Planning process and decisions	1
Damage to nature reserve land	1
Reserve management	2
TOTAL	6

Table 4: Complaints addressed in 2015–16

DATE LODGED	Broad subject area	Nature of complaint	Comment	2015–16 Status
February 2013	Planning process and decisions	Building heights in town centre of Belconnen	CSE gathered information across all town centres and reviewed the status of master plans and precinct codes with regard to height requirements. It also looked at the accessibility of information available to the community on master planning.	Completed
July 2014	Reserve management	Alleged damage to PUL associated with construction	Key issues were damage, including management of run-off, resulting from use of public land for access to construction sites by heavy vehicles.	Completed
April to May 2015	Reserve management	ACT Annual Eastern Grey Kangaroo cull	Concerns by representatives of a community animal welfare organisation relating to the scientific basis of the cull, and related issues. ACAT accepted the science on which the Conservator and TAMSD rely.	Completed
September 2015 to June 2016	Reserve management	2 – ACT Annual Eastern Grey Kangaroo cull	Information provided by the ACT Conservator and directorates indicated no basis for concern in relation to most matters raised. The information and Commissioner's determination was conveyed to the complainants along with a commitment to follow up with the directorate involved, on a licensing aspect of one complaint.	Pending; awaiting directorate response to request for information
March 2016	Biodiversity protection	Cat containment in Watson	In assessing the current complaint, CSE examined the previous files and research, gathered information on recent studies on the topic and contacted TAMSD in March 2016 for an update on actions regarding cat containment. As a result of this information the Commissioner determined that further investigation was not required at this time.	Completed
April 2016	Noise / Air quality	Traffic noise along Melrose Drive	Resident concern about increased traffic noise and emissions along Melrose Drive after the installation of traffic lights in the area. Complainant advised as to responsible directorate to contact in the first instance.	Completed
April 2016	Planning decision / transport	Relocation of Gungahlin bus station to Gungahlin Place	Resident concern about impact of noise and emissions in the apartments fronting Gungahlin Place East – particularly buses idling while waiting at stations for periods of time has potential health and quality of life impacts. Complainant advised as to responsible directorate to contact in the first instance.	Completed
May 2016	Air quality	Offensive odour in Tuggeranong	Related to ongoing community concerns about a foul smell in the Tuggeranong area and efforts on the part of the MLA to have the issue resolved by the EPA.	Pending

DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED DURING 2015–16

Six complaints were completed in this reporting period.

1. COMPLETED: VISUAL AND AESTHETIC IMPACTS OF HIGH-RISE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN BELCONNEN TOWN CENTRE

The complaint was received in July 2013 by former Commissioner Neil who commenced an investigation after initial enquiries indicated that the issues raised about building heights in town centres were potentially system-wide. The report was completed in April 2016 by Commissioner Lyons Wright with recommendations for action included (for details see **Section B2.2.4**). The main findings of the investigation were:

- » If information from the original planning intent document had been included in the Decision it would have assisted in understanding the basis for the Decision.
- » The proposal was consistent with relevant planning codes; master plans suggest desirable building heights, however it is precinct codes that control building heights.
- » Qualitative criteria apply to development in all town centres to provide flexibility and the capacity to adjust to changing needs over time.
- » Since the lodgement of the complaint, legislative amendments and changes to community consultation processes appear to have improved the level, timing and access to information for the community to have input into development processes. However the complex nature of the various instruments, how they interrelate and the potential, nature and timing of input available to them may be a barrier to effective community input.

2. COMPLETED: ALLEGED DAMAGE TO PUBLIC UNLEASED LAND (PUL) ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION WORK ON BLOCK 20, SECTION 28 (99 RIVETT ST) HACKETT – HELMS PLACE

This investigation was commenced by Commissioner Neil and completed in April 2016 by Commissioner Lyons Wright.

The key issues of concern raised related to the use of public land (Helms Place – partly a road reserve) for access to Mount Majura Nature Reserve, in particular:

- » allowing trucks access to construction materials on Helms Place
- » access into the nature reserve (to rear of the private dwelling)
- » heavy machinery travelling over tree roots and compacting land
- » sediment and runoff management/control.

The initial inquiry focused on a particular site, location and specific issues raised by the complainant. However the information gathered by Commissioner Neil indicated a systemic problem across the Territory in relation to the issuing and management of PUL permits. As the issue cut across various government directorates, the investigation indicated that a higher level strategic approach to achieving improved management was required.

The Commissioner acknowledged significant efforts made over the period of the investigation to improve compliance through a proactive inspection program implemented by a cross-agency working group. This program focuses on education and communication as well as enforcement. A proposal to extend the program to brownfield sites and to working more closely with industry is also commended. Recommendations to assist with improvements to PUL management systems were provided by the Commissioner (for details see **Section B2.2.4**).

3. COMPLETED: RESIDENT CONCERNS ABOUT INCREASED NOISE AND VEHICLE EMISSIONS

In April 2016 the Commissioner was contacted by a member of the Legislative Assembly on behalf of constituents regarding disturbances caused by increased traffic noise along Melrose Drive following the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Melrose Drive and Worgan Street. Residents in close proximity to the area had expressed concern about the high noise levels and the possible impact of vehicle emissions on their health. Associated concerns related to increased noise emissions generated by speeding cars and motorcycles which may have had their exhaust systems modified. As no contact with an ACT directorate had been made by the complainant, they were advised in writing to do so. The Commissioner also wrote to the relevant directorate and forwarded the complainant's letter for their attention. The Commissioner was advised in late June 2016 that the directorate had taken action in relation to the complaint. No further correspondence has been received in relation to this complaint.

4. COMPLETED: ACT ANNUAL CULL OF EASTERN GREY KANGAROOS

Since 2013 a small number of individuals and representatives of regional wildlife protection groups have, each year, contacted the Commissioner with concerns about the Eastern Grey Kangaroo management program, and in particular, the annual cull implemented by TAMSD. Commissioner Neil had undertaken considerable investigation of the issues raised and had not identified any basis for upholding the complaints made. He did however, commit to undertake a 'watching brief' on the matters raised.

When contacted again on this matter in 2015–16, Commissioner Lyons Wright contacted the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Conservation Planning and Research in EPD and the Parks and Conservation services in TAMSD. Information conveyed supported the cull as an integral and research-based component of the ACT adaptive management strategy.

Commissioner Lyons Wright was satisfied that the monitoring in place and the research data provided was adequate to support the need for protecting grassland and woodland ecosystems biodiversity, particularly those species which are threatened and vulnerable. The Commissioner wrote to the complainant to this effect. With no research to support a contrary position, the complainant was notified that the matter was considered closed. This pending complaint was therefore closed in the 2015–16 reporting year.

5. COMPLETED: CAT CONTAINMENT AT 'THE FAIR' IN NORTH WATSON

A complaint raising issues about cat containment monitoring and enforcement in a designated cat containment area in north Watson was received by Commissioner Lyons Wright in December 2015. A previous complaint on this topic had been finalised in July 2014 by former Commissioner Neil.

In assessing this complaint the Commissioner noted considerable community concern about predation of native fauna by domestic cats, research and campaigns by environmental groups including the ACT Conservation Council, and actions by ACT Government to canvas community views on extending cat containment areas, particularly where residential areas abut nature reserves.

A response outlining current and planned actions by TAMSD was received by the Commissioner in February 2015. In assessing the current complaint, CSE examined the previous files and research, gathered information on recent studies on the topic and contacted TAMSD in March 2016 for an update on actions regarding cat containment. As a result of this information it was decided that further investigation was not required.

6. COMPLETED: RESIDENT CONCERNS REGARDING THE RELOCATION OF BELCONNEN BUS STATION

The Commissioner was contacted by a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly on behalf of their constituents about their concerns in relation to the proposed relocation of the Gungahlin bus station to Gungahlin Place, between Ernest Cavanagh and Hibberson Streets. Residents were particularly concerned about the potential quality of life and health impacts of noise and emissions from idling, acceleration and other bus movements, for people in apartments fronting Gungahlin Place East. Having determined that no contact had been made with the relevant directorate, the Commissioner advised the complainant to do so and forwarded a copy of the letter to the directorate. In late April 2016 the Commissioner was advised that a response had been sent to the complainant. No further correspondence has been received in relation to this complaint.

7. & 8. PENDING: TWO COMPLAINTS RELATING TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT THE ANNUAL EASTERN GREY KANGAROO CULL

As noted, in the past and over the 2015–16 reporting year, Commissioners Neil, Lyons Wright and Auty have received a number of items of correspondence conveying concerns by representatives of a community animal welfare organisation citing a range of issues relating to the annual cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos in the ACT. Concerns have included the efficacy of culling in open systems, impacts on kangaroos of threatened species, measuring biomass to gauge biodiversity, grazing pressures and desirable kangaroo densities. Challenging the scientific basis of the cull has been central to complaints, however, the ACT Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) has accepted the science on which the Conservator and TAMSD rely.

In response to the complaints received in 2015–16, the Commissioners again sought information from the ACT Conservator, EPD, TAMSD and current research from the ACT and other Australian jurisdictions. The Commissioner's assessment of the information received resulted in a view that the Commissioner has no concerns regarding the cull to 30 June 2016 or the ACT Government's management of Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

On one aspect of the complaint, relating to the 2014–15 cull licensing on one reserve, Commissioner Auty requested further information from TAMSD and awaits a response on this subject.

9. PENDING: FOUL SMELL IN TUGGERANONG AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS IN RELATION TO IT

This complaint from a MLA was received in late June 2016 on behalf of constituents. It related to ongoing community concerns about a foul smell in the Tuggeranong area and efforts on the part of the MLA to have the issue resolved by EPD. The complaint also expressed dissatisfaction with the EPA's management of the issue and community concerns. The complaint is pending, and with the directorate for response.

B2.1.3 INVESTIGATIONS DIRECTED BY THE MINISTER 2015–16

There were no investigations directed by the Minister in 2015–16.

B2.1.4 INVESTIGATIONS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSIONER 2015–16

There were no investigations initiated by the Commissioner in 2015–16.

B2.2 REPORT ON LEGISLATED FUNCTIONS

This section complies with the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*, specifically:

- » s.14(8), requires reporting of complaints received which did not proceed to a full investigation, and the reasons for the decision
- » s.20 (a), any special factor that the Commissioner believes had a significant impact on the environment during the year
- » s.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 s.19 or a special report under s.21
- » s.23, information to be included in agency annual reports.

B2.2.1 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED WHICH DID NOT PROCEED TO FULL INVESTIGATION

As noted in **Section B2.1.2** not all issues raised by members of the community or their representatives proceed to investigation by the Commissioner. Of the nine complaints received during the 2015–16 reporting period all proceeded to investigation.

Canberrans are great recyclers but we are also very high consumers and place heavy demands on our environment.

B2.2.2 SPECIAL FACTORS WITH SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

While, as noted in **Section B1.10**, climate change is the biggest challenge we face in relation to our environment, the way we live, our wellbeing and our economy also require our constant vigilance and action. In this context, a key issue is the ACT's ecological footprint.

Canberrans impact the global environment more than people in most places on earth. The most recent report on the ACT's ecological footprint was published in conjunction with the ACT SoER 2015 and showed that, per person, our ecological footprint was 8.9 global hectares (gha). See **Figure 4** on page 7.

This is about three and a half times the global per person average. It is also above the average per person ecological footprint of other Australians (8.2 gha/person) and means that, in total ACT residents use about 14 times the land area of the ACT.

Although our footprint per person had moderated slightly since the last report in 2011 (perhaps as a result of the global financial crisis in 2008) it indicates a continuing trend of increasing impact on our ecological systems and their capacity to sustain us.

Direct energy use (electricity, natural gas and to a lesser extent transport fuels) have been steady or falling in the ACT in the last 8–10 years and are projected to fall significantly over the next five years.



Photo: Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

Reflecting Canberra's relative affluence, and consistent with the main determinant of most ecological footprints, is our high level of household consumption. Although our recycling rates are exceptional, shifting expenditure more towards purchasing services and experiences rather than goods where possible, will help reduce waste – a significant contributor to our ecological footprint.

Individual actions along with community support for government sustainability initiatives are critical if we are to reduce our impact on the planet.

Key issues for the ACT now and into the future include:

- » encouraging greater use of public and active transport to reduce car dependence and associated negative environmental impacts of emissions, and promote health benefits
- » reducing and improving management of waste, including building and construction waste
- » achieving a balanced and environmentally sensitive greenfield and brownfield development
- » engaging and collaborating effectively within the region, particularly for the protection and management of catchments.

B2.2.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2011 SOER

This section reports on s.20 (b) of the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* regarding progress made by ACT Government directorates in implementing any recommendations made in a SoER under s.19.

Information is provided by directorates on actions undertaken between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016 against any ongoing recommendations in the 2011 SoER. Responses have been included as provided by directorates with minimal editing, resulting in some grammar and style inconsistencies.

Use of acronyms also varies in this section of the report. Some directorate acronyms have changed since the publication of particular reports or during 2015–16. Whereas the change from ETD to EDU occurred within the reporting period, TCCS was only established on 1 July 2016. However, the acronym directorates used in their responses was retained within this section of the CSE Annual Report. The acronyms list at the beginning of this report includes all directorate names. They are provided here with some explanations, to assist readers with this section:

- » Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)
- » Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) formerly Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD)
- » Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (TAMSD), on 1 July 2016 *ACT Parks and Conservation Services* was moved from TAMSD to EPD and Transport Canberra from TAMSD to TCCS
- » Education Directorate (EDU) was the Education and Training Directorate (ETD) until January 2016
- » Community Services Directorate (CSD)
- » Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACSD).

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Establish cross-boundary management of the ACT's water resources including:

- i. developing catchment policy and an integrated water supply catchment management strategy, as recommended in previous State of the Environment reports
- ii. strengthening integrated management action by facilitating improved exchange and use of information, such as spatial information, between government agencies, Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups and Catchment Management Authorities, and by promoting sustainable catchment management with landholders and the community.

EPD RESPONSE:

i) and ii) The ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group was established as a statutory body in August 2015. The Group has drafted an *ACT and Region Catchment Strategy*, with extensive stakeholder consultation which is scheduled for Cabinet endorsement on 1 August 2016. It is a multi-jurisdictional Strategy identifying 19 actions to achieve the vision of "Government, community and industry working together to produce a healthy, productive, resilient and liveable catchment region". The Strategy identifies the key factors that will influence the catchment over the next 30 years as being the inter-jurisdictional nature of the catchment, population growth (and the associated landuse changes) and a changing climate. The Catchment Strategy recognises the region's potential as a significant growth area and seeks to support this opportunity for economic development with sound and consistent catchment management principles across the various jurisdictions. Implementation of the Strategy will be carried out in five-year implementation plans.

TAMSD RESPONSE:

ii) During 2015–16 TAMS ran a rural landholder workshop on Grazing Management in El Nino and incorporated current spatial information into Land Management Agreements, which contributed to the promotion of sustainable catchment management with landholders.

EDU RESPONSE:

The design and construction of both natural and artificial grass playing fields at Melrose High School is a direct result of the coordination and collaboration between EDU and Sport and Recreation Services (SRS). Construction commenced 14 June 2016 and is programmed to be completed 23 December 2016. As a part of the ongoing collaboration on this site SRS will manage and maintain the artificial grass playing fields. EDU is collaborating with EPD for the connection of Melrose High School to the proposed southern extension of the reticulation system. This will provide recycled water to irrigate the natural grass field currently in construction by EDU and SRS.

The northern reticulation system constructed by EPD supplies recycled water for irrigation purposes. Two of the schools (Lyneham Primary and Lyneham High) commenced the use of this recycled water in 2015–16 to maintain safe and consistent natural grass playing surfaces. At Lyneham High the recycled irrigation is also used to assist with the ongoing maintenance of large elm trees to the frontage through the understorey planting.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Complete assessment of the ACT's at-risk groundwater resources.

EPD RESPONSE:

There is on-going monitoring of groundwater use and groundwater levels in high risk sub-catchments. There has been no significant increase in groundwater licences.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Update water management, monitoring and reporting programs to inform:

- i. actions to mitigate impacts of urban development on water quality
- ii. the efficacy of Water Sensitive Urban Design measures
- iii. improvements in sediment and erosion mitigation actions
- iv. management of ACT lakes.

EPD RESPONSE:

Under the ACT Basin Priority Project a review of monitoring was undertaken and a new framework was produced. The framework includes a review and refinement of existing monitoring programs (sites and monitoring parameters).

To assist with ongoing maintenance and direct the prioritisation of on-ground works, research into the sediment and nutrients of lakes, ponds and gross pollutant traps was performed. This included:

- » Characterising the pollutants trapped in GPTs with sampling of sediments, nutrients, metals, hydrocarbons and asbestos.
- » Modelling of the effects that GPTs and their cleaning rates have on the algal dynamics in a lake.
- » Assessing sediment dispersion through urban lakes with sampling and modelling undertaken.
- » Measurement of nitrogen reduction in a pond that may occur with wetting and drying cycles.
- » Updated and high resolution bathymetry surveys of Lake Burley Griffin and Lake Tuggeranong to assist with modelling, navigation, maintenance and sedimentation

rates (water volume reduction). These surveys are publicly available through ACTMAPI¹⁰ in conjunction with similar data such as land contours.

EPD and TCCS also undertook street sweeping modelling to highlight strategies to optimise the collection of pollutants off streets.

A consultancy to review the ACT Environment Protection Guidelines for Construction and Land Development in the ACT was completed in January 2016. The Guidelines detail sediment and erosion controls for works in the ACT and are currently being updated. The Guidelines will be circulated for consultation later in 2016.

The *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* were amended to include offence provisions for failure to comply with sediment and erosion controls approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for sites > 0.3 hectares and building certifiers for sites < 0.3 hectares.

The National Capital Authority and relevant ACT Government agencies have initiated a review of the ACT lakes legislation (ACT and Commonwealth). The legislation is dated and requires review to ensure it remains contemporary and consistent with community expectations. The legislation provided the statutory framework for the management construction and activities on and around the lakes.

A review of the *ACT Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management* (POM) commenced in 2015–16. The POM provides the statutory framework under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* for the management of ACT lakes and ponds.

¹⁰ <http://www.actmapl.act.gov.au>

TAMSD RESPONSE:

i) TAMSD undertook monitoring of development areas and had processes in place under the Public Unleased Land Act to mitigate the impact of sediment and runoff into waterways. Education and compliance measures were taken as required, including ACT Government compliance officers across agencies holding a blitz to target specific development sites.

ii) EPD is the lead agency in reviewing water monitoring programs and efficacy of water sensitive urban design measures and lake management. TAMS worked closely with EPD to deliver guidelines, standards and funding models for improved delivery and maintenance efficiency of water sensitive urban design.

iii) Erosion and sediment mitigation actions are being improved as part of the work TAMS and EPD have been conducting on water sensitive urban design. This includes substantial input on the

delivery of the Basin Priority Project which is being used to establish improved standards, handover processes and maintenance funding.

TAMS and EPD in conjunction with ICON Water and several other adjoining regional councils have drafted the *Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Plan* that aims to coordinate the efforts of all councils including erosion control. In addition the EPA is reviewing its erosion and sediment guidelines for developments.

iv) TAMS secured funding and implemented improved lake and pond cleaning programs to increase cleaning frequency in all lakes and ponds. TAMS took part in initial meetings to update the Lakes Act. TAMS also participated in lake management forums with NCA, EPA and ACT water police to better coordinate lakes management and enforcement actions. TAMS also worked with EPD to update the *ACT Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management* and drafting of the *Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Plan*.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

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:

- i. undertake baseline soils mapping for the ACT to facilitate monitoring and assessment of soil condition
- ii. 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
- iii. improve limited land-health data by including land health assessments in water catchment data to inform soil condition across the ACT
- iv. improve actions related to sediment and erosion mitigation.

EPD RESPONSE:

i) Soil landscape mapping was completed previously at the 1:100,000 scale for the eastern half of the ACT by the NSW Government (Jenkins 1993, 2000). The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has been contracted by the ACT Government to fill data gaps for existing ACT soil landscapes and identify new landscapes for the western half of the ACT using standard Australian soil survey and analytical methods. As part of the mapping process, related soil types in each landscape are described and their chemical and physical properties and constraints identified. Following quality reviews of the project currently being finalised, data will be uploaded to relevant national and local databases.

ii) A framework for monitoring reserve condition is in development. This project started in early 2014 and aims to improve the integration of government and community monitoring and research programs. More detail at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/conservation-strategies/australias-native-vegetation-framework>

iii) Hydrogeological landscape (HGL) frameworks build on soil landscape mapping by using additional information on geology, lithology, slope, soil depth, vegetation and climate to identify functional units for management within the landscape. The HGL framework concept was originally developed to assist in managing land and water quality issues associated with salinity. The concept has subsequently been broadened to address a wider range of land management issues such as soil degradation (e.g. sodicity, acidity, erosion), soil carbon, biodiversity and vegetation, revegetation and wetland processes (e.g. for hanging swamps, bogs and fens). Further to this, NSW OEH and partners (NSW Department of Primary Industries, University of Canberra) have been contracted to develop an HGL framework for the ACT. Mapping will help identify key problems in each HGL and management area, and the options available to address them within land use capability. A final HGL GIS product and associated HGL descriptions, maps for salinity management, final linework for management area boundaries and wetland mapping and classification was delivered in June 2015. Preliminary land and soil capability (LSC) attribution for all HGL units and associated management areas was finalised

in 2016. A Soil Landscape Project is being finalised. When finalised, data will be uploaded to relevant national and local databases. Final quality reviews of the product are currently being undertaken.

vi) The Soil Landscapes and HGL projects will help inform future management of soils including managing erosion risk.

The HGL project is funded through the Commonwealth Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund.

TAMSD RESPONSE:

iv) Erosion and sediment mitigation actions are being improved as part of the work TAMS and EPD have been conducting on water sensitive urban design. This includes substantial input on the delivery of the Basin Priority Project which is being used to establish improved standards, handover processes and maintenance funding.

TAMS and EPD in conjunction with ICON Water and several other adjoining regional councils have drafted the *Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Plan* that aims to coordinate the efforts of all councils including erosion control. In addition the EPA is reviewing its erosion and sediment guidelines for developments.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

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 (Recommendation 6).

EPD RESPONSE:

Note that further specific information in relation to this recommendation is provided against Recommendation 6.

Scientific research, data and monitoring in relation to biodiversity and conservation continues to be undertaken by the Conservation Research unit. A report was released in 2014 which includes a summary of projects from 2011–2013 which is available on the EPD website. There are a number of research projects (e.g. kangaroo and fire management) that are coordinated across the directorates of TCCS and EPD. Survey data will continue to be made publicly available on the ACT Government's ACTMAPi for use by external stakeholders. Recent reports on reptiles and arboreal mammal surveys are being released and made available on the EPD website.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

Strengthen research, planning and practical projects to enhance biodiversity conservation in the ACT through:

- i. 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
- ii. 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
- iii. 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 three-year basis over a 10-year period would provide the basic information for monitoring trends in environmental condition
- iv. publicly reporting decisions and activities relating to individual species, populations and ecological communities in the ACT. This should include both qualitative and quantitative information
- v. reviewing and updating action plans where appropriate, and publicly reporting on progress against action plan objectives and proposed actions
- vi. collaborating with NSW Government and regional organisations to contribute to regional and national biodiversity data sets.

CMTEDD RESPONSE:

The directorate's Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Unit has responsibility for broader regional collaboration, while cross-jurisdictional issues on biodiversity are dealt with by EPD directly.

EPD RESPONSE:

- i) The Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program (BRAMP) sets out the approach to biodiversity monitoring. See <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2015-426/current/pdf/2015-426.pdf>
 - » The priorities identified in the BRAMP 2015–17 are aligned with the five focus strategies of the *ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23* and build on the large body of biodiversity research and monitoring work previously undertaken by the ACT Government.
 - » A report on implementation of the BRAMP is required every two years. A database of current biodiversity monitoring programs occurring on reserves has been compiled as part of the ACT Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP) monitoring project. This database has informed a gap analysis and review of current reserve monitoring programs and has informed the development of a reserve condition monitoring framework. This framework will link current biodiversity monitoring investments across TCCS, EPD academic institutions and community groups into a coordinated, strategic reserve condition monitoring program focused on monitoring ecological values of eight broad ecological communities contained within ACT nature reserves. The framework requires the understanding and identification of the key influences of ACT reserve condition (including ecological processes, threat agents, threatening processes, management response, and ecological values). Conceptual models are now being developed for each of the eight ecological communities to demonstrate understanding of the ecological interactions that affect condition of reserves. This will allow us to identify appropriate measurable indicators and monitoring questions.

ii) Systems have been utilised to make biodiversity data publicly available including on some of the threatened species and communities. The ACT Government digital mapping system ACTMAPI now includes mapping information of 'Significant Plants, Animals and Registered Trees'. Canberra Nature Map is a citizen science project supported by EPD, which provides publicly accessible information on a range of species.

iii) The *ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–2023* commits to monitoring of five priority ecosystems in the ACT. The recent report on progress against that Strategy (May 2016) indicated that a CEMP is being developed for monitoring eight ACT ecosystems: lowland native grasslands; aquatic and riparian ecosystems; lowland woodlands; lowland dry forests; upland montane grasslands; upland woodlands; upland forests; upland bogs and fens.

- » The CEMP will provide field protocols for selected indicators and develop systems to compile, analyse and report on monitoring data to inform reserve management.
- » The CEMP is being piloted in restoration programs including:
 - the Grassland Enhancement Program (2016–18) that has established monitoring sites in six grassland nature reserves to assess effectiveness of mosaic burning and grazing treatments
 - the ACT Woodland Restoration Program that has established 15 monitoring sites across the ACT and Greater Goorooyarroo.

iv) Where developments are likely to have a significant impact on a threatened species or ecological community an Environmental Impact Statement is required, or the Conservator may issue an environmental significance opinion, both of these are publicly available. *The Nature Conservation Act 2014* requires that the results of monitoring are made publicly accessible.

v) The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* requires progress reports on implementation of Action Plans for threatened species and ecological communities every five years. These reports are made publicly available. The Scientific Committee is responsible for reviewing Action Plans at least every 10 years. One draft Action Plan was

developed in 2015 and was consulted on. This was for the Scarlet Robin. A review of the Grasslands Strategy and its constituent Action Plans is in progress. An Action Plan for Migratory Species is being developed.

vi) NSW OEH and partners (NSW Department of Primary Industries) have been contracted by the ACT Government to fill data gaps for existing ACT soil landscapes and to develop an HGL framework for the ACT. NSW OEH and EPD continue to work together on consistent vegetation classifications across the region and ACT continues to be an active member in the Australian Alps Joint Management Committee which includes sharing data.

TAMSD RESPONSE:

ii) Funding has been provided for a temporary position to continue the establishment of the CEMP. This program aims to guide systematic assessment and evaluation of the condition of ACT nature reserves in response to management programs. The CEMP provides a framework for linking the range of biodiversity condition information with land management monitoring information to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of implementation programs in protecting biodiversity values in ACT nature reserves.

iii) See response to ii) above.

Funding was given to Parks and Conservation in the 2015–16 budget for Environmental Offsets. The works were as follows:

To improve the quality and extent of ecological communities and species protected at each of the environmental offset sites. This includes:

- » improving 234 hectares of Golden Sun Moth habitat within Kinlyside Nature Reserve and the extension of the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserves
- » improving 549 hectares of Box Gum Woodland across six sites including Kinlyside, Mulligans Flat, Goorooyarroo, Isaacs and the Pinnacle Nature Reserves and the Justice Robert Hope Park
- » improving seven hectares of Stripped Legless Lizard habitat

- » improving 70 hectares of exotic dominated grasslands to native dominated grasslands within the Kinlyside and the extensions to the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo Nature Reserves
- » ensuring that there is a persistent population of breeding Superb Parrots within the offset areas extending the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo Nature Reserves
- » undertaking research to improve our understanding of the habitat requirements for the Superb Parrot within peri-urban and urban environments.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

Better integrating biodiversity values within urban planning through:

- i. integrating biodiversity corridors and habitat connectivity in the Territory Plan process
- ii. 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
- iii. developing and implementing an ACT fauna sensitive road design manual.

EPD RESPONSE:

Biodiversity corridors and habitat areas are considered and taken into account in the greenfields forward planning program that informs subsequent variations to the Territory Plan to rezone the land for urban purposes. This rezoning also includes those areas for conservation or non-urban purposes, as required. All planning decisions are based on known ecological information or, if required, the results of ecological surveys.

Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 349 (DV349) proposes to vary the Territory Plan to incorporate two areas into Canberra's nature reserve system. The proposed changes are to conserve two environmental offset areas that have been established to comply with approval conditions for developments impacting on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the provision of the Commonwealth's EPBC Act. DV 349 proposes to apply a nature

reserve overlay to parts of blocks 1616 and 1370 Belconnen, and rezone block 7 section 72 Watson from PRZ1 Urban Open Space to NUZ3 Hills, Ridges and Buffer with a nature reserve overlay. It was released for public comment between 13 May and 24 June 2016.

i) It is a mandatory referral to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for all variations to the Territory Plan. The Conservator provides comments on all biodiversity issues including impacts on connectivity where this may be an issue. In addition, connectivity is taken into consideration in the earlier planning processes such as Master Plans and Strategic Assessments which inform the draft variations to the Territory Plan.

A connectivity layer has been included in ACTMAPI based on a study into woodland connectivity as outlined in the Nature Conservation Strategy and referenced on ACTMAPI. This data has been integrated into the ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator.

A study by CSIRO, *Flyways & Byways: Guiding restoration of wildlife corridors: Monitoring connectivity restoration in the Australian Capital Territory*, was funded by EPD and will be used to inform a range of programs (see http://www.environment.act.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0005/672233/FlywaysByways_FinalReport_Doerr-et-al-2014-A10059895.pdf).

ii) The *ACT Environmental Offsets Policy* is a statutory policy under changes to the *Planning and Development Act 2007* which commenced on 2 April 2015. The Policy is consistent with the EPBC Act biodiversity offsets policy. For offsets

approved under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, the ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator is used to assess the appropriateness of the offset. A range of thresholds have been included in the calculator and are outlined in the environmental offsets methodology (at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/environmental-offsets-policy>). Offsets agreed under the EPBC Act use the *Commonwealth Offset Assessment Guide* which

utilises a balance sheet approach to estimate impacts and offsets for threatened species and ecological communities. The Commonwealth OAG uses a decision support framework to determine offsets for a given impact.

iii) Fauna sensitive road design is considered through development planning processes. New roads are including fencing to guide wildlife to underpasses.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

Improve transparency of biodiversity integration into legislative and planning frameworks through:

- i. including objectives for the protection of biodiversity and a definition for 'biodiversity' as part of the *Nature Conservation (NC) Act 1980* review
- ii. aligning provisions in the *Environment Protection Act 1997* 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
- iii. 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.

EPD RESPONSE:

i) Objects have been included in the NC Act (s.8). A definition of biodiversity is included at s.19.

ii) Provisions within the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* have been aligned as much as possible with the Environment Protection Act. This has primarily been through the alignment of some penalty provisions for clearing and damaging land in reserves. There are a range of provisions in the Act relating to offences for the loss of biodiversity. The penalties for clearing or damaging land in Reserves are set at similar levels to environmental harm under the Environment Protection Act.

iii) A range of offences within the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* have been included, particularly as it relates to reserves. This includes provisions about clearing native vegetation and damaging land in reserves. This covers some 70 per cent of land within the ACT. A range of other provisions relate to taking threatened native plants across all tenures. A range of definitions were reviewed in the Nature Conservation Act and a definition for biodiversity included. The review considered it appropriate for provisions about environmental harm from biodiversity loss should remain in the Nature Conservation Act.

Key threatening processes are able to be listed under the NC Act (part 4.3). A separate Action Plan is required to address a threatening process.

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*.

HEALTH DIRECTORATE RESPONSE:

The Chief Health Officer 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:

- i. requiring air quality assessments in all new greenfield developments, to identify and manage air emissions, potentially detrimental to human health and the environment
- ii. installing and operating a second performance air monitoring station to ensure that the ACT is compliant with National Environmental Protection Measure (NEPM) standards
- iii. determining the feasibility including costs of mobile monitoring of appropriate ambient air quality NEPM standards at locations in and around Canberra.

HEALTH DIRECTORATE RESPONSE:

- i) ACT Health supports the recommendation. EPD is responsible.
- ii) The Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) NEPM Performance Monitoring Station (PMS) at Florey was fully operational as of 28 February 2014. ACT is now compliant with the AAQ NEPM.
- iii) 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.

EPD RESPONSE:

- i) Air quality assessments are undertaken for major greenfields development as part of the strategic planning process. These assessments have resulted in management protocols for domestic wood heaters where the assessment has determined there may be a detrimental impact on human health and the environment.
- ii) The AAQ NEPM PMS at Florey was fully operational as of 28 February 2014. ACT is now compliant with the AAQ NEPM.
- iii) Note: recommendation 10 (iii) was not supported in the government response to the 2011 SoER. This recommendation is not supported as it would be cost-prohibitive and the quality of obtained data would be insufficient for any meaningful evaluation/policy making.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

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 Weathering the Change and include monitoring, evaluation of actions and annual public reporting on progress.

EPD RESPONSE:

The ACT Government is committed to achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, as outlined in the *Carbon Neutral ACT Government Framework*.

The ACT Government is actively implementing energy saving projects across its diverse portfolio, supported by loans under the internal Carbon Neutral Government Loan Fund. In 2015–16, four applications for funding were received; all were successful, with \$2.506 million approved. These projects enable government to use energy more wisely and reduce operating costs.

A report on progress of the implementation of the Framework and ACT Government's emissions reduction efforts is submitted to the ACTPS Strategic Board annually. The 2015 report identified the following changes compared to previous year:

- » 20 per cent reduction in GHG emissions
- » two year trends (using the three years of data) for Whole of Government consumption shows an average downward trend for electricity and gas.

The *Carbon Neutral ACT Government Framework 2014–15 Implementation Report* to ACTPS Strategic Board summary is available on the EPD website.

All directorates have up-to-date Resource Management Plans (RMPs), enabling regular, transparent reporting against targets to executives.

In 2015–16 we trialled directorate-specific carbon budgets. Aggregated, the Whole of Government reduction target for 2015–16 was:

- » 3.2 per cent electricity (compared to the previous period)
- » at least 7,488 GJ of natural gas = 2 per cent Whole of Government gas

- » over time these annual reductions add up to significant cost savings.

Carbon budgets commence formally in 2016–17 and will be a new reporting obligation for Director-General performance agreements.

EDU RESPONSE:

EDU continued to implement energy conservation measures in Canberra public schools in accordance with its obligations under Actions 20-25 of the *Carbon Neutral Government Framework* including:

- » Endorsement of the 2015–16 Resource Management Plan.
- » Participation in the Whole of Government carbon budgeting trial.
- » Installation of a 600kW solar system as part of a unique leasing arrangement between Amaroo School and the installation company. This is currently the largest solar PV system installed on any school roof across Australia.
- » Upgrades to school facilities to improve the thermal performance of the building fabric including:
 - insulation at Caroline Chisholm School (ceiling) and Theodore Primary School (external cladding)
 - draft proofing works at Alfred Deakin, Calwell and Canberra High Schools, and Evatt, North Ainslie, Weetangera and Arawang Primary Schools.
- » Expansions to six solar photovoltaic systems, 10kW at four school sites and 20kW at two school sites.
- » Reinvestment of feed-in tariff funds by Calwell and Red Hill Primary Schools to install 10kW solar PV systems.
- » Installation of power factor correction equipment at Weetangera Primary School.
- » Installation of energy efficient lighting including:
 - solar tube day lighting system at Charnwood–Dunlop and Monash Primary Schools
 - LED with Organic Response at Hawker Primary School
 - LED lighting at Wanniasa Senior School.

In addition to the works noted above EDU increased the number of electric vehicles in its fleet by one to bring the number of electric vehicles to two. EDU also endorsed its Sustainable Transport Strategy which reinforces the preferred method of transport for short distances through the use of MyWay bus cards. EDU will also introduce two electric bikes into the fleet in the 2016–17 reporting year as part of the Whole of Government trial.

CMTEDD RESPONSE:

CMTEDD is part of cross-agency working groups relating to carbon-neutrality of the ACT Government. Work on implementing the Carbon Neutral Government Framework is ongoing and CMTEDD engages in this process. This includes work through The Capital Framework and ACT Property Group projects.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

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 Weathering the Change and include:

- i. focus on reducing emissions from transport and our buildings (especially improving energy efficiency of old building stock)
- ii. responsive regulatory, governance and investment arrangements for renewable energy
- iii. continued engagement with ACT community
- iv. regular monitoring, evaluation of actions and public reporting on progress against the targets.

EPD RESPONSE:

In May 2016, the ACT Government increased its 2020 renewable energy target from 90 per cent to 100 per cent.

Beginning in 2012, the ACT Government has held three reverse auctions resulting in the allocation of renewable energy feed-in tariff entitlements to three solar farms and four wind farms to date. A further auction for wind and/or solar closed in May 2016.

The combined capacity of the four auctions is 640MW (including 200MW from the recently closed auction, expected to be awarded in mid-2016). This will be sufficient to enable the Territory to reach the 100 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 and ensure the achievement of the Territory's emissions reduction targets.

Through the reverse auction process, the ACT's renewable energy policies have attracted over \$1.5 billion in new renewable energy investment, including more than \$400 million in benefits directly flowing to the ACT.

The transport sector will be the largest proportion of emissions in the ACT once the renewable energy projects come on line. Complementing the low-emissions vehicle strategy, two studies have been contracted to:

- » undertake a feasibility study of options to reduce transport sector emissions in the ACT
- » identify suitable ACT vehicle fleets for transition or partial transition electric vehicles.

As part of the ACT climate change strategy and action plan, AP2, a *Community Engagement on Climate Change Strategy* was released in 2014. The Strategy seeks to re-enforce the commitment of effective engagement with the broader community and identifies actions to support this including the development of a Sustainability Portal, the use of social media and re-enforcement of our key stakeholder partnerships.

In mid-2013, EPD commissioned a survey to research community views and issues about climate change in the ACT. The survey found the community has a high awareness of climate change and a willingness to commit to reducing individual household emissions. A follow up survey will be undertaken in 2016 to identify trends following significant government action.

The EPD has comprehensively engaged with the ACT community on policy developments. The Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was open for comment from February to April 2016. Over 800 responses on the Strategy were received from the community. This input has been incorporated into the final Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which will be released later in 2016.

The ACT Government has a series of legislated reporting requirements. Under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* the ACT is required to produce an annual greenhouse gas inventory and a Minister's Annual Report on progress on climate change.

TAMSD RESPONSE: TAMS developed and improved policies and programs consistent with the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* in 2015–16. The TAMS Sustainability Program was set up to centrally coordinate implementation of the Carbon Neutral ACT Government Framework across the directorate. *TAMS Resource Management Plan 2015–2017* was completed in line with strategies of the Framework, encompassing 21 actions to improve efficiency across the directorate. TAMS Sustainability Working Group was established with 17 members representing divisions and business units as well as from EPD, ACT Property Group and Shared Services ICT.

TAMS contributed to a Whole of Government approach to work toward achieving carbon neutrality in ACT Government operations by 2020 through membership on the Carbon Neutral Implementation Committee and participation in a Trial Carbon Budget in 2015–16.

A target of 1 per cent reduction in electricity consumption was set (4 per cent reduction if excluding street lighting) and compared with a baseline of 2014–15.

Tracking and reporting of energy use through the government's online utility management system, the Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP) saw financial gains through better energy management as a result of the trial. Lessons learned from the trial will inform the development of TCCS Carbon Budget 2016–17 to include operational intensity targets which demonstrate efficiency where growth or changes in operations occur.

Roads ACT is collaborating with EPD on transport consultancies to identify energy efficiencies.

EDU RESPONSE:

As per Recommendation 11 above.

RECOMMENDATION 13:

Develop a climate change adaptation planning and implementation response through:

- i. building on existing and undertaking additional sector vulnerability risk assessments
- ii. establishing a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement methodology and framework as a consistent guide for government, to develop, progress and report against adaptation planning
- iii. integrating adaptation planning outcomes into existing ACT planning and management frameworks.

EPD RESPONSE:

EPD released a Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in February 2016 which identifies the climate-related risks for the ACT and how they can be addressed. The Adaptation Strategy follows a sectoral approach as considered international best practice and based on the Federal Proposed Adaptation Assessment Framework. The five sectors included are as follows:

- » disaster and emergency management
- » community health and wellbeing
- » settlements and infrastructure
- » water
- » natural resources and ecosystems.

The final Adaptation Strategy will build on the adaptation work already underway in the ACT and an Implementation Plan will be developed establishing a detailed monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework. The final Adaptation Strategy will be released later in 2016.

EDU RESPONSE:

As part of a Climate Change Adaption Professional Development Course, EDU hosted a risk workshop, in collaboration with NSW and Victorian counterparts, to identify the risks of climate change on thermal comfort in Canberra public schools.

CMTEDD RESPONSE:

CMTEDD Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Unit facilitates engagement between relevant NSW and ACT Government directorates.

RECOMMENDATION 14:

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.

CMTEDD RESPONSE:

CMTEDD Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Unit facilitates engagement between relevant NSW and ACT Government directorates.

EPD RESPONSE:

EPD has extensively collaborated with the NSW Government in order to develop the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This included the usage of the NSW and ACT Regional Climate Model (NARClIM) in order to project climate change developments in the capital region.

A couple of Enabling Adaptation in the ACT (EnAACT) workshops were held with regional stakeholder participation to identify climate change impacts as informed by NARClIM and develop management options. This in turn informed the development of the draft ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Action 11 in the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy identifies regional collaboration to improve awareness of climate change impacts to build resilience and adaptive capacity as a priority to develop territory-wide resilience.

The EPD continues to draw on advice from the ACT Climate Change Council and ACT-based academic institutions such as the CSIRO and the ANU.

EDU RESPONSE:

Consistent with the December 2012 MoU, EDU continues to work closely with the NSW Department of Education and Communities in sharing and analysing cross-border student data that supports school planning.

RECOMMENDATION 15:

Finalise and implement the draft *ACT Planning Strategy* to provide an integrated approach to future planning. Particular attention should be paid to:

- i. determining indicators and measures for urban quality in the ACT that includes the benefits provided by green infrastructure and access to open space
- ii. developing greenfield and infill targets, which take into account both the need for green infrastructure as well as strengthening a sense of community and self containment.

EPD RESPONSE:

The *ACT Planning Strategy* was released in 2012. The indicators and measures are included in Table 1 on page 66 of the Strategy and are provided in this Report at **Appendix 3**. A report card on the Strategy is soon to be released.

Urban quality indicators and measures: In implementing the Master Plan Program, funding has been provided for public work upgrades for the Weston group centre, Tuggeranong, Woden, and Belconnen town centres. The six active living

principles, which consider the importance of quality, connected public spaces, are integrated into all recent master plans. Industry and the built environment professionals have recently been consulted on incorporating active living principles into the Territory Plan.

Greenfield and Infill targets: Outcome A2 of the Strategy, sets the proportion of new housing through urban intensification to 50 per cent or more. This target was met in the most recent financial year (2014–15). At this stage it is too early to tell if this is a long term trend.

EDU RESPONSE:

As part of the new school building at Charles Weston Primary School, EDU obtained a license to extract water from the Coombs pond to the water tanks at Charles Weston Primary School. This water will be used to irrigate the Charles Weston Primary School/community oval.

A strategy for future planning for new Canberra public schools is currently being developed in line with the *ACT Planning Strategy*.

RECOMMENDATION 16:

Develop a housing strategy to address the needs of changing population demographics into the future.

CMTEDD RESPONSE:

The needs of changing population demographics are in part addressed by the ongoing release of land for residential, commercial and community purposes. The Government's Indicative Land Release Program 2016–17 to 2019–20, indicates a shift from greenfield land release to a higher proportion of infill (mixed use) release.

Improving housing affordability for Canberrans in the lower two income quintiles has been a key objective of the government for several years.

Increasing the supply of land available and total housing stock has been an effective way to improve housing affordability across the board. The benefits of this approach have flowed through to private purchasers and renters as well as community housing organisations.

CSD RESPONSE:

The *Public Housing Asset Management Strategy 2012–2017* recognises that the demand for public housing is changing. The challenge is to restructure the stock to meet the changing demographics and increasingly complex needs of clients. Annually, up to about 1 per cent of the portfolio is renewed by Housing and Community Services. The ACT Government has also committed to renew 1,288 public housing dwellings principally along Northbourne Avenue and in Civic. This work is scheduled to be completed in 2019. Older dwellings are replaced with contemporary, energy efficient and accessible or adaptable dwellings.

RECOMMENDATION 17:

Finalise and implement the draft Sustainable Transport Action Plan to provide an integrated approach to transport and urban planning. In doing so:

- i. 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
- ii. focus on strategies and targets to improve access to sustainable forms of transport outside of transport corridors
- iii. develop targets for:
 - a. reducing in greenhouse gas emissions from transport
 - b. increase sustainable transport usage for non-work travel to complement the existing targets for work travel
 - c. track progress towards Sustainable Transport targets on an annual basis.

EPD RESPONSE:

Transport for Canberra was released in 2012 and is the foundation for transport planning until 2031 in the ACT. It sets the directions and actions for integrated transport planning in Canberra to manage and respond to city growth. *Transport for Canberra* includes travel mode share targets for 2016 and 2026. A report card on the implementation status was released in 2014 and a Coordination Committee has been established to oversee the delivery of the actions in *Transport for Canberra*.

TAMSD RESPONSE:

TAMS engagement with the community and promotion of active travel was delivered via real time passenger information delivered through NXTBUS, increased number of buses with bike racks and the fleet replacement program which saw 30 new Euro VI emission compliant standard buses introduced. These buses improve comfort for passengers and increase accessibility with wheelchair access. Community engagement on energy efficiency was also delivered through Birrigai Outdoor Education Centre with sustainable programs tailored to meet the needs of the Australian curriculum, ACT schools and youth groups as well as Libraries ACT with do-it-yourself Home Energy Action Kits for members.

Roads ACT is collaborating with EPD on transport consultancies to identify energy efficiencies.

EDU RESPONSE:

As part of the Whole of Government *Ride or Walk to School* Active Streets pilot project improvements (roof structure, expansion of secure area, bike racks) were made to cycle storage facilities at Macquarie Primary School.

A bike shelter was also built at Canberra High School under the Carbon Neutral Schools Project.

The directorate endorsed its *Sustainable Transport Strategy* in May 2016.

RECOMMENDATION 18:

Finalise and implement a new ACT waste management strategy with a focus on reducing waste generation, in particular:

- i. examine and implement options for diverting wastes from landfill to higher order beneficial reuse opportunities. These actions should be measured, recorded and reported publicly
- ii. focusing community education on the link between consumption and waste
- iii. targeting specific programs to reduce waste from the construction and demolition, and commercial and industrial sectors.

EPD RESPONSE:

ACT Waste Management Strategy: The *ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011–2025* is being reviewed (as part of the ACT Waste Feasibility Study) to assess implementation progress and identify areas for improvement. EPD notes that:

- » the Strategy targets are the most ambitious in Australia
- » the resource recovery target of over 80 per cent by 2015 was not met
- » the ACT's resource recovery rate was around 70 per cent in 2014–15
- » with waste generation increasing at a faster rate than population growth, the Territory is not on track to achieve its resource recovery target of over 85 per cent by 2020
- » the government remains committed to the targets of achieving a carbon neutral waste sector by 2020 and over 90 per cent resource recovery by 2025
- » achieving these targets is possible with a stronger focus on implementation, particularly through investment in waste infrastructure, new legislation and regulation providing incentives and disincentives, and behaviour change through education.

The work undertaken to date indicates there has been progress on the Strategy's actions under the four outcomes, including:

Less waste generated

- » increased resource reuse with the expansion of the Green Sheds
- » increased resource capture with a free bulky waste collection service for eligible seniors and veterans

Full resource recovery

- » improved resource recovery through free drop-off for e-waste
- » increased awareness and participation with the Actsmart program expansion
- » establishing a mattress recycling social enterprise business

A clean environment

- » improved litter management at the Mugga Lane landfill

Carbon neutral waste sector

- » reduced carbon footprint through improved waste collection vehicle fleet
- » private investment in a rail head in Fyshwick to transport recyclables interstate.

The outcome of the review is likely to result in a Strategy update and will inform the work of the next stage of the Waste Feasibility Study.

ACT Waste Feasibility Study: The 2015–16 budget allocated \$2.8 million over two years to identify and assess an integrated suite of waste services, infrastructure and complementary legislation and regulation to enable the government to achieve its waste policy goal of 'full resource recovery and carbon neutral waste sector'. To lead this initiative with Whole of Government arrangements, the ACT Waste Feasibility Study commenced in September 2015. The Stage 1 achievements by end of 2015–16 year include:

- » development of new legislation, the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Bill 2016* with a proposed suite of regulatory changes, provided to government for consideration
- » a report with pathway options to enable the waste strategy outcomes, provided to the government for consideration

- » contractual changes in waste treatment, with the Hume clean Materials Recovery Facility (saving the government money and increasing resource recovery from household recyclables) and the establishment of a mattress recycling facility
- » improved data on the amount and types of waste generated, enabling true understanding of the task to achieve the targets, the business opportunities for innovation and an assessment of the 'gaps' the existing facilities and where they are
- » improved communication with the community and the waste industry through establishing reference groups, plus expanding existing web-based information about waste
- » a review in 2015–16 of the existing waste education programs across the two education delivery teams (Actsmart and NoWaste); the establishment of the Waste Education Marketing Plan to guide the NoWaste team.

Stage 2 of the Study to end 2016–17 will progress a range of projects depending upon the government's decisions.

Waste Education: The NoWaste education highlights in 2015–16 included the MyWaste app to enable easy access to waste information and the development of the 'Ricky Starr' campaign (targeted at a younger demographic). There is continuation of the community survey on waste issues, open days and guided tours of waste facilities such as the Materials Recycling Facility and Mattress Recycling at Hume.

The education achievements of Actsmart programs in 2015–16 include more than 800 businesses participating in the Business Recycling Program with the development of an online education system in which more than 5,000 staff participating in the recycling programs online education training at their workplace. All ACT schools including public, private and independent schools are signed up to the Actsmart schools program and are supported through workshops, guides and online tools.

As part of stage 1 of the Waste Feasibility Study, a review of waste education programs identified that future education programs should be evidence-based and externally evaluated to measure success. Stage 2 of the Waste Feasibility

Study will guide the ongoing education programs, with a likely focus on:

- » a single governance framework and waste education strategy
- » behaviour change for waste avoidance
- » targeted education for particular sectors
 - apartment residents
 - property managers
 - construction industry trades
 - hospitality and health.

TAMSD RESPONSE:

TAMS is currently undertaking a Waste Feasibility Study which examines the current state of waste generation in the Territory to establish a waste management strategy for the Territory to move forward towards achieving targets.

ACT NOWaste continues to provide education programs for community members of all ages including school groups.

The Territory with industry support undertook a major recycling campaign targeting a number of specific waste streams with a primary focus of the kerbside recycling services.

EDU RESPONSE:

EDU is Actsmart-accredited for waste management at its two office locations: 220 Northbourne Avenue (since 8 July 2010), and the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning (since 6 June 2013). Recycling initiatives implemented at these locations have reduced waste to landfill at both sites.

At the end of 2015–16, a total of 42 public schools had been awarded Actsmart Schools accreditation for sustainable waste management.

In 2015–16 Actsmart schools organised an eco-bus tour for up to four students and one teacher to showcase 'best practice' sustainability education. The eco-bus tour included a visit to the Materials Recovery Facility and landfill to hear more from waste educators about waste and recycling in the ACT.

In 2015–16, six Canberra public schools have reinvested their feed-in tariff into waste management resources (recycling bins and compost bins).

RECOMMENDATION 19:

Strengthen heritage protection in the ACT by:

- i. developing an action plan for heritage which addresses the backlog of heritage nominations and recognises key future sites for protection
- ii. strengthening audit, compliance and enforcement processes in line with recommendations of the Marshall report
- iii. [Note that recommendation iii was not accepted] developing a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Government to protect assets, subject to Australian Government planning approvals, on the ACT Heritage Register
- iv. promoting ACT heritage values as a part of the Canberra 2013 Centenary celebrations.

EPD RESPONSE:

i) ACT Heritage, together with the ACT Heritage Council, have prepared a priority list to reduce the backlog of nominations to the ACT Heritage Register. From a backlog of approximately 210 nominations in 2011, as at July 2016, 120 decisions on provisional registration (including decisions not to provisionally register) have been made, and there have been 36 decisions on full registration. Between 2012 and July 2016, 18 new nominations to the register have been received. A number of probable duplications of nominations have also been identified. The backlog of nominations has been reduced to approximately 136.

ii) Three officers in ACT Heritage are now trained in Government Investigations. ACT Heritage has developed a compliance enforcement policy to guide appropriate action to be taken in relation to compliance matters. This has enabled ACT Heritage to take responsibility for compliance investigations and enforcement processes in relation to the *Heritage Act 2004*.

iv) The theme for the 2013 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival was 'Milestones' to promote the Centenary of Canberra. The Centenary logo, banners and bunting was used during the festival.

There were a total 125 events involving 75 groups and individuals from the private, government and community sectors. The Festival included 27 new event organisers compared to the previous year. Eleven ACT Heritage Grants were showcased during the festival. Special assistance funding was made available to seven event organisers to lift their profile in the centenary year by 'thinking differently' and growing and diversifying audiences.

The 2014 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival included over 110 events, activities and exhibitions and involved over 60 groups and individuals from the government, community and private sectors. The Festival's theme was 'Journeys'.

The 2015 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival included 140 diverse events and involved 59 groups from the private, government and community sectors. The theme of the Festival was 'Conflict and Compassion', aligning with the centenary of the ANZAC.

The 2016 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival was held from 2–18 April. The program included 164 diverse events and involved 57 groups from the private, government and community sectors. The theme of the Festival was 'Discovery and rediscoveries'.

EDU RESPONSE:

EDU has been proactive in promoting ACT heritage values through the development of a landscape master plan for Telopea Park School. This is a heritage-listed school and the master plan identifies historical elements within the landscape and provides preliminary strategies to maintain these elements for coordination purposes with future projects on this site.

RECOMMENDATION 20:

Align and integrate climate adaptation planning and disaster risk management where appropriate. This should include lessons learned from changes to fire management.

EPD RESPONSE:

EPD released a Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in February 2016 which identifies the climate-related risks for the ACT and how they can be addressed. The Adaptation Strategy follows a sectoral approach as considered international best practice and based on the Federal Proposed Adaptation Assessment Framework. The five sectors included are as follows:

- » disaster and emergency management
- » community health and wellbeing
- » settlements and infrastructure
- » water
- » natural resources and ecosystems.

The final Strategy will build on the adaptation work already underway in the ACT and will incorporate disaster risk reduction and fire management. The draft Strategy recognises Canberra's expanded bushfire risk areas and identifies the need for the finalisation of the Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework by the end of 2017.

HEALTH DIRECTORATE RESPONSE:

ACT Health supports the recommendation. This is a Whole of Government issue and has little direct health program input.

EDU RESPONSE:

During the reporting period, all Canberra public schools updated their Emergency Management Plans that include preparation and response to bushfire threats. The directorate also conducted its annual bushfire prevention audit. These audits were conducted across all Canberra public schools to ensure mandatory preventative maintenance was completed prior to the peak bushfire season.

EDU continues to be guided by the information provided by the JACSD when developing its emergency management policies and processes in relation to climatic conditions.

JACSD RESPONSE:

The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) continues to participate in research activities with the Bushfire & Natural Hazard Cooperative Research Centre and a range of other partners examining the effects of climate change on natural hazards.

ESA has incorporated climate change considerations into the current draft of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and will continue to consider climate change in other planning and risk mitigation processes.

Ongoing efforts are being made with the Emergency Management, Risk and Spatial Services Group at ESA which provides for risk analysis, strategic and operational planning, and specialist mapping and technical support across operational services of the ESA. The group provides technical and policy advice on broader emergency management issues affecting the ESA, e.g. climate change, national arrangements, spatial and information technology, and knowledge enhancement. The group is also responsible for the coordination of the National Disaster Resilience Program.

JACS has participated in a CMTEDD-initiated case study on the potential effects and risks of climate change on a newly proposed construction project. JACS has identified and incorporated adaptable and resilient building technologies into the design process to mitigate the effects of climate change on the asset and its functions into the future.

RECOMMENDATION 21:

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.

EPD RESPONSE:

EPD continues to liaise with NSW local government councils on a regular basis for data and land-use planning exchange. Included are resident population trends as well as new resident settlement developments (continuing, planned and under consideration).

EPD continue to liaise with NSW councils including Queanbeyan, Palerang, Goulburn–Mulwaree, Cooma–Monaro and Yass Valley – all of which constitute the ‘Canberra plus One’ region (centres of population within one hour commute of Canberra). The closest contact is maintained with those local councils for which residential settlement closely associated with Canberra occurs. These include Queanbeyan, Palerang (both now merged) and Yass Valley councils.

EPD has extensively collaborated with the NSW Government in order to develop the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This included the usage of the NARClIM in order to project climate change developments in the capital region.

A couple of EnAACT workshops were held with regional stakeholder participation to identify climate change impacts as informed by NARClIM and develop management options. This in turn informed the development of the draft ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Action 11 in the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy identifies regional collaboration to improve awareness of climate change impacts to build resilience and adaptive capacity as a priority to develop territory-wide resilience.

The EPD continues to draw on advice from the ACT Climate Change Council and ACT-based academic institutions such as the CSIRO and the ANU.

CMTEDD RESPONSE:

CMTEDD Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Unit facilitates engagement between relevant NSW and ACT Government directorates.

EDU RESPONSE:

EDU participated in a Climate Change Adaptation course coordinated by EIANZ, and collaborated with NSW and Victorian counterparts in the delivery of a risk management workshop.

RECOMMENDATION 22:

Strengthen community engagement in sustainability by:

- i. 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
- ii. fostering behaviour change through community engagement to reduce our ecological footprint with a particular focus on:
 - i. sustainable transport
 - ii. impacts of consumption.

EPD RESPONSE:

As part of the *ACT Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*, AP2, a *Community Engagement on Climate Change Strategy* was released in 2014. The Strategy seeks to re-enforce the commitment of effective engagement with the broader community and identifies actions to support this including the development of a Sustainability Portal, the use of social media and re-enforcement of our key stakeholder partnerships.

In mid-2013, EPD commissioned a survey to research community views and issues about climate change in the ACT. The survey found the community has a high awareness of climate change and a willingness to commit to reducing individual household emissions. A follow up survey will be undertaken in 2016 to identify trends following significant government action.

Following the release of the ACT Low Emissions Vehicle Strategy (LEVS) discussion paper in 2014, a final LEVS is currently under development for Cabinet consideration in August 2016. Concurrent to the high level LEVS document, two consultancies have been engaged to deliver a business case for transitioning electric vehicles into the ACT fleet, and mapping transport emissions and innovative pathways to reductions towards 2050. LEVS is being used as a baseline for this work.

Actsmart has programs to reduce energy, water and waste in businesses, schools and households. The programs focus on behaviour change to achieve reductions in usage through workshops, fact sheets, digital case studies, expos and program participation.

A high-level review of waste education activities was conducted in 2015 as part of the ACT Waste Feasibility Study. This work identified a number of issues to be addressed and made recommendations to improve government's waste education activities. Addressing these issues will be part of the next stage of the ACT Waste Feasibility Study, which has a strong focus on behaviour change through community engagement.

TAMSD RESPONSE:

TAMS engagement with the community and promotion of active travel was delivered via real time passenger information delivered through NXTBUS, increased number of buses with bike racks and the fleet replacement program which saw 30 new Euro VI emission compliant standard buses introduced. These buses improve comfort for passengers and increase accessibility with wheelchair access. Community engagement on energy efficiency was also delivered through Birrigai Outdoor Education Centre with sustainable programs tailored to meet the needs of the Australian curriculum, ACT schools and youth groups as well as Libraries ACT with do-it-yourself Home Energy Action Kits for members.

EDU RESPONSE:

Canberra public school students joined Catholic and Independent schools from the ACT and NSW in attending the Parliament of Youth on Sustainability. Participation included 165 primary school students, 21 high school students and two college students from 13 primary schools, four high schools and one college. In addition, one student from Wanniasa School (senior), 15 students from Canberra College and one student from Wanniasa Hills Primary School volunteered their time to the project.

B2.2.4 INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN AGENCY ANNUAL REPORTS

The *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* requires that all reports prepared by an agency under the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* for a financial year must include various details including:

- » any request under s.18 (assistance to Commissioner) received by the agency during the year
- » any assistance provided by the agency during the year in response to the request
- » any investigation by the Commissioner during the year in relation to any activity of the agency
- » any recommendation made by the Commissioner during the year following an investigation of the agency's activities
- » any action the agency has taken during the year in relation to the recommendation.

ANY REQUEST UNDER S.18 (ASSISTANCE TO COMMISSIONER) RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY DURING THE YEAR

All directorates were required to provide information on actions they had taken during the 2015–16 financial year in relation to recommendations in the 2011 ACT SoER. Letters were sent to all ACT directorate heads requesting this information and a nominated contact person. In addition, for the 2015–16 Annual Report, TAMSD and EPD were requested to report on actions against recommendations in two complaint investigations.

Health Directorate, EPD, TAMSD and CMTEDD were requested to provide updates on the 2013–14 audit by the Commissioner of selected recommendations made in:

- » 2007 ACT SoER
- » Canberra Nature Park Nature Reserves – Molonglo River Corridor and Googong Foreshores Investigation 2011
- » 2011 Molonglo River Corridor complaint
- » Lake Burley Griffin Investigation 2012.

ANY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE AGENCY DURING THE YEAR IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST

All directorates responded appropriately to the request to provide information on actions they had taken during the 2015–16 financial year in relation to recommendations in the 2011 ACT SoER. Directorate responses are presented in **Section B2.2.3** of this annual report.

Information provided to the Commissioner in response to requests to the Health Directorate, EPD, TAMSD and CMTEDD in relation to the 2013–14 audit by the Commissioner of selected recommendations (as listed above) is presented below. Responses have been published as provided by directorates with minimal editing resulting in some grammar and style inconsistencies.

DIRECTORATE RESPONSES TO LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN INVESTIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

LAKE CLOSURE PROTOCOLS

RECOMMENDATION 3:

In line with the current guidelines, the ACT Government and the Queanbeyan City Council, should identify and map sources of faecal contamination entering urban stormwater systems, the significance of the sources, and long-term strategies for reducing loading. In addition, a rigorous and comprehensive procedure for rapid 'sanitary surveys' in the event of elevated indicator concentrations should be established.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks information on use of the three procedures for sanitary surveys developed by ACT Health.

HEALTH DIRECTORATE RESPONSE: Currently ACT Health undertakes surveys to identify sources of contamination in response to contamination being identified in waterways. The Sanitary Inspection Report (as sighted by the Commissioner) guides actions required to be undertaken where sources of contamination are identified in recreational water bodies. The survey involves defining the catchment areas and physical characteristics, public use of the recreational site, possible sources of faecal/sewage pollution, storm water discharge points, pollution from animals (domestic, farm or wild) and management controls regarding microbiological risks.

EPD RESPONSE: This is a matter for the Health Directorate to respond to in the first instance.

OPTIONS FOR 'IN LAKE' MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

RECOMMENDATION 5:

The National Capital Authority and the ACT Government undertake a feasibility study, including a triple bottom line analysis, of macrophyte restoration across the Lake. Priorities for consideration should include:

- a) construction of a wetland in the Lake between Springbank Island and the mouth of Sullivans Creek
- b) construction of a wetland in the Lake at East Basin
- c) restoration of macrophyte beds in Lotus Bay, Orana Bay, and at Weston Park East Beach.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks information on planned testing of the effectiveness of the wetland system on water quality that was planned for 2014.

EPD RESPONSE: The National Capital Authority has advised that:

- » Construction of wetland in West Lake not undertaken – proposal was submitted by SPEL¹¹ for the construction of floating wetlands between Springbank Island and Sullivans Creek (2012). Construction (\$240,000.00) and ongoing maintenance were considered to be cost prohibitive.
- » Construction of a wetland in East Basin not undertaken – due to a number of reasons this area is not considered suitable for the installation of a wetland (high winds, high recreational values, close to the Kingston Harbour and the commercial boats).
- » Planting of macrophytes at selected areas around Lake foreshores – the NCA has planted macrophytes at the following locations: Grevillea Beach, Lennox Gardens Beach, Lotus Bay, West Basin at Acton West, Yarralumla Bay, and Aspen Island. Other areas have been assessed as not suitable due to high recreational use. A planting trial undertaken by Greening Australia informed the NCA on the best species, substrate for planting and the use of fencing to protect against predation during establishment.

11 SPEL Environmental Integrated Water Solutions

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE THE LAKE'S WATER QUALITY

RECOMMENDATION 7:

The ACT Government should develop a strategic approach to water-sensitive urban design (WSUD). This should include:

- e) Reviewing the efficacy of existing gross pollutant traps (GPTs). The review should include:
 - i. effectiveness in pollutant reduction
 - ii. effectiveness of current maintenance of pollution control measures
 - iii. capital costs
 - iv. ongoing maintenance costs to ensure the current drainage infrastructure remains high-standard and is in line with current best practice, protecting downstream environments
 - v. reduction of polluted leachate water
 - vi. the capacity to manage requirements of future urban growth and development.
- f) working with the NCA and NSW councils.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks an update in relation to Recommendation 7e and 7f, on:

- » a review of the condition and effectiveness of all gross pollutant traps flowing into Lake Burley Griffin.
- » Basin Priority Project Phase 1 and funding allocations for Phase 2:
- » Phase 1: Implementing a comprehensive ACT-wide water quality monitoring program with a focus on six priority catchments, including associated monitoring to provide evidence to underpin priority projects.
- » Phase 2: Development of infrastructure options for each sub-catchment, based on the analysis of the data collected from the monitoring, that will assist in improving the water quality flowing from these catchments.

TAMSD RESPONSE: TAMS is undertaking an assessment of operation and maintenance costs associated with the Basin Priority Project. TAMS is undertaking an audit of current expenditure on WSUD assets and drainage assets. TAMS provided

input to EPD's review of infrastructure performance relating to gross pollutant traps and other WSUD assets.

TAMS provided input on the Basin Priority Project which was being led by EPD.

EPD RESPONSE: TCCS will provide advice on gross pollutant traps flowing to the Lake Burley Griffin. The Basin Priority Project, managed by EPD, was successful in attracting second phase funding to construct a series of treatment devices to improve water quality in our lakes and rivers, including Lake Burley Griffin. Thirty-six priority projects have been identified which are now being developed through the preliminary design phase. It is anticipated that about 24 of these projects will be constructed. Eight possible treatment locations benefit Lake Burley Griffin on Jerrabomberra Creek and the Molonglo River.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

The ACT Government, Queanbeyan City Council and National Capital Authority work collectively to raise awareness of the impact of organic matter, and other household or commercial materials (for example, garden and lawn fertilizers) on the Lake Burley Griffin catchment. Information should include the contribution that all sectors of the community can make to improving water quality by appropriately using and disposing of such materials.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks:

- » an update on progress regarding ACT Government efforts to work with the NCA and Queanbeyan City Council to develop a comprehensive community awareness education and behaviour change program
- » an update on the *ACT and Region Catchment Strategy* and outcomes of work of the ACT and Region Catchment Group.

EPD RESPONSE: Under the Basin Priority Project and with the support of the newly formed ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group, EPD is leading the delivery of a region wide stormwater education and behaviour change program. This program will target nutrients entering our waterways from urban and peri-urban areas. \$720,000 has been allocated to the

project over three years from 2016–17. A program officer is currently being recruited to deliver the program which is expected to be launched in September 2016.

The *ACT and Region Catchment Strategy* was released for public comment in April 2016 and received positive stakeholder feedback. The final version is now being endorsed by Coordination Group members prior to its anticipated release in August 2016.

RURAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATION 10:

That the ACT and NSW governments and the National Capital Authority support planning and implementation of on-ground actions to reduce the potential for soil erosion in the upper Queanbeyan River, upper Molonglo River and Jerrabomberra Creek. In doing so active involvement of Palerang Council, the Molonglo Catchment Management Group, ACTEW¹² and other NRM groups should continue to be strongly encouraged and supported.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: As for recommendation 8, the Commissioner seeks an update on the *ACT and Region Catchment Strategy* and outcomes of work of the ACT and Region Catchment Group in relation to this recommendation.

EPD RESPONSE: As indicated above, the *ACT and Region Catchment Strategy* is being finalised for release. The strategy includes targets and actions relating to land and biodiversity. Action 18 calls for coordinated mitigation of soil erosion at priority sites. This will be achieved by activities such as identifying and prioritising significant erosion hotspots across the catchment and developing implementation responses as appropriate. The Coordination Group with specific input from EPD, TCCS and the local councils, South East Local Land Services, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and NSW Department of Planning, and community and Indigenous groups will undertake the work. A specific detailed action plan will be developed as part of a five-year implementation plan, noting that investment will need to be generated to implement priority actions.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

That the ACT Government finalise and implement the Googong Foreshores Draft Plan of Management. The plan should include adequate monitoring, reporting and review, and mechanisms to ensure effective cooperation between ACTEW, NSW and ACT in the management of the Googong Foreshores.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks information regarding status of the Final Plan of Management and the implementation of the *Googong Foreshores Plan of Management* and actions to date.

TAMSD AND EPD RESPONSE: The *Googong Foreshores Plan of Management* has been endorsed by the Commonwealth as meeting its requirement for a Land and Conservation Management Plan under the terms of the lease.

Implementation of the plan has been ongoing since 2011 including programs to manage visitors, feral pests, weeds and fire. Recent activities have included recommencing ranger-guided activities (e.g. the popular Wombat Walks and London Bridge Homestead Open Day); rehabilitation of flood damaged fences and walking trails; ground shooting of feral deer; and drafting of a concept plan to assess how visitor facilities are placed to respond to expected increases in demand associated with the new Googong township.

The Draft Plan of Management is being reformatted to meet new ACT Government branding guidelines and will be re-published in 2016.

12 Now ICON Water

MANAGEMENT OF OTHER RECREATIONAL WATERWAYS

RECOMMENDATION 16:

A comprehensive assessment of environmental, social and economic value of key ACT lakes be undertaken and take into account current and predicted challenges to water quality. This assessment should inform:

- a) a review and update of *Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management* involving extensive community consultation and taking into account the long-term challenges to water quality in the urban catchments
- b) the need for government investments in water quality
- c) decisions regarding trials of appropriate in-lake and catchment management measures, with the results assessed from scientific (environmental), social and economic perspectives
- d) decisions regarding implementation of lake and catchment management options.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks information on the status of the *Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management* which the Commissioner notes, remains publicly available on TAMSD website. Further, the extent to which elements of the strategy will come within the Basin Priority Project, and any plans to prepare a review of the Plan.

TAMSD RESPONSE: EPD is progressing the update of the *Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management* in-house on behalf of TAMS/TCCS. The scope of the update of the Plan is currently being determined as the allocation of resources for the update is limited.

EPD RESPONSE: EPD is preparing a revised *Urban Lakes and Ponds Management Plan*.

RECOMMENDATION 17:

The ACT, Australian, NSW and local governments establish a Burley Griffin-Molonglo-Queanbeyan catchment management agreement. Such an agreement should outline:

- a) strategic objectives for the integrated and coordinated management of the Lake and catchments, to encompass water quality, environmental flows, potable water, land use, wastewater, and future urban and climate change impacts on the catchment
- b) each party's responsibilities for water quality in the Lake and its catchments
- c) a long-term catchment planning framework
- d) an evidence-based, adaptive, management workplan.

To avoid past challenges of multi-jurisdictional catchment management coordination, such an agreement should include a dedicated governance group with representation from all jurisdictions, a consistent and persistent mechanism to ensure implementation and accountability, and reporting requirements.

The National Capital Authority, as Lake manager, should in the first instance convene a meeting of relevant jurisdictional representatives to guide the above recommendations.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: While aware that the community consultation only closed on 18 May 2016, the Commissioner seeks an update on progress on the preparation of Regional Catchment Management Strategy.

EPD RESPONSE: Refer to update to Recommendation 8 (see page 43).

DIRECTORATE RESPONSES TO THE REPORT ON THE CANBERRA NATURE PARK (NATURE RESERVES), MOLONGLO RIVER CORRIDOR (NATURE RESERVES) AND GOOGONG FORESHORES INVESTIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 4.2:

Reviewing the *Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999* as mandated under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* and in so doing include:

- » nature reserves added to the reserve system since 1999
- » address categorising nature reserves (recommendation 3.4)
- » policies to address current issues and those developed since 1999, particularly;
 - Action Plan No. 27 – ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy
 - Action Plan No. 28 – ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy
 - Action Plan No. 29 – ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy
 - consideration of climate change (including Impacts of Climate on the Canberra Nature Park: Risks and responses by Dr Bob Webb) and connectivity (including Ecological Connectivity for Climate Change in the ACT and surrounding region by Manning et al.).

NOTE: within the scope of this audit, only policies relating to Action Plan No. 29 are relevant.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks an update on the status of the review of the *Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management* led by EPD and the Reserve Operational Plans which were reported as being prepared by TAMS.

TAMSD AND EPD RESPONSE: The *Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999* has been reviewed and a new draft plan will be released for public comment in 2016.

The new draft plan:

- » includes reserves added to the reserve system since 1999
- » categorises nature reserves
- » includes policies to address current issues

- » includes requirements to manage woodlands, grasslands and riparian zones in accordance with the strategies in Action Plans 27, 28 and 29
- » includes consideration of climate change and connectivity.

DIRECTORATE RESPONSES TO 2011 MOLONGLO RIVER CORRIDOR COMPLAINT RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 3:

That the Molonglo Riparian Strategy is released publicly on the ACTPLA website, along with an explanation of how it will be incorporated into the *Molonglo River Park Plan*. This should be updated regularly. The Directorate that has carriage of implementing the NES plan should also host this information on their website.

COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST: The Commissioner seeks an update on the draft *Plan of Management for the Molonglo River Reserve*. It was reported in the 2013–14 audit, that the Plan was to be ready for legislative approval by the end of October 2014.

TAMSD RESPONSE: A draft Plan was prepared by October 2014 meeting the original timeframe. At this time the *ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2014* (SBMPv3) was endorsed which provided greater flexibility with the use of Asset Protection Zones allowing wider IAPZs in the urban development envelope to replace OAPZs in the reserve.

The fire management strategy within the draft Plan needed to be revised to bring the draft Plan into line with the new SBMPv3. To reach an agreed strategy required further consultation in particular with the Land Development Agency.

An agreed strategy has now been reached and the draft Plan will be referred to the Minister in early August 2016 seeking approval to release the Plan for public consultation prior to Caretaker period commencing on 9 September 2016.

EPD RESPONSE: Final edits to the draft Plan are currently being undertaken. The draft Plan will be referred to the Minister in early August seeking approval to release the Plan for public consultation.

The draft Plan has undergone extensive consultation with external and government stakeholders requiring additional time to resolve issues.

ANY INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMISSIONER DURING THE YEAR IN RELATION TO ANY ACTIVITY OF THE AGENCY

Investigations were conducted in response to six complaints over 2015–16:

- » alleged Damage to Public Unleased Land associated with construction work on block 20, Section 28 (99 Rivett St) Hackett – Helms Place
- » visual and aesthetic impacts of high-rise building development in Belconnen Town Centre
- » two complaints regarding the ACT annual Eastern Grey Kangaroo cull
- » community concerns about the management of cat containment at ‘The Fair’ in north Watson
- » a report of a foul smell in Tuggeranong and the responsible directorate’s management of the issue and complaints relating to it.

ANY RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER DURING THE YEAR FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE AGENCY’S ACTIVITIES

ALLEGED DAMAGE TO PUL ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION WORK ON BLOCK 20, SECTION 28 (99 RIVETT ST) HACKETT – HELMS PLACE

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Continue the program of regular but random monitoring of greenfield and infill construction sites initiated by Access Canberra in late 2015 to ensure increased awareness and compliance with the PUL legislation. Representation from EPD, as well as TAMSD, particularly given organisational changes to occur in July 2016, is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Bring to completion as an endorsed policy efforts to date by City Services, TAMSD, in relation to improving the management of PUL permits including conditions, issuing, education and awareness, monitoring and enforcement. A thorough review of the bond and financial assurance requirements should be included and consideration given to amending the Act to facilitate a simplified and more effective system of financial assurances. Consultation with the building and construction industry to achieve this is highly recommended.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Lead agencies report on the implementation and effectiveness of the above program and policy in the relevant directorate’s 2016–17 annual report.

VISUAL AND AESTHETIC IMPACTS OF HIGH-RISE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN BELCONNEN TOWN CENTRE

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Provision of public information in relation to planning and development, including:

- » A list of any conditions applying to the approval be attached to the notice of decision to allow public tracking and monitoring of compliance with them.
- » The location and method of accessing key supporting documents referred to in the notice of decision is included within that document.
- » EPD consider preparing a graphic representation (infographic) of ACT planning instruments, their location in the planning hierarchy and interconnections. This should be made publicly available on relevant directorate websites and in community education and consultation processes and materials.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Process for lodging an objection to a Development Application – to facilitate access and greater understanding by non-legal and non-technical readers, codes and rules need to be assessed for clarity and precision, with technical and legal information delivered in plain English.

ANY ACTION THE AGENCY HAS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR IN RELATION TO THE RECOMMENDATION

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION: ALLEGED DAMAGE TO PUL ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT WORK ON BLOCK 20, SECTION 28 (99 RIVETT ST) ADJOINING HELMS PLACE, HACKETT

In response to the recommendations noted on page 47, TCCS (formerly TAMSD) provided the following information:

RECOMMENDATION 1:

As the directorate responsible for the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* (PULA), the Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) Directorate will continue to engage, educate and enforce the model in regulating public unleased land use. Licensing and Compliance is committed to supporting the collaborative, unified regulatory approach in regulating PULA.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

TCCS¹³ will continue to develop policies and procedures to improve the management of PULA permits including the compliance and regulatory framework associated with the engagement, education and enforcement of the Act. Consultation with all relevant stakeholders will occur as part of this process.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Noted – a report will be included in the 2016–17 Annual Report for TCCS.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION: BELCONNEN TOWN CENTRE PLANNING AND THIRD PARTY APPEAL INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT DECISION NOTICES

In relation to **Recommendation 1** EPD reported that the directorate is currently in the process of revising the standard Notice of Decision template and that **Recommendation 2** is a consideration for a new Notice of Decision template to deliver information in 'plain English' as far as possible. The future new Notice of Decision template will include more specific and simpler clarification of whether or not third party review rights may apply, but without making a specific finding with regard to standing as standing is a matter for the Tribunal to decide.

¹³ TAMS was the responsible Directorate at the time the complaint was lodged. TAMSD became Transport and City Services (TCCS) Directorate on 1 July 2016.

¹⁴ Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, 1993

B2.3 ACTIVITIES UNDER THE OBJECTS OF THE ACT¹⁴

B2.3.1 ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During 2015–16 CSE used a mix of electronic and social media strategies along with direct engagement as key advocacy and community engagement activities. The ACT 2015 SoER was made publicly available on our updated website after tabling in February 2016. The report is a key resource for the directorates, community organisations, educational institutions, the non-government and private sectors.

Forms of direct engagement included meetings with the Commissioner, presentations, seminars and project support with a wide range of individuals and groups including:

- » academics and students as part of project and course work, at ANU and UC
- » private sector and community organisations such as the Conservation Council ACT and Region, the Canberra Business Chamber, Friends of Grasslands, Friends of Aranda Bushland, Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, SEE-Change Inc, National Parks Association, Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC), 350.Org, Indian Myna Action Group, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) and the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE).

2015–16 COMMISSIONER SUBMISSIONS

Periodically, opportunities arise for the Commissioner to comment and provide input into ACT Government draft documents by specific invitation or public consultation process (often advertised via the ACT Government's Time to Talk website).

The Commissioner may also decide to prepare a document for comment in response to a government media release or other public communication.

In all cases, a written submission is prepared (note, online response facilities are not used) and forwarded to the appropriate contact person. Submissions to public consultations

are made publicly available on the CSE website, however this is not the case with submissions by invitation. **Table 5** lists submissions made by the Commissioner in 2015–16.

Table 5: List of 2015–16 CSE public submissions

SUBMISSION DATE	Directorate	Title
24/06/2016	EPD	Additions to Canberra's Nature Reserves
23/06/2016	EPD	Brierly Street and Trenerry Square upgrade
10/06/2016	TAMSD	Horse Park Drive duplication
02/02/2016	TAMSD	Draft Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan 2015
30/06/2016	TAMSD	Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary expansion proposal
06/04/2016	EPD	Draft Planning Strategy Report Card
22/04/2016	CMTEDD	Proposed new suburb in west Tuggeranong
28/04/2016	EPD	Draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy
17/05/2016	EPD	Draft Action Plan for the Scarlet Robin
01/04/2016	EPD	Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
04/03/2016	TAMSD	Draft Nature Strip Guidelines
24/03/2016	EPD	Five Year Heritage Strategy Discussion Paper

MONITORING PROGRESS

The Commissioner acknowledges the work done by the ACT Government and progress made over the reporting period in developing policies, plans and programs on key environment and sustainability issues, including:

- » Commitment and significant progress towards achieving ACT's ambitious renewable energy targets and leading the nation in this area of policy and program development and implementation to mitigate climate change.
- » Notification in November 2015 of the *Building (Loose-fill Asbestos Eradication) Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* and progress with community liaison and remediation work in relation to it.
- » Community consultation, along with information and contractual arrangements for building the light rail and associated planning and infrastructure.
- » Establishment and appointment of the chair to the Regional Catchment Management Coordination Group and release of the draft Regional Catchment Strategy.
- » Release of the *Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* in February 2016.
- » Release of the *Draft Planning Strategy Report Card* and invitation for comment.
- » Finalisation of the *Cultural Heritage Reporting Policy* by the ACT Heritage Council on 1 July 2015.
- » Success in attracting Australian Government funding and contributing substantial financial and other resources to progressing the Basin Priority Project.
- » Master plan preparation in Kippax, Belconnen, Curtin and Calwell. Worthy of particular commendation is the considerable attention and effort paid to achieving effective community consultation in these projects. Special note is made of the extensive community engagement for the Belconnen Town Centre master plan.

- » Delivery of projects that bring health benefits along with support for increased engagement of Canberrans in an integrated transport network through funding for improved walking and cycling infrastructure, drinking water and refill stations, shade provision and public play and exercise stations in lakeside and other recreational areas.

Monitoring will continue over the coming reporting period and include these and other ACT Government initiatives, such as:

- » Steps to finalise the *Draft ACT Biosecurity Strategy 2015–25*.
- » The implementation of the *Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* for any adverse or perverse outcomes, particularly in relation to environment and sustainability initiatives and action.
- » Proposed developments at west Tuggeranong, Riverview and the Australian Government proposals for developing the former CSIRO site bordering Crace.



B3 SCRUTINY

There were no requests for the Commissioner to report on progress during the reporting period in relation to undertakings made in reports that are produced by entities charged with responsibility for scrutiny, including the Auditor-General, Ombudsman and Legislative Assembly Committees.

B4 RISK MANAGEMENT

To ensure that procedures and processes are up-to-date and relevant, CSE continually updates the CSE procedures manual, which documents processes for all key CSE activities including file management, procurement, inquiries and complaints.

Risk management plans are prepared for all individual projects undertaken within CSE and staff seek advice on procurement for all major projects and on an as-needs basis as issues arise.

B5 INTERNAL AUDIT

CSE has been formally included in the EPD's internal audit program.

B6 FRAUD PREVENTION

Information on CSE's fraud prevention processes can be found in the EPD's 2015–16 Annual Report.

B7 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

During 2015–16 CSE did not receive any notices under the revised Act, and there were no notifiable incidents. CSE does not pay a first tier worker's compensation premium. Two stand-up desks are available in CSE to aid staff health management.

The EPD's 2015–16 Annual Report also reports on CSE's workplace health and safety policy.

B8 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Further information to that provided in this section can be found in the EPD's 2015–16 Annual Report.

B8.1 WORKFORCE PROFILE

B8.1.1 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) HEADCOUNT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

As noted in **Section B1.7**, while our standard staffing number is six FTEs, at different times variations can occur in response to changing needs and situations. This is reflected in the following tables.

Table 6: FTE by gender and head count

HEADCOUNT TOTAL	FTE		Female	Male	Total
6	5.6	FTE by gender	4.6	1.0	5.6
6	5.6	Headcount by gender	5	1	6
		% of workforce	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%

Table 7: FTE by classification

CLASSIFICATION GROUP	Female	Male	Total
Administrative officers	1	1	2
Senior officers	3 ¹⁵	0	3
Statutory office holders	1	0	1
TOTAL	5	1	6

Table 8: Headcount by employment category and average years of service

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY	Female	Male	Total
Casual	0	0	0
Permanent full-time	2	0	2
Permanent part-time	0	0	0
Temporary full-time	1	1	2
Temporary part-time	2	0	2
TOTAL	5	1	6
Average years of service	2.3	0.4	2.0

15 One officer on higher duties

Table 9: Headcount by diversity group

	Headcount	% of total staff
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	0	0.0%
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse	0	0.0%
People with a disability	0	0.0%

Table 10: Headcount by age group

AGE GROUP	Female	Male	Total
Under 25	0	0	0
25–34	0	1	1
35–44	0	0	0
45–54	3	0	3
55 and over	2	0	2

Table 11: Permanent recruitment and separation rates

DIVISION	Recruitment rate	Separation rate
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	0.0%	22%
TOTAL	0.0%	22%

Figures on recruitment and separation rates by classification group in Table 11 are generated as a percentage of the cohort group with the total for CSE shown at the bottom of the table. CSE had one permanent separation during the period, as in line with conventional methods of treating statutory office holders as temporary appointments, this calculation excludes the retirement of Commissioner Neil. The effect of these calculations for a very small cohort such as CSE is to produce rates that may look a little high or unusual.

B8.2 ATTRACTION AND RETENTION INCENTIVES (ARINS)

CSE had no ARins arrangements during 2015–16.

B8.3 PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

CSE has a commitment to strengthening workforce and organisational capacity through building skills and capabilities. This learning and development is guided by individual achievement plans and supported through our strategic plan.

In addition to formal training sessions, CSE staff attended seminars and forums on various environment and sustainability topics including:

- » adaptation to climate change
- » current biodiversity and ecosystems research
- » heritage, planning and development
- » water and catchments
- » renewable energy
- » active transport and light rail
- » state of the environment reporting.

Further details on CSE staff participation in ACT public service (ACTPS) learning and development programs can be found in the EPD 2015–16 Annual Report.

B8.4 FUTURE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS IDENTIFIED AS PRIORITIES

Learning and development priorities for all CSE staff are identified within individual work plans. Details of ACTPS learning and development programs can be found in the EPD 2015–16 Annual Report.

B8.5 WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

CSE actively participates in the EPD Graduate Program and has previously benefitted from hosting a number of graduate placements. There were no placements in 2015–16.

B8.6 PARTICIPATION IN STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND ACTPS TRAINING CALENDAR

No members of staff participated in the study assistance program during the 2015–16 financial year. All staff attended mandatory sessions and took up other ACTPS-advertised training opportunities. Details are included in the EPD 2015–16 Annual Report.

B9 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

B9.1 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

During 2015–16 CSE has been accommodated at Level 2 Telstra House on Northbourne Avenue in Dickson. CSE shares this space with ACT Procurement Services, with our office occupying 96.42 square metres of floor space (not including shared access to kitchens and public amenities for all staff based on a proportion of the tenancy floorspace).

B9.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

CSE is covered under the EPD RMP, which is available on the Carbon Neutral Portal (<http://sharedservices/ACTgovt/Carbon-Neutral.htm>). Specifically, the RMP refers to CSE (p7):

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) is located at 490 Northbourne Avenue Dickson. Due to the proportionally small impact of those 6 FTE in their workplace, the Key Performance Indicator for OCSE is to maintain its full ACTSmart Business Accreditation.

CSE is accredited as an Actsmart business and continues to participate in the program. Another audit will be undertaken in order to renew our registration in August at our location in Telstra House.

We also have staff representation on the EPD Green Team. As an independent office, we are always located in buildings other than those occupied by EPD. As a result our direct engagement in EPD initiatives is constrained. However, we have a range of strategies in place to assist in achieving more sustainable resource management in our location and with our staff, including:

- » continuing to work towards becoming a paperless office by using electronic data management via *Objective* Electronic Data Management (EDM) software for filing and to minimise paper and cartridge use
- » as a unit largely engaged in report preparation and advocacy we:
- » use 100 per cent recycled paper for our printing
- » circulate electronic versions of reports for comment, rather than hard copies
- » have two bicycles and MyWay bus passes, with staff encouraged to use active and public transport to attend off-site meetings and events where feasible
- » share recycling facilities (including organic waste) with co-lessee on our floor
- » one staff member is trained in the use of the ACT Government Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP).

Table 12: Sustainable development performance – current and previous financial year

INDICATOR AS AT 30 JUNE	Unit	Current FYP 2015–16	Previous 2014–15	% change
AGENCY STAFF AND AREA				See explanatory note 4 for this column
Agency staff	FTE	6	6	
Workplace floor area	Area (m ²)	113.2	114.54	
STATIONARY ENERGY USAGE				
Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	7 237.95	8 625.56	
Renewable electricity use	Kilowatt hours	see explanatory note 2	317.89	
Natural gas use	Megajoules	0	12 639.68	
TRANSPORT FUEL USAGE				
Total number of vehicles ^b	Number	1 ^a	1	
Total kilometres travelled	Kilometres	166 ^b	1738	
Fuel use – petrol	Kilolitres	0.01345 ^b	1.47	
Fuel use – diesel	Kilolitres	0	0	
Fuel use – Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Kilolitres	0	0	
Fuel use – Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	(CNG)	0	0	
WATER USAGE				
Water use	Kilolitres	see explanatory note 1	13.02 ^c	
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND WASTE				
Reams of paper purchased	Reams	45	56	
Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	100	100	
Waste to landfill ^d	Litres	960	1560	
Co-mingled material recycled ^d	Litres	460	480	
Paper and cardboard recycled (including secure paper)	Litres	820 ^e	600	
Organic material recycled	Litres	78 ^f	100	
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ^g				
Emissions from stationary energy use	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	5.38	7.21	
Emissions from transport Tonnes CO ₂ -e	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	0.22	0.51	
Total emissions Tonnes	Tonnes CO ₂ -e	5.59	7.72	

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR TABLE 12

- a. This was Commissioner Neil's package vehicle which was returned on 31 July 2016 on his retirement. Total kilometres provided are for one calendar month, business use only.
- b. Figures calculated as work-related travel and fuel consumption based on the *Green Vehicle Guide*.
- c. Estimate water consumption at Telstra House only. The ESP platform generally does not capture utility consumption data if the ACT Government is not formally billed for it either direct from the utility supplier or on-billed from a non-government landlord, as is the case for 490 Northbourne Ave.
- d. Figures are calculated as pro rata allocation to CSE of number of bins collected.
- e. This is again an estimate figure. The 2014–15 figure was an estimate based on the number of secure and non-secure recycling bins available and provided to CSE. Since August 2015 CSE has had a 120L secure bin and six pick ups = 720L in the 2015–16 reporting year. However, we continue to share non-secure recycling bins with other tenants.
- f. Estimate at Telstra House location based on staff contribution to bins managed by commercial organics waste management company.
- g. The ESP platform was reconfigured with changed floor area for 490 Northbourne Ave resulting in changed totals for 2014–15 and 2015–16.

1. The Enterprise Sustainability Platform and water data

The *Enterprise Sustainability Platform* was used to provide historical data for the previous FY column (2014–15) in this current annual report. This represents agency occupancy under the current administrative arrangements with exception to the formation of Access Canberra. Costs and usage for water are part of the lease for 490 Northbourne Ave paid by the building owner and included in the rent charge. As a result no water use data are available for this site.

2. Green Power purchased in 2015–16

ACT Property Group purchased 7,700 MWh (Megawatt hours) of GreenPower on behalf of the ACT Government, representing an indicative 5 per cent of the ACT Government's electricity consumption for 2015–16.

3. Greenhouse gas emissions in current FY (2015–16) column

The ESP has been updated with the latest custom ACT electricity emissions factors for greenhouse gas emissions in 2014–15 and 2015–16 to account for the effect of renewables in the ACT electricity energy supply mix. Greenhouse gas emissions for electricity consumption have been calculated using the following emissions factors based on the latest (April 2016) ACT electricity Emissions Factor Report:

- In 2014–15 a factor of 0.801 kilogram (kg) CO₂-e / kilowatt hour (kWh) or 0.801 tonne (t) CO₂-e / megawatt hour (MWh). This is based on actual historical data and is a minor retrospective adjustment of 0.001 on the factor of 0.802 originally used for 2014–15 annual reporting.
- In 2015–16 a factor of 0.773 kilogram (kg) CO₂-e / kilowatt hour (kWh) or 0.773 tonne (t) CO₂-e / megawatt hour (MWh).
- The emissions factors include total GreenPower purchases for the ACT calculated in the third quarter of the respective financial years and are specific to the ACT. These emissions factors (Scope 2 + Scope 3) reflect the increasing contribution of renewable electricity generated under the ACT's 90 per cent Renewable Energy Target (RET). Consequently they are lower than those reported in the latest National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors. Emissions factors will be recalculated to account for the ACT's 100 per cent RET after 2015–16 annual reporting. It is expected that the emissions factors reported here are unlikely to be altered.

4. Percentage change between 2014–15 and 2015–16 financial years

Calculating a percentage change between 2014–2015 and 2015–16 does not provide a meaningful comparison. Most figures are estimates based on data for whole buildings or floors. While floor area has been used to calculate our contribution or usage, the CSE office is a very small unit and has been accommodated within a floor shared with two other much larger ACT Government units whose tenancy, in turn, changed over the financial year.

SECTION C: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTING

C1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

Further information on CSE's financial management is covered in the EPD 2015–16 Annual Report.

C2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The ACT Government appropriation for CSE in 2015–16 was \$1,466,000, comprising a base budget of \$1,402,000 plus \$64,000 in net rolled-over funding for the 2015 ACT SoER and potential investigations.

The financial transactions for CSE are formally reported in the consolidated financial statements of the EPD 2015–16 Annual Report as part of 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

C3 CAPITAL WORKS

CSE has no capital works projects.

C4 ASSET MANAGEMENT

CSE does not own or manage any major assets but maintains a portable asset register.

C5 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

C5.1 PROCUREMENT PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES

Consistent with the provisions governing procurements up to \$200,000, CSE continues to work with ACT Procurement Solutions to complete procurement actions where necessary.

C5.2 EXTERNAL SOURCES OF LABOUR AND SERVICES: INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000

During 2015–16 CSE had no contracts exceeding \$25,000.

C6 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE

The statement of performance for CSE is included in the EPD 2015–16 Annual Report as 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: 2015 ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT REVIEW AND EXPERT PANEL MEMBERS

REVIEW AND ADVICE FOR REPORT THEMES

LAND

Mr Steven Gianakis
Mr Stephen Hughes
Mr Daniel Iglesias
Mr Daniel Santosuosso
Contaminated sites only:
Mr Chris Collier
Mr Mark Heckenberg
Mr Daniel Walters

AIR

Mr Chris Collier
Mr Dave Power
Mr Daniel Walters

WATER

Mr Stewart Chapman
Mr Heath Chester
Dr Steve Cork
Mr John Feint
Mr Chris Glennon
Dr Evan Harrison
Mr Matt Kendall
Mr Tom Nilsen

BIODIVERSITY

Ms Trish Bootes
Dr Steve Cork
Dr Margaret Kitchin
Dr Annie Lane
Mr Nick Lhuede
Dr Michael Mulvaney

Ms Nandhini Nagaratnam
Ms Heather Tomlinson
Ms Kathryn Tracy

HERITAGE

Ms Anna Gurnhill
Ms Pamela Hubert
Ms Jennifer O'Connell

SUBJECT EXPERTS AND ADVISORS

- » University of Canberra
Institute of Applied Ecology
Drs Jacki Schirmer, Sonya Duus, Fiona Dyer,
Evan Harrison and Jarrod Kath
- » Uniquist
Marc Hockings and Andrea Leverington
Bureau of Meteorology (Canberra office)
- » Australian National University – Fenner School
- » Professor Steve Cork, ANU
- » Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ)
- » Richard Sharp (FEIANZ CEnvP)
special thanks to Richard for coordinating the EIANZ review
- » Ruth Kharis (APD, MPIA, MEIANZ)
- » Lisa Lambic (MEIANZ)
- » Kelly Lee (MEIANZ)

GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BODIES

- » ACT Natural Resource Management Council
- » ACT Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee
- » ACT Scientific Committee
- » ACT Heritage Council



APPENDIX 2: 2019 ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr Michael Vardon

Adjunct Fellow

Environmental Accounting Course Coordinator

Fenner School of Environment and Society

ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

Australian National University

Mr Peter Burnett

PhD Candidate

ANU College of Law

Australian National University

Professor Albert van Dijk

Chair, OzEWEX – the Australian Water and Energy

Exchange Research Initiative

Fenner School of Environment and Society

ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

Australian National University

Dr David Summers

Postdoctoral Fellow

Fenner School of Environment and Society

ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

Australian National University

APPENDIX 3: ACT PLANNING STRATEGY INDICATORS

ACT PLANNING STRATEGY

Table 1 Showing indicators and measures under each of the five outcomes

INDICATORS	MEASURES
Outcome A In 2030 Canberra will be a city that makes it easy for people to make more sustainable living choices and has the resourcefulness and capacity to manage change.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT State of the Environment report shows continuously improving trends in the seven headline measures, including the land, water, biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, climate effects, waste and ecological footprint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is collected by Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment (OSCE) for the State of the Environment (SOE) and will be reported against by Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of new housing delivered through urban intensification is 50% or more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from building approvals by suburb and dwelling type and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is greater diversity in the types of dwellings within each district in Canberra with an increasing percentage of attached housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of dwelling types 'other' versus 'detached', using data from ABS Census collected on house categories in each district.
Outcome B In 2030 Canberra will be a city where everyone can take advantage of its network of centres, open spaces and modes of travel to enjoy a sense of wellbeing and participate in a vibrant civic cultural life.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport for Canberra actions 1, 2, 3 and 8 are progressively implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured against Transport for Canberra will be incorporated into this reporting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diversity of facilities and functions within centres increases and there is a trend for these to be distributed across each of the districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from commercial floor space inventory. Investment by public and private sectors in group and local centres at a rate above the ACT population growth using data from Construction Snapshot and development applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of children and adults across all age cohorts participate in sufficient physical activity every day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured by ACT Health will be incorporated into this reporting. Indicators from Strategic Plan for Sport and Active Recreation in the ACT and Region – ACTIVE 2020 are increasingly achieved.
Outcome C In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of an innovative, prosperous region that has established a diverse 'clean' economy and has a wide choice in jobs and lifestyles.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sustained growth in employment in the ACT and across the region with an increasing proportion of jobs in the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from ABS Census on employment rates in the ACT and National Capital Region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of jobs in the ACT and region are in the knowledge economy sectors, including businesses orientated towards 'clean tech' and environmental sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from ABS Labour force survey (nominated employment sectors to be identified) and from Economic Development Directorate monitoring of Business Development Strategy outcomes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing proportion of the population has post-secondary education in the ACT and across the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured by the Directorate of Education and Training will be incorporated into this reporting.
Outcome D In 2030 Canberra will be the 'capital in the bush', recognised for the quality of its public places and buildings that reflect its unique climate, character and identity.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing number of recognised, exemplar developments with integrated public realm spaces, roads and/or buildings in Canberra. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments per year that receive industry or national awards and or Precinct (or equivalent) accreditation, using data from ACTPLA development applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental sustainability and quality of design and construction is increased, with a growing proportion of new and existing public and commercial buildings achieving 6 star Greenstar or equivalent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments recorded with Greenstar or National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) accreditation, using data from ACTPLA development applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of tourists visiting Canberra and the region continues to increase each year, with tourist spending increasing its contribution to Gross Territory Product. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected and measured by ACT Tourism and from Economic Development Directorate, will be incorporated into this reporting.
Outcome E In 2030 Canberra will be at the centre of a region that demonstrates the benefits of good stewardship of the land, its resources and the beauty of the rivers, mountains and plains.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land take per person in the ACT continues to reduce from 480 ha per thousand people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed land (excluding nature conservation areas) in hectares per person, using data from ESDD, ABS and SOE.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in natural resource management activities per person increases annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of groups or individuals per year undertaking activities, using data from Natural Resource Management Council and local Catchment Management Authorities.

APPENDIX 4:

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The *2015–16 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* must comply with the 2015 Annual Report Directions (the Directions). The Directions are found at the ACT Legislation Register at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/annual/2015.asp>

The compliance statement indicates the subsections, under the five parts of the Directions, that are applicable to CSE and the location of information that satisfies these requirements.

PART 1 DIRECTIONS OVERVIEW

The requirements under Part 1 of the 2015 Directions relate to the purpose, timing and distribution, and records keeping of annual reports. The *2015–16 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* complies with all subsections of Part 1 under the Directions.

In compliance with Section 13 Feedback, Part 1 of the Directions, contact details for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment are provided within the *2015–16 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* to provide readers with the opportunity to provide feedback.

PART 2 AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The requirements within Part 2 of the Directions are mandatory for all agencies and the *2015–16 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* complies with all subsections. The information that satisfies the requirements of Part 2 is found in *2015–16 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* as follows:

- » Transmittal certificate, see **Section A**, page iii
- » Organisational overview and performance, inclusive of all subsections, see **Section B**, pages 1–57
- » Financial management reporting, inclusive of all subsections, see **Section C**, pages 58.

PART 3 REPORTING BY EXCEPTION

CSE has nil information to report by exception under Part 3 of the Directions for the 2015–16 reporting period.

PART 4 AGENCY-SPECIFIC ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The subsections of Part 4 of the 2015 Directions are applicable to the CSE and can be found within the *2015–16 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report* at **Section B2**, pages 10–50.

PART 5 WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORTING

All subsections of Part 5 of the Directions apply to CSE. Consistent with the Directions, the information satisfying these requirements is reported in the one place for all ACT public service directorates, as follows:

Q. Community engagement and support, see the *2015–16 Annual Report of Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate*

R. Justice and Community Safety, including all subsections R.1 – R.4, see the *2015–16 Annual Report of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate*


T. Territory Records, see the *2015–16 Annual Report of Chief Minister, Treasury, Economic Development Directorate*.

ACT Public Service directorate annual reports are found at http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/annual_report



Photo: ACT Government

A more fully integrated transport system for Canberra will reduce our reliance on personal motor vehicles.



“The future is not
somewhere we are
going, it is something
we are creating.”

Professor Ian Lowe



INDEPENDENT OF,
BUT FUNDED BY,
THE ACT GOVERNMENT

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