

2022–2023

# Annual Report



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT

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and the Environment 2023**

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**The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.**

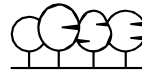
# List of Acronyms

<b>ACT</b>	Australian Capital Territory
<b>ACTHD</b>	ACT Health Directorate
<b>ACTPS</b>	Australian Capital Territory Public Service
<b>AIS</b>	Australian Institute of Sport
<b>ANU</b>	Australian National University
<b>ARins</b>	Attraction and Retention Incentives
<b>ASO</b>	Administrative Service Officer
<b>CIT</b>	Canberra Institute of Technology
<b>CMTEDD</b>	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
<b>CRA</b>	City Renewal Authority
<b>EDU</b>	Education Directorate
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Protection Authority
<b>EPBC</b>	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
<b>EPSDD</b>	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
<b>ESA</b>	Emergency Services Agency
<b>EVs</b>	Electric Vehicles
<b>FOGO</b>	Food Organics and Garden Organics
<b>FOI</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>FTE</b>	Full-time Equivalent
<b>FY</b>	Financial Year
<b>GPT</b>	Gross Pollutant Trap
<b>ICIP</b>	Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property
<b>JACS</b>	Justice and Community Safety Directorate
<b>MNES</b>	Matters of National Environmental Significance
<b>MPC</b>	Major Projects Canberra
<b>NCA</b>	National Capital Authority
<b>NEPM</b>	National Environment Protection Measures
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>OCSE</b>	Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
<b>PCS</b>	Parks and Conservation Service
<b>SLA</b>	Suburban Land Agency
<b>SoE</b>	State of the Environment
<b>SOG</b>	Senior Officer Grade
<b>TCCS</b>	Transport Canberra and City Services
<b>UNSW</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>WSUD</b>	Water Sensitive Urban Design

The background of the page is a photograph of a forest. In the foreground, a small waterfall cascades over dark, wet rocks. The water is white and frothy as it falls. The background is filled with tall, thin trees, mostly without leaves, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. The overall mood is serene and natural.

SECTION A.

# Transmittal Certificate



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MP  
Minister for the Environment  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

**2022-23 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report**

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 7(2) for public sector body of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* and in accordance with the requirements under the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2023*.

I certify that the information in the attached report and information provided for whole of government reporting is an honest and accurate account, and that all material information on the operations of the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has been included for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

I hereby certify that fraud and prevention has been managed in accordance with Part 2.3 of the *Public Sector Management Standards 2006* (see section 113 of the *Public Sector Management Standards 2016*).

Section 13 of the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* requires that you present the report to the Legislative Assembly within 15 weeks after the end of the reporting year.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Sophie Lewis**  
Commissioner for Sustainability  
and the Environment

6 September 2023



SECTION B.

# Organisational Overview and Performance



# B1. Organisational Overview

## B1.1 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (the Commissioner) is appointed under the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993* (the Act) and is accountable to the Legislative Assembly through the Minister for the Environment.

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is an independent statutory position.

The Commissioner administers no other legislation and has no other statutory functions.

## B1.2 Vision, Mission and Values

**Vision:** An environmentally sustainable ACT, region and Australia

**Mission:** To act as an independent voice for the environment and sustainability in the ACT, and promote community engagement

**Values:** Transparency, integrity, independence, research, rigour, inclusion

## B1.3 Role and Functions

The Commissioner undertakes the following functions (these are discussed at greater length in **Section B2**):

1. State of the Environment Reporting for the ACT (s19 of the Act)
2. Investigations:
  - a. as directed by the Minister (s12(1)(b) of the Act) or
  - b. at the discretion of the Commissioner, into agencies where actions would have a substantial impact on the environment of the ACT (s12(1)(c) of the Act), and
3. Investigations of complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a territory authority, or about issues relating to ecologically sustainable development (s13 of the Act).

## B1.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reporting

In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reporting, the Commissioner and team undertake the following:

- consider Aboriginal perspectives and seek Aboriginal people's contribution where appropriate in all projects and office work
- undertake projects associated with Aboriginal environmental traditional knowledge, including exploration of a Ngunnawal Seasonal Calendar
- follow up measures undertaken by directorates on Aboriginal heritage and land management in the State of the Environment Report
- commence events with a Welcome to Country, or where this is not possible an Acknowledgement of Country
- use social media to proactively promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events and peoples
- commit to priority procurement from Aboriginal providers (e.g., State of the Lakes Report graphic design), and
- active participation in 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness' training and calendar events.



Old growth eucalypt. Credit: Helen Cross

## B1.5 Organisational Structure

The Commissioner is a Senior Executive Service 2.3 Ministerial appointment.

The Commissioner's remuneration is determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.

The current Commissioner, Dr Sophie Lewis, holds the following additional roles as of 30 June 2023:

- ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Governance Committee
- ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU, Honorary Fellow
- Commission for the Human Future Board, and
- Planetary Health Equity Hothouse Advisory Board.

The Commissioner is supported by a core team. As of 30 June 2023, this team comprised of two directors (SOG B), two assistant directors (SOG C – one of whom has been on leave since October 2022), an office manager (ASO 6), and a project officer (ASO 6).

Office staff members are employed under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and observe the ACT Public Service Code of Ethics.<sup>1</sup>

The Office pays for corporate support from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) for matters such as:

- financial reporting
- records management
- recruitment, and
- other personnel services.

Property and Shared Services, located within Commercial Services and Infrastructure of the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), provides a range of centralised corporate support services including but not limited to:

- accommodation
- payroll
- procurement, and
- information technology support.

---

<sup>1</sup> ACT Government, 2010: *ACT Public Service Code of Ethics*

## B1.6 Stakeholders

The Commissioner engages with a suite of stakeholders, including:

Stakeholders	
<b>Federal Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau of Meteorology</li> <li>• CSIRO</li> <li>• National Capital Authority</li> </ul>
<b>Territory Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All ACT Government Directorates as required</li> </ul>
<b>Other Government Agencies, Statutory Authorities, Office Holders and Corporations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Auditor-General</li> <li>• ACT Human Rights Commission (Public Advocate, Children and Young People Commissioner)</li> <li>• ACT Chief Engineer</li> <li>• ACT Government Architect</li> <li>• Department of Health, Victoria</li> <li>• Icon Water</li> </ul>
<b>Universities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian National University</li> <li>• University of Canberra</li> <li>• University of New South Wales</li> </ul>
<b>Education Groups and Skill Trainers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ainslie School</li> <li>• Chapman Primary School</li> <li>• Duffy Primary School</li> <li>• Giralang Primary School</li> <li>• Hawker College</li> <li>• Lake Tuggeranong College</li> <li>• Majura Primary School</li> <li>• Merici College</li> <li>• Narrabundah College</li> <li>• North Ainslie Primary School</li> <li>• O'Connor Cooperative School</li> <li>• St Matthews Primary School</li> <li>• Telopea Park School</li> </ul>



## Stakeholders

### Non-Government Organisations with Environment and Sustainability Interests

- ACT Wildlife
- ACT for Bees and Other Pollinators
- ACT Rural Landholders Association
- Asthma Australia
- Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility
- Australian Electric Vehicles Association ACT Branch
- Australian Institute of Architects
- Canberra City Farm
- Canberra Environment Centre
- Canberra Forest Alliance
- Canberra Indian Myna Action Group
- Canberra Nature Map
- Canberra Ornithologists Group
- Community Toolbox Canberra
- Conservation Council ACT Region
- Environmental Defenders Office
- Friends of Grasslands
- Ginninderra Catchment Group
- Ginninderry Conservation Trust
- Greening Australia Capital Region
- The Hall Honeys
- Housing Institute Australia
- Landcare ACT
- Master Builders Association
- Molonglo Conservation Group
- National Parks Association ACT
- SEE-Change
- Southern ACT Catchment Group
- Southwell Scout Group Venturers ACT
- Trash Gather
- Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch



Rainbow over stormy sky. Credit: Mark Jekabsons

## **B1.7 The Commissioner's Achievements**

A summary of the Commissioner's achievements in 2022–23 against each key function follows.

### **B1.7.1 Monitoring the ACT Government Response to the ACT State of the Environment Report 2019**

The Response of the ACT Government to the Recommendations of the ACT State of the Environment Report 2019 was tabled in July 2020. This document can be found on the Commissioner's website ([envcomm.act.gov.au](http://envcomm.act.gov.au)).

Progress reports on the recommendations are detailed in **Section B.2.3.2**.

### **B1.7.2 Special Reports**

Special Reports are discussed in detail in **Section B.2.1.2**.

#### **Minister Directed Investigations**

There were no new reports commissioned under Ministerial direction pursuant to ss12(1) and 21(1)(a) of the Act in 2022–23.

#### **Commissioner Initiated Investigations**

The Commissioner initiated one investigation during the 2022–23 reporting period pursuant to ss12(1)(c) of the Act:

- Can Canberra 'Burn Right Tonight' or is there 'no safe level of air pollution'?  
An Investigation into wood heater policy in the ACT

### **B1.7.3 Complaints Received and Addressed**

The Commissioner responds to complaints from the public in accordance with the Act. The Act provides the Commissioner with the discretion not to investigate certain complaints (s14 of the Act).

The Commissioner routinely forwards complaints to the appropriate directorate for attention. If the response requires further inquiries, the Commissioner explores the issues raised and may determine to undertake an Investigation.

Details of complaints received and how these were addressed are outlined in **Section B2.1.4**.

### **B1.7.4 Other Submissions on Environmental Sustainability**

The Commissioner regularly contributes to government consultation processes to promote environmental sustainability and ecologically sustainable development where appropriate. A list of the submissions provided in this reporting year is outlined in **Section B2.4.3**.

### **B1.7.5 Community Engagement and Advocacy in Furtherance of the Objects of the Act and Functions of the Office**

The Office is committed to ongoing activities to increase engagement in sustainability and environmental matters, such as climate change. The Office is actively involved in using digital platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Office represents key information in infographics, replacing heavy text, to ensure inclusivity in the messages delivered. For further detail refer to **Section B2.4.2**.

## B1.8 Outlook: Current and Future Priorities and Challenges

Published early in 2022, the Australian State of the Environment Report presents a picture of the dual emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss across Australia. The environment of the ACT — like all jurisdictions — has been deeply affected by both these tremendous pressures.

Unequivocally, climate change and biodiversity loss are our greatest current and future challenges. Halting these crises must be a priority that underpins our decision-making.

The ACT recognised the urgency of climate change by declaring a climate emergency back in May 2019 and is on a pathway to electrification. Stationary energy, fossil fuel gas and transport are included in this all-electric future Canberra.

Meanwhile, habitat loss and fragmentation are two notable threatening processes driving biodiversity decline, both nationally and here in the ACT. The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* provides the primary legislative basis for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the ACT.

During 2022–23, the Office undertook its first Commissioner-initiated investigation into an issue of environmental significance, and examined wood heater policy in the ACT. Wood heaters are a known cause of poor air quality in winter.

The investigation clearly outlines the exceptional health costs of wood heater usage on the ACT community. Wood burning releases a range of health damaging pollutants that promote the development and worsening of a range of chronic diseases.

The report highlights further environmental pressures resulting from wood heater usage. Wood burning drives multiple environmental pressures, including through the release of greenhouse gases, such as methane, as well as pollutants, such as black carbon. In addition, harvesting wood from remnant vegetation decreases much needed habitat.

Despite decades of evidence that wood heaters are highly detrimental to human and environmental health, it has long been possible to purchase and install a new wood heater in the ACT.

The report has recommended that this should not be the case. The ongoing installation of wood heaters is demonstrably contrary to the ACT genuinely tackling our current environmental crises and their phase out must start now.

**Wood heaters have no place in Canberra's all-electric, 100% renewable energy future.**



## B2. Performance Analysis

### B2.1 Report on Statutory Functions Under the Act

#### B2.1.1 State of the Environment Report

This section relates to statutory functions under s19 of the Act.

Preparations for the next ACT State of the Environment Report commenced this reporting period. The report is due to the Minister on 19 December 2023.

The last State of the Environment Report (SoE) was delivered to the Minister in December 2019 and was covered in the 2019-20 Annual Report. The Response of the ACT Government to the Recommendations of the ACT State of the Environment Report 2019 was tabled in July 2020.

Of the 35 formal recommendations from the State of the Environment Report 2019, 29 are assessed in **Section B2.3.2**, providing an update on their implementation status for the 2022–23 reporting year. Recommendations 6, 8 and 14 were closed by OCSE in 2022; recommendation 9 was closed by OCSE in 2021; recommendation 22 was not agreed to; and recommendation 27 was addressed in the State of the Lakes and Waterways Investigation Report, completed by OCSE in 2022.

#### B2.1.2 Special Reports

One Special Report initiated by the Commissioner was completed in the 2022–23 reporting period:

##### **Can Canberra ‘Burn Right Tonight’ or is there ‘no safe level of air pollution’? An Investigation into wood heater policy in the ACT**

This Investigation explored the policy framework which determines the regulation and management of wood heaters in the ACT. Following on from a 2021 complaint investigation which looked into the specifics of the EPA’s capacity to respond to an individual’s adverse experiences of wood smoke, this Commissioner-initiated Investigation explored the ACT’s policies for wood heaters more broadly. This Report was delivered to the Minister in January 2023 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2023.

The main aims of this Report were to:

- Determine the efficacy of wood heater policies in the ACT.



The key findings were:

- That current policies, plans and strategies for managing wood heaters in the ACT are insufficient to protect human health and the environment of the Territory from issues arising from wood heaters.
  - Specifically, policy issues were identified relating to:
    - Inadequate emissions and efficiency standards
    - Difficulty with enforcement of smoke standards
    - Inefficacy of education campaigns
    - Inefficacy of wood heater replacement programs
    - Wood heater suburb restrictions being limited to some greenfield areas

OCSE provided 8 recommendations for the ACT Government to address the issues outlined in the Report.

An update from the ACT Government on the progress of outstanding recommendations from previous special reports is outlined in **Section B2.3.2**.

**B2.1.3 Background Reports**

The Office did not complete any background reports in 2022–23.

**B2.1.4 Complaints**

**Table 1: Summary of complaints for 2022–23**

Issues status	Number	Topic and Status
Formal Complaints received in 2022-23	<b>002-2022</b>	<p>One formal complaint was received in FY 2022-23:</p> <p><b><i>Failure of ACT Heritage Council to consider climate change and environmental sustainability in its decision to re-plant trees at Downer — Closed</i></b></p> <p>This complaint was received in August 2022. A full investigation was conducted and the final complaint report distributed to stakeholders in June 2023.</p>



**Tawny Frogmouth. Credit: Raw Shorty**

## B2.2 Performance Against Indicators

This section of the report provides an assessment of the Commissioner's performance against our key statutory functions as indicators:

**Table 2: Summary of performance against the Commissioner's accountability indicators**

<b>Description: Publication of the State of the Environment Report, investigation of complaints by Ministerial direction, or where a Territory agency's actions may have a substantial impact on the environment.</b>					
	2022-23 Targets	2022-23 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)	
<b>Total Cost (\$'000)<sup>1</sup></b>	\$1,814	\$1,519	(16%)	During the year there was an underspend in the State of the Environment Report and the Ngunnawal Seasonal Calendar project.	
<b>Payments for Expenses on Behalf of the Territory (\$'000)<sup>1</sup></b>	\$1,955	\$1,318	(33%)	Payments on behalf of the territory are recognised when cash is required. This variance includes the underspends in areas mentioned above.	
<b>Accountability Indicator</b>					<b>Minister</b>
a. Report on the uptake of recommendations on the ACT State of the Environment and special reports as part of the annual report	Oct-22	Oct-22	0%	N/A	Vassarotti
b. Undertake Ministerial initiated investigations in accordance with the Minister's direction	100%	100%	0%	No investigations were directed by the Minister within the reporting period.	Vassarotti
c. Report on complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a Territory agency as part of the annual report	Oct-22	Oct-22	0%	N/A	Vassarotti

Notes:

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996* and two indicators were removed from OCSE's reporting requirements

The variance is based on the June 2023 actual against the June 2023 target.

<sup>1</sup> Total cost (\$1,814 million) and payments for expenses on behalf of the Territory (\$1,955 million) are in relation to the Office of The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. The costs and payments for expenses on behalf of the Territory in the Statement of Income and Expenses on Behalf of the Territory also includes Environment Grants and Heritage Grants in addition to the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

## B2.3 Information to be Included in Commissioner's Annual Report

### B2.3.1 Special factors with a significant impact on the environment

This section relates to the statutory function under s20 (a) of the Act and includes details of 'any special factor that the Commissioner believes had a significant impact on the environment during the year'.

The Commissioner identified the following factors as having a significant impact on the environment during 2022-23:

- Climate change remains a critical environmental challenge faced by the ACT on multiple timescales, underpinning many of the other environmental and sustainability issues.
- The ongoing global biodiversity crisis continues to see a rapid decline in native species across Australia and within the ACT, as demonstrated by the Australian State of the Environment Report published in 2022.

### B2.3.2 Measures Taken During the Reporting Year

This section relates to the statutory functions under s20 (b) of the Act and must include details of 'measures taken during the year by or for the Territory in relation to the implementation of any recommendation in a State of the Environment Report under s19 or special report under s21'.

This includes responses from government directorates regarding:

1. actions undertaken between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 against 29 recommendations from the 2019 State of the Environment Report (s19 of the Act)
2. an update on directorate actions taken between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 against investigations (s21 of the Act).

Responses provided by directorates have been minimally edited.



Gang Gang Cockatoo. Credit: Ryan Colley

**Table 3: Summary of all Recommendations**

Minister Directed Investigation or State of the Environment Report	Year	Recommendations Open in OCSE Annual Report 2021–22
State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT	2022	11
Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the ACT	2021	9
State of the Environment 2019	2019	29
Heroic and the Dammed: Lower Cotter Catchment Restoration Evaluation	2018	7
Independent Audit of the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment	2018	10
Implementation Status Report: review of the ACT's climate change policy	2017	4
Independent Audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment	2017	6

**Evaluation of directorate responses**

The Commissioner provided comments on the directorate's response to each recommendation, and the evidence provided towards progress in addressing each recommendation was rated. Responses were classified as 'Satisfactory-Closed', 'Satisfactory-Open', 'Insufficient evidence – Open', or 'Unsatisfactory (no evidence towards progress) – Open'. Recommendations classified as 'Open' will require updating of progress in the next reporting period.

The aim of such comments is to guide information that will be provided for the 2023–24 reporting year and to ensure progress towards recommendations is tracked from one year to the next.

# State of the Environment Report 2019

## Government’s Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the 29 recommendations from the State of the Environment Report 2019 that remained open for the 2022–23 reporting year.

### Recommendation 1: Overarching Recommendations

Establish a sustainable funding model for the conservation of biodiversity, environmental protection, water management, the reduction of fire risks, and citizen science initiatives to assist in the planning, prioritisation and acquittal of programs and works.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
-------

#### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response

#### Commissioner’s response

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 2: Overarching Recommendations

Establish data management architecture, especially for environmental issues, to address cross-portfolio communication needs.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS	HEALTH	CMTEDD
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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response

### TCCS response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- The TCCS Emission Reduction Working Group continues to meet to consolidate efforts across TCCS. TCCS has continued development of a Climate Change and Sustainability Register (the register).

### Health response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- ACTHD will continue to work closely with EPSDD and other relevant government agencies to enhance data in relation to environmental reporting and monitoring.

CMTEDD response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

All ACT Government Directorates have signed the Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding, creating an agreement to share data between ACT Government Entities, where it is legal, ethical and safe to do so.

The Data Management Group has committed to supporting directorates to work on the following priorities:

- Making Data Visible
- Collaborating on Directorate Data Strategies
- Increasing Data Literacy

The ACT Wellbeing Framework data dashboard continues to provide an opportunity analysis of progress towards having a climate resilient environment and community, connection with nature and a healthy and resilient ACT natural environment

#### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSTD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS, Health, CMTEDD: Satisfactory — Closed.

## Recommendation 3: Overarching Recommendations

Establish a mechanism to ensure the alignment of ACT ministerial arrangements and the promotion of information sharing on the basis that environmental issues are the concern of 'one government' and across portfolios.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

TCCS	CMTEDD
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## TCCS response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

The TCCS Emission Reduction Working Group continues to meet to consolidate efforts across TCCS. TCCS has continued development of the Climate Change and Sustainability Register (the register).

## CMTEDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

Work is underway in partnership between CMTEDD Policy and Cabinet division and the ACT Data Analytics Centre to update the public facing Wellbeing Indicators, including those in the Environment and Climate Domain, to provide the next iteration of data, and increase trend information available for reporting

## Commissioner's response 2023

**TCCS: Satisfactory — Closed.**

**CMTEDD: Insufficient evidence – Open: Provide specific details on what work is underway to progress this recommendation.**

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## Recommendation 4: Overarching Recommendations

Identify opportunities to improve collaboration with the NSW Government on cross-jurisdictional natural resource management. This should include participation in data collection programs and active management of natural resource management pressures.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

EPSDD response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response

Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 5: Overarching Recommendations

Ensure community participation in the design of all new *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* strategic assessments and ensure that information flow about offsets, implementation plans, and programs is publicly accessible and understandable, regular, targeted, and subject to community and other consultation.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 7: Indigenous Matters

Continue consultation with Ngunnawal people to:

- explore the potential of developing a unified Framework for Cultural Indicators in respect of cultural water and cultural burning;
- explore the management potential of an Indigenous Seasonal Calendar;
- consider the establishment of an Indigenous River Rangers program; and
- establish a specific category of Indigenous heritage grants.

Government response: AGREED

### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 10: Urban Trees

Advance Action 1 of the *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City (2019)* by convening an environmental-economic accounts steering committee with representatives from government, academics, and the community.

**Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE**

**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD

TCCS

### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response

### TCCS response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS collaborated with EPSDD as lead agency in preparing this response. EPSDD Climate Change and Energy Policy are preparing the response.

TCCS will continue play an advisory role and supplier of data. TCCS will contribute to the initiatives practically, in particular providing data/information that contributes to the environmental recommendations.

### Commissioner's response 2023

**EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.**

**TCCS: Satisfactory – Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.**

## Recommendation 11: Urban Trees

Continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions and research institutes to generate the evidence base for appropriate urban forest understorey and other plantings, having specific regard to climate change implications.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

TCCS

### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### TCCS response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

During 2022–23 TCCS continues to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy target of a 30 per cent tree canopy cover in the ACT by the year 2045. In 2022–23, a total of 12,650 trees were planted in the urban environment, including 11,680 street trees and trees in open space planted as part of the TCCS tree planting program, and an additional 970 trees provided during community engagement events to increase tree canopy cover and improve biodiversity in local schools, recreation areas and on private land.

As there is a particular focus on planting in residential areas with low canopy cover and areas vulnerable to urban heat 5,211 trees were planted in street verges and laneways and 6,469 trees in parks and urban open space.

Over 910 public suggestions for tree planting locations were received through the YourSay interactive map in 2022–23 and 1,704 trees were planted on suitable sites in response. Since the YourSay interactive map was launched in 2020, a total of 4,606 tree planting location requests have been received and 4,150 trees have been planted in response to YourSay requests.

Updated figures can be provided in mid August 2023 on the number of young trees that were watered throughout the warmer months.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Insufficient Evidence – Open: In the following reporting year provide information on collaboration with other jurisdictions and research institutes relating to climate appropriate plantings.

**Recommendation 12: Climate Change**

Engage the community in consultation about and the design of the Social Cost of Carbon mechanism under consideration in the *Climate Change Strategy 2019–25*.

**Government response: AGREED**

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS
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**EPSDD response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

**TCCS response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS collaborated with EPSDD as lead agency in preparing this response. EPSDD Climate Change and Energy Policy are preparing the response.

TCCS will continue to contribute to the initiatives as required.

#### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Satisfactory – Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

### Recommendation 13: Climate Change

Investigate opportunities to increase carbon uptake and storage in natural ecosystems and urban environments.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

TCCS

#### EPSDD response

##### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

#### TCCS response

##### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

During 2022–23 TCCS continues to strive towards the Urban Forest Strategy target of a 30 per cent tree canopy cover in the ACT by the year 2045. In 2022–23, a total of 12,650

trees planted in the urban environment, including 11,680 street trees and trees in open space planted as part of the TCCS tree planting program, and an additional 970 trees provided during community engagement events to increase tree canopy cover and improve biodiversity in local schools, recreation areas and on private land.

As there is a particular focus on planting in residential areas with low canopy cover and areas vulnerable to urban heat 5,211 trees were planted in street verges and laneways and 6,469 trees in parks and urban open space.

Over 910 public suggestions for tree planting locations were received through the YourSay interactive map in 2022–23 and 1,704 trees were planted on suitable sites in response. Since the YourSay interactive map was launched in 2020, a total of 4,606 tree planting location requests have been received and 4,150 trees have been planted in response to YourSay requests.

Updated figures can be provided in mid-August 2023 on the number of young trees that were watered throughout the warmer months. from October 2021 to April 2022.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

EPsDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**TCCS: Insufficient Evidence – Open: Provide information specific to carbon uptake and storage.**

**Recommendation 15: Waste**

**Advance its contribution to adopting a circular economy in accordance with the National Waste Strategy.**

**Government response: AGREED**

**Responsible Directorates:**

TCCS
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**TCCS response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

At a national level, the National Waste Policy Action Plan will be expanded over the coming year to strengthen Australia’s efforts towards the 2030 waste and resource recovery targets.



In the ACT, the draft ACT Circular Economy Strategy 2022-25 was released in October 2022 and public consultation was undertaken for 6 weeks following its release. It is expected that the final Strategy and Action Plan will be released later in 2023. Circular Economy Legislation is intended to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly later in 2023. The food organics garden organics (FOGO) pilot commenced in Belconnen in November 2021 and is expected to continue until the City-wide roll out. Development of the large scale FOGO facility is underway and expected to be delivered in 2026. Once operational the city-wide rollout of FOGO will be able to commence.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

Satisfactory — Closed.

**Recommendation 16: Transport**

Explore incentives to increase the uptake of public transport, car and ride sharing options, and active travel, including cycling amongst women and girls.

**Government response: AGREED**

**Responsible Directorates:**

TCCS

**TCCS response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

Relevant incentives include:

*Rethink your routine*

In preparation to delivering light rail stage 2 to Woden, and other major infrastructure improvements such as the redevelopment of the Canberra theatre precinct and Woden CIT and transport hub, the ACT Government established a Disruption Taskforce to navigate and mitigate the impacts to Canberrans.

One of the key interventions for the taskforce was to implement a major behaviour change campaign to reduce traffic congestion. The ‘Rethink your routine’ brand was established by TCCS as the main driver to prompt people to use alternative modes of transport.

The first phase of 'Rethink your routine' ran over 3 months (from the end of January to the end of April 2023) and timed with the first major travel impacts in the city associated with construction for raising London Circuit.

Phase 1 of the campaign established the brand narrative in market through region-based digital and out-of-home advertising and through bespoke event messaging.

The ACT Government will take the momentum and lessons learned from phase 1 of the campaign and establish it as a long-term, always on campaign over the duration of major infrastructure improvements.

Continuing to change the travel behaviours of Canberrans is important as construction and disruption becomes a part of life in the ACT over the next 5-10 years due to major public and private developments which will transform the city.

#### *Active Streets for School*

Active Streets for School: 1500 blue path wayfinding stencils were installed around 53 schools in Canberra during the 2022–23 financial year.

The stencils provide peace of mind for parents and carers the route to school is safe and easy to follow however are beneficial for all Canberrans.

They promote safe crossing locations, a 'safety in numbers' approach by encouraging families to use similar routes and active school environments which generate awareness within the community and encourage motorists to slow down.

#### *Cycling infrastructure*

In 2022–23, TCCS completed the second stage of the Belconnen Bikeway providing safe off-road cycling connections between the University of Canberra, CIT Bruce and the AIS.

#### *Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines*

Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines are currently being finalised. These Guidelines will improve access, mobility, health and safety in our public spaces and will deliver practical outcomes to the daily lives of women, girls and vulnerable people in Canberra. They are expected to be released in July 2023.

### **Commissioner's response 2023**

**Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.**

# Recommendation 17: Transport

Consider implementing innovative community engagement programs which encourage active travel, including the establishment of car-free streets and car-free dates as a part of the ACT festival calendar.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

TCCS
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## TCCS response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

Programs to encourage active travel include:

#### Shared e-scooter scheme

In 2022, the community and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the expansion of the ACT’s e-scooter scheme.

During September and October 2022, feedback was invited on the expansion to Gungahlin and Woden, and from December 2022 to February 2023 feedback was invited for the expansion to Tuggeranong, Molonglo and additional areas of Weston Creek and Woden Valley.

An online interactive map was available on the ACT Government’s YourSay website which allowed people to give feedback on how the implementation of the scheme in new operating areas met their needs.

#### Active Travel Plan and design guide

Active travel is a fundamental part of the ACT Government’s plans to improve liveability and sustainability of our city. In mid-2022 the ACT Government sought community input on a new Active Travel Plan exploring how to enable more Canberrans to ride, walk, scoot and skate more often.

A detailed best-practice design guide for safe and people-friendly streets was also released for community comment in mid-2023. This will set out the new design expectations for Canberra’s streets to support walking and cycling in key parts of the city. The draft design guide was shaped and informed by best-practice examples and research from cities around the world.

Community feedback will be used to finalised both documents which are to be released in late 2023.

*Sustainable Travel Festival*

TCCS is collaborating with other agencies including CRA and EPSDD on a Sustainable Travel Festival planned to be held in late 2023. The event will showcase active travel and public transport options.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

**Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.**

**Recommendation 18: Transport**

**Hasten the electrification of the ACT bus fleet.**

**Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE**

**Responsible Directorates:**

TCCS
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**TCCS response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

Transport Canberra has now received all 12 of the first tranche of battery electric buses. These are in service and operating well. The procurement for a further 94 battery electric buses was finalised in May 2023 with delivery expected between 2023 and 2026. Six chargers have been installed at Tuggeranong and two are to be installed at Belconnen Depots. Woden Depot will also have chargers installed in the future. Transport Canberra is progressing the required infrastructure to be able to house and charge larger numbers off zero-emission vehicles at existing TC facilities and future TC depots.

Bespoke “off-site” electric bus housing and charging facilities have been explored and discounted due to the complexities this raises and the inefficiencies and additional costs such a facility would incur.

Transport Canberra has finalised the feasibility into future depots. This has been reviewed by government, with Transport Canberra now progressing next steps. Transport Canberra will use the Depot Feasibility Study and further investigations to inform site suitability and energy capacity for the new depot.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

**Recommendation 19: Transport**

Promote the use of digital technology applications to streamline the uptake of public transport options.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

TCCS

**TCCS response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

*Transport Canberra Journey Planner*

- Transport Canberra’s online Journey Planner helps people plan their trip ahead of time. Visit [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au) to get started.
- Alternatively, Canberrans can use NXTBUS for real time service information.

*MyWay+*

- The ACT Government is delivering a new smart transport system call MyWay+ (plus). MyWay+ will improve Canberra’s public transport system and provide Canberrans with access to improved real-time journey planning and convenient payment methods, such as tapping on and off with a debit and credit card, or their smart phone.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

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## Recommendation 20: Air

Build on the incentives to encourage the replacement of wood heaters, specifically targeting the Tuggeranong Valley.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 21: Air

Increase the number of National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure compliance monitoring stations.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

HEALTH

### Health response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

The Bushfire and Smoke Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025 has been published including the first action plan. Work is commencing on the second action plan. ACT Health Directorate has conducted a low cost sensor trial and the report is currently being presented to the Minister for Health and the Minister for the Environment. ACT Health Directorate supports the expansion of the ambient air monitoring network in a cost effective manner.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

**Unsatisfactory — Open: Please provide evidence of progress towards NEPM compliant station.**

**Recommendation 23: Air**

**In collaboration with health professionals, improve knowledge of the impacts of air pollution on human health and the associated costs to the health system and economy.**

**Government response: AGREED**

**Responsible Directorates:**

HEALTH
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**Health response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

The 2023–24 budget provided \$366,000 over two years for research on the health impacts of climate change to inform the future development of a health and climate change adaptation action plan for the ACT.

This initiative will improve the resilience and responsiveness of the health sector to climate change, as well as maximising opportunities to reduce emissions associated with existing infrastructure and practices.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

**Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.**

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## Recommendation 24: Land

Improve knowledge on land use change in the ACT. This could be achieved through the development of annual land accounts using the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting framework.

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**Government response: AGREED**

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**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD

TCCS

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### TCCS response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS collaborated with EPSDD as lead agency in preparing this response. EPSDD advise that work is underway and will be providing response on this item.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**TCCS: Satisfactory – Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.**

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## Recommendation 25: Biodiversity

Increase the protection of mature and hollow-bearing trees to maintain critical habitat and provide incentives for rural landholders to protect paddock trees.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 26: Biodiversity

Expand its communication strategy in respect of biodiversity and environmental issues and encourage ACT Government employees to make biodiversity reports available to the community in innovative ways.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

Recommendation 28: Water

Produce an annual recreational water quality report that includes monitoring results, investigations into the main sources of pollutants, recommended actions to improve water quality, and assessments of management effectiveness.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	HEALTH	TCCS	CMTEDD
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EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

Health response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

ACTHD will work closely with EPSDD, TCCS and the new Office of Water in the development of enhanced reporting and monitoring.

## TCCS response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS collaborated with EPSDD as lead agency in preparing this response. EPSDD advise that work is underway and is being undertaken by Office for Water. EPSDD will be providing response on this item.

## CMTEDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

In the second half of 2023, Access Canberra will trial an advanced water meter, with potential to improve the timeliness and scope of monitoring results. Specifications suggest that the water meter will support real-time analytical results including of algal loads and more accurate in-field decision-making for a range of parameters. The initiative has the potential to improve monitoring results for public reporting.

Healthy waterway data is being explored as a possible future pipeline within the ACT Government Data Lake, which would make data available for the creation of dashboards, for both internal and public use, as well as opportunities to make this available to other Directorates.

Beyond this, note that CMTEDD is not the lead for this recommendation. The response to this recommendation should be led by EPSDD with input from Health and TCCS.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**Health, TCCS & CMTEDD: Unsatisfactory — Open: Provide evidence of the production of an annual recreational water quality report.**

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# Recommendation 29: Water

Establish a government reporting framework for the assessment of aquatic ecosystem health and water quality. This should incorporate work undertaken for the Catchment Health Indicator Program and produce public reports at appropriate intervals to provide meaningful assessments.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

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# Recommendation 30: Water

Ensure implementation plans are produced for the Molonglo River Reserve, Lower Cotter Catchment and Googong Foreshore management plans.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 31: Water

Provide incentives to increase wastewater recycling and the use of non-potable water by the community.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS
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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## TCCS response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS collaborated with EPSDD as lead agency in preparing this response. EPSDD advise that work is underway and is being undertaken by Office for Water. EPSDD will be providing response on this item.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

## Recommendation 32: Water

Identify opportunities to develop integrated water cycle management (as well as water-sensitive urban design) across new and existing urban areas, capturing and using stormwater and creating biodiversity habitat.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

TCCS response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS collaborated with EPSDD as lead agency in preparing this response. EPSDD advise that work is underway and is being undertaken by Office for Water.

TCCS has been working with EPSDD to successfully hand over additional Healthy Waterways assets including floating wetlands at Yerrabi Pond. The Healthy Waterways 'steering committee' has been convened by EPSDD.

Stage 2 of the Healthy Waterways project has commenced. As part of Stage 2, TCCS continues to work closely with the EPSDD Healthy Waterways project team to provide input and technical advice on the design of new Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in different locations to improve codes, standards and the handover process of these assets. Designed assets include stormwater reuse and kerb outlets.

TCCS is continuously collaborating with EPSDD on the ongoing maintenance and operations of constructed Healthy waterway assets.

#### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

## Recommendation 33: Water

Review codes which relate to flooding and finalise the 2016 flood strategy and associated flood mapping.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 34: Fire

Ensure tolerable fire intervals are considered in decision frameworks for prescribed burns.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.



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# Recommendation 35: Fire

Regularly evaluate and report publicly on the commitment to ecological and cultural burning and the outcomes of these activities.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT (2022)

## Government's Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the 11 recommendations from this investigation that are open for the 2022–23 reporting year..

### Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

Government response: AGREED

Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from ACT Auditor-General's 2018 Report on Acceptance of Stormwater Assets*

#### Recommendation 5: Catchment-wide stormwater planning

EPSDD should identify options for conducting catchment-wide planning, and undertake analysis of stormwater needs, against which future development applications would be assessed. These options should be provided to the Minister for Planning and Land Management for consideration. OCSE Note: catchment-wide stormwater planning encompasses more than just flood planning and should also consider water quality impacts and the measures that will be needed to mitigate these (see below recommendation).

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

#### EPSDD response

##### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

Government response: AGREED

Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from ACT Auditor-General's 2018 Report on Acceptance of Stormwater Assets*

### Recommendation 6: Consideration of stormwater solutions

EPSDD and TCCS, in consultation with the Suburban Land Agency (SLA), should develop a range of stormwater management solutions for new estates and subdivisions, in the context of a catchment-wide plan for the area, to ensure that the optimal solution and the means of financing it are adopted.

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

TCCS

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## TCCS response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

In new suburbs such as Whitlam, Denman Prospect, Strathnairn and Macnamara, stormwater management solutions are being developed through consultation between TCCS and the developers.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Insufficient Evidence — Open: Please provide additional information on development of solutions.

## Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

Government response: AGREED

### Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from ACT Auditor-General's 2018 Report on Acceptance of Stormwater Assets*

### Recommendation 10: Development of performance indicators

EPSDD and TCCS should each develop performance measures for the achievement of ACT Government stormwater objectives, including the management of stormwater discharges. These should be publicly reported (for example, in the ACT Water Report).

### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

Government response: AGREED

#### Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from ACT Auditor-General's 2018 Report on Acceptance of Stormwater Assets*

#### Recommendation 15: Management of the existing stormwater network

TCCS should:

- a. develop a preventative maintenance plan for stormwater assets, and
- b. clearly identify problem areas with, and risks to, the stormwater network.

If required, appropriate remedial action should be recommended to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

#### Responsible Directorates:

TCCS

TCCS response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

Draft Stormwater Strategy produced, focusing on preventative maintenance, augmentation and renewal.

Draft review of Stormwater Asset Management Plan produced to support draft Stormwater Strategy.

Reporting to Minister for Transport and City Services to occur in 2023–24.

Commissioner’s response 2023

Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the next reporting year

Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

Government response: AGREED

Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from ACT Auditor-General’s 2018 Report on Acceptance of Stormwater Assets*

**Recommendation 16: Reducing damage to accepted assets**

A working group (including representatives from TCCS, EPSDD, the SLA, Access Canberra and other relevant entities) should be established to: a) develop a coordinated multi-agency strategy to reduce the damage to accepted assets caused by building and other construction activity, and b) report to the Minister for Planning and Land Management on actions to be taken, then subsequently the results of any actions undertaken.

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

Government response: AGREED

#### Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from ACT Auditor-General's 2018 Report on Acceptance of Stormwater Assets*

#### Recommendation 17: Review and augmentation of existing stormwater infrastructure

TCCS should develop a forward program for the ongoing review of stormwater infrastructure in established areas of Canberra and augmentation of the infrastructure where necessary. The forward program should be provided to the Minister for Transport and City Services for consideration and direction.

#### Responsible Directorates:

TCCS

## TCCS response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

Draft Stormwater Strategy produced, focusing on preventative maintenance, augmentation and renewal.

Draft review of Stormwater Asset Management Plan produced to support draft Stormwater Strategy.

Reporting to Minister for Transport and City Services to occur in 2023–24.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

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**Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the next reporting year**

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## Recommendation 1

**Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).**

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**Government response: AGREED**

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### Re-opened recommendation:

*Summarised from OCSE's 2012 Report on the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin*

### Recommendation 7: Strategic approach to WSUD

The ACT Government should develop a strategic approach to WSUD. This should include:

- a. Identifying sites where installing catchment intervention, such as wetlands and pollution control ponds, would improve water quality entering urban lakes. This should include identifying WSUD that complement current programs of installing wetlands and water control ponds in both new urban areas and retrofitting in existing suburbs where applicable.
- b. Ensuring that WSUD requirements are enforced, in particular:
  - i. ensuring that wetlands and ponds are of appropriate sizes to service their catchments, and
  - ii. undertaking auditing/compliance arrangements to ensure that temporary pollution control ponds for sediment control during the construction phase in new estates are maintained and functioning effectively.
- c. Monitoring the effectiveness of WSUD through improved monitoring following urban developments to determine whether water quality meets WSUD general code targets. Results should be used to inform improvements in WSUD standards.
- d. Comparison of ACT approaches to WSUD with those of other Australian urban areas to help ours remain consistent with developing technology and best practice.



- e. Reviewing the efficacy of existing GPTs. The review should include:
- effectiveness in pollutant reduction
  - effectiveness of current maintenance of pollution control measures
  - capital costs
  - ongoing maintenance costs to ensure the current drainage infrastructure remains high-standard and is in line with current best practice, protecting downstream environments
  - reduction of polluted leachate water, and
  - the capacity to manage requirements of future urban growth and development.
- f. working with the NCA and NSW Councils in the catchment to coordinate a strategic approach across the catchment.

**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD	TCCS
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**EPSDD response**

**Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation**

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

- Nil response.

**TCCS response**

**Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation**

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	<b>Programs and activities well advanced</b>	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	<b>Applicable</b>	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

As part of Stage 2 of the Healthy Waterways project, new Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) are being designed, including a stormwater reuse and kerb outlets in Kambah, to be retrofitted in existing suburbs.

As these assets are retrofitted within developed areas, their sizes are the best they can be at the locations chosen for them.

**Commissioner's response 2023**

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**TCCS: Insufficient Evidence — Open: Provide further evidence in next reporting year of progress to a strategic approach to WSUD.**

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## Recommendation 1

Re-open water-relevant recommendations of statutory reports and continue to report against these (as identified in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 in section 2.4).

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**Government response: AGREED**

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**Re-opened recommendation:**

*Summarised from OCSE's 2012 Report on the state of the watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin*

**Recommendation 13: QSTP Environmental Authorisation update**

The ACT Environment Protection Authority (EPA) review and update the Environmental Authorisation number 0417 for sewage treatment within the Queanbeyan City Council Sewage Treatment Plant to ensure that the treatment process results in discharge quality that matches contemporary best practise for a modern, urban sewerage treatment plant. In line with this, the QCCSTWP should continually review and improve its mitigating practises for inundation and washout events at the treatment plant.

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**Responsible Directorates:**

CMTEDD

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**CMTEDD response**

**Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation**

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

The EPA has undertaken to update the conditions in the Environmental Authorisation in line with the Environment Protection Act objective to require people engaging in polluting activities to make progressive environmental improvements.

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**Commissioner's response 2023**

**Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.**

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## Recommendation 2

Publish an annual detailed breakdown of how the Water Abstraction Charge revenue is expended.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 3

Institute a long-term monitoring and reporting program (in addition to the invaluable information provided by Waterwatch), to comprehensively assess urban water quality, ecological condition, recreation and aesthetic values, management effectiveness, and the impacts of new suburb developments on water quality.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD HEALTH

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Health response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

ACTHD will work closely with EPSDD and the new Office of Water in the development of enhanced reporting and monitoring.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**Health: Insufficient Information — Open: Please define actions taken to work closely with other directorates to progress this recommendation.**



Young people riding bikes in Lyneham. Credit: EPSDD

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## Recommendation 4

Establish and maintain a single point of truth for water quality in the ACT on a public online platform. This should:

- incorporate water quality monitoring data from all currently available sources including ACT Government, the NCA, universities (where accessible) and Waterwatch;
- include lake and river closure information, and pollution and blue-green algae reporting; and provide the location of the recreational water quality report and the reporting framework for the assessment of aquatic ecosystem health and water quality described in Recommendations 28 and 29 in the 2019 ACT State of the Environment Report.

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**Government response: AGREED**

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**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD	HEALTH
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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Health response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

ACTHD will work closely with EPSDD, TCCS and the new Office of Water in the development of enhanced reporting and monitoring.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

Health: Insufficient Information — Open: Please define actions taken to work closely with other directorates to progress this recommendation.

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# Recommendation 5

Formally recognise the cultural value of water held by the Ngunnawal people and further incorporate Ngunnawal practices into management of urban lakes and waterways.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Recommendation 6

Fund improvement of the performance of water quality control infrastructure, including through:

- maintenance of existing ponds, wetlands and gross pollutant traps
- supporting activities for water quality (e.g. expanded street sweeping, appropriate disposal of organic matter and application of fertilisers in public places), and
- design and build new water quality control infrastructure in accordance with sub-catchment plans developed as part of Recommendation 7.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS
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## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## TCCS response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

As lead agency, EPSDD Office for Water will be providing reporting and status update on government response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Insufficient Evidence — Open: Provide commentary relating to the funding of maintenance and pollution reduction activities carried out by TCCS.

## Recommendation 7

Implement a consolidated management framework for the urban waterways of the ACT.

This should:

- take a catchment or sub-catchment approach, explicitly recognising the inter-connectedness of urban waterways, ponds and lakes, and their catchments
- incorporate and enhance existing management planning and strategy documents, resolving inconsistencies and ensuring that objectives for urban waterway management are clearly defined
- involve Ngunnawal community in water management planning and practice, and
- deal with management of both water flow and water quality.

Government response: AGREED

**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD	TCCS
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**EPSDD response****Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation**

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

- Nil response.

**TCCS response****Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation**

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

As lead agency, EPSDD Office for Water will be providing reporting and status update on government response.

**Commissioner's response 2023**

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**TCCS: Insufficient Evidence — Open:** Provide commentary on how TCCS is implementing its responsibilities under the Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan, released in 2022. TCCS is recorded as the delivery agency for 11 of the 27 services relating to Canberra's urban lakes and ponds identified in this document, including responsibility for management policies and asset maintenance. These responsibilities are directly relevant to this recommendation and should be considered in the next reporting period.



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# Recommendation 9

Strengthen community participation in water management through measures such as:

- providing secure, ongoing funding to community groups working on catchment management, water quality testing, ecological surveys and public education and engagement
- expanding the use of deliberative democracy, and
- establishing a formal mechanism for meaningful community involvement in the governance of the proposed Office of Water.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 10

Reform the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) approach to monitoring, compliance and enforcement relating to urban water conditions to re-focus on its core function of protecting the environment, including that the EPA:

- is sufficiently empowered and resourced to undertake compliance monitoring and enforcement of all environmental conditions and activities, including around erosion and sediment controls, and
- monitor the effectiveness and compliance of water pollution control structures for new developments, including during the construction phase, to reduce stormwater impacts on lakes and rivers.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

CMTEDD

### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### CMTEDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- The ACT Government's 2022-23 Budget provide for two new Environment Protection Officers.
- This enabled a Building Sites and Business Environmental Outreach Program. Hundreds of additional sites have been inspected, with advice provided on how to reduce water pollution
- The EPA will trial an advanced water meter, which could improve compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental conditions related to water.

The Environment Protection Authority has partnered with ACT Healthy Waterways to develop a Green Card Training Concept, to prepare training modules and materials for delivery to construction site workers, focusing on compliance with environment protection requirements, especially erosion and sediment controls.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

**CMTEDD: Unsatisfactory (no evidence towards progress) — Open: In the next reporting year, provide evidence of substantive reforms, including in enforcement, and improved compliance.**

**Recommendation 11**

**Ensure that all new water-related policies, plans and strategies are underpinned by future climate change projections for the ACT.**

**Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE**

**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD
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**EPSDD response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

**Comments on status**

- Nil response.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Recommendation 12

Reform the approach to urban planning and future land development to ensure that stormwater management is preventative and proactive rather than remedial and reactive.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the ACT (2021)

## Government’s Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the nine recommendations from this investigation that are open for the 2022–23 reporting year..

### Recommendation 1

ACT Government to implement a methodology (such as that presented in this Investigation) to report on scope 3 emissions across the Territory every three years.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 2

ACT Government to work in partnership with state, territory and national governments to discuss initiatives to reduce scope 3 emissions across jurisdictions.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 3

Reform the approach to urban planning and future land development to ensure that stormwater management is preventative and proactive rather than remedial and reactive.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

TCCS	CMTEDD
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### TCCS response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

TCCS is contributing to EPSDD consultancy work on scope 3 emissions for ACT Government in 2023.

#### CMTEDD response

##### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

Options to standardise data collection processes for the reporting of scope three emissions will be assessed, subject to data availability and agreement on carbon emission methodologies.

#### Commissioner's response 2023

TCCS: Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress.

CMTEDD: Unsatisfactory — Open: No evidence provided of progress towards this recommendation.

## Recommendation 5

Implement sustainable procurement principles, including developing mandatory embodied carbon limits of procured equipment, items and materials, and supporting the longevity of equipment and waste reduction.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

CMTEDD

#### CMTEDD response

##### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

The ACT Government has a Sustainable Procurement Policy that has been in place since 2015. However, as a part of the Procurement Reform Program, Procurement ACT is looking for opportunities to streamline and strengthen procurement policies, including considering sustainable design in construction related procurement. Procurement policy opportunities will be developed in partnership with MPC, EPSDD and TCCS.

### Commissioner's response 2023

**Insufficient evidence – Open: In the following reporting year please address embodied carbon limits as stated in the recommendation.**

## Recommendation 7

**Develop and implement a policy for flexible business operations that supports reduction of scope 3 emissions such as working from home and reducing business travel.**

**Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE**

**Responsible Directorates:**

CMTEDD

### CMTEDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

The ACT Government has a *Flexible Working Arrangements Policy* which supports its *Hub and Spoke Workplace Strategy*. Employees who do not have frontline service responsibilities are able to work from home as part of a hybrid working arrangement, and office spaces available to all ACTPS employees are being created in every Town Centre. These workspaces provide further flexibility for our people to choose to work closer to their homes, and enable shorter commutes and encourage active travel, which in turn support reductions in scope 3 emissions.

### Commissioner's response 2023

**Satisfactory – Open: Continue reporting progress in the next reporting year.**



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## Recommendation 8

Develop and implement education and awareness-raising campaigns for residents on reducing household scope 3 emissions. Key areas of focus should include low carbon building products, adopting the circular economy, and household food waste reduction.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 10

Undertake analysis to determine the barriers and opportunities to increase the supply of low carbon cement to the ACT.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 11

Define and implement scope 3 performance metrics for at least 65% of the highest emission intensity infrastructure types by 2025.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

# Recommendation 12

Review and expand legislation and ensure compliance of new building regulations related to scope 3 emissions, such as:

- a. Incentivise renovation of existing buildings instead of demolition
- b. Undertake a carbon impact assessment and implement mandatory embodied carbon limits for all new and replacement buildings, fit out, and infrastructure
- c. Implement allowable low carbon material lists for construction
- d. Develop an exemplar infrastructure project to demonstrate low embodied energy building principles
- e. Increase the reuse of construction and demolition materials for public and private buildings, including the development of an accreditation system to ensure quality of the materials for reuse
- f. Increase inspections and reporting of compliance of building codes.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

# The Heroic and the Dammed – Lower Cotter Catchment Restoration Evaluation 2018

## Government’s Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the seven recommendations from this investigation that remained open for the 2022–23 reporting year.

### Recommendation 1.1

The Lower Cotter Catchment Monitoring and Evaluation Framework be implemented urgently.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

EPSDD response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 1.2

All existing and future Lower Cotter Catchment data should be stored in a secure central database

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 1.3

Improve consistency and coordination of monitoring, mapping and modelling resources across government.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 2.2

Distribute Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) funding discretely for core ongoing operational and strategic long-term management. Allocation of resources between business units within PCS should reflect reserve management responsibilities outlined in the implementation plan.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 2.3

Allocate funding specifically for the implementation and ongoing costs of Recommendation 1 (Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation) across PCS, Conservation Research, Water Policy, and the Environment Protection Authority respective of their individual contributions.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Independent Audit of the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment 2018

## Government’s Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the ten recommendations from this investigation that remained open for the 2022–23 reporting year.

### Recommendation 2

It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures ongoing resourcing and funding for the maintenance and enhancement of the ecological condition of MNES within the strategic assessment area.

Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

#### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

#### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.



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## Recommendation 3

It is recommended that the ACT Government adheres to timing requirements for all the commitments.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 4

It is recommended that the next Audit be carried out by May 2022 and that the ACT Government seeks agreement from the Commonwealth for this due date by 30 June 2018.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 6

It is recommended that the ACT Government incorporates climate change resilience considerations in the management of MNES in the strategic assessment area.

Government response: AGREED

### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 7

It is recommended that the ACT Government gives urgent consideration to the urban edge effect that is apparent around the Molonglo River Corridor, which is likely to be exacerbated as each of the new suburbs in the later stages of the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment area are developed.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 8

It is recommended that the ACT Government notes the Key Risks section and Observations details in the Audit Table and incorporates all the recommendations in this section into future management.

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Government response: AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 9

It is recommended that the ACT Government further investigates the commitments that have been termed *Undetermined*.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 10

It is recommended that the ACT Government ensure adaptive management principles are carefully scrutinised and considered for incorporation into implementation of the commitments for the NES Plan.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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### EPSDD response

#### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 11

It is recommended that the ACT Government considers Indigenous approaches to land management for MNES protection in the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment area.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 12

It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures that all the research undertaken as a function of the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment and the NES Plan is made publicly available on the web, is accessible and easy to find, and includes historical research as well as the most recent scholarship and reports.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

### Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

# Implementation Status Report on ACT Government’s Climate Change Policy (2017)

## Government’s Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the four recommendations from this report that remained open for the 2022–23 reporting year.

### Recommendation 1

Budget appropriation for climate change mitigation and adaptation policies will be significant, cannot be postponed and must be consistent.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS	HEALTH	EDUCATION	JACS
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#### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## TCCS response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

2023–24 TCCS — climate change related expenditure:

- Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements - in flood prone areas for renewal and flood mitigation purposes.
- Building a circular economy - ACT Food and Garden Organics Facility
- Building a circular economy - ensuring continued recycling services to the ACT
- Mitchell Resource Management Centre - transfer station masterplan implementation
- School Safety Program - reduce the use of private vehicles to more sustainable forms of transport
- Trade waste license and underground tank removal - installation of new infrastructure and upgrade of the current arrangement
- More mowing for better access to Canberra's urban green spaces
- Investing in Canberra's Urban Forest — Canopy Contribution Framework

## Health response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

The 2023–24 budget provided \$366,000 over two years for research on the health impacts of climate change to inform the future development of a health and climate change adaptation action plan for the ACT.

This initiative will improve the resilience and responsiveness of the health sector to climate change, as well as maximising opportunities to reduce emissions associated with existing infrastructure and practices.



Education response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

Rigorous design standards to address climate change mitigation and adaptation are now firmly embedded within the design and construction of all new schools.

In addition, the following programs to address climate adaptation in existing schools have progressed throughout 2022–23:

- Ongoing funding to upgrade gas heating systems to low or zero emission heating systems and thermal envelope upgrades (\$15.9m)
- Continuation of existing program to upgrade roof systems including minimum R4 insulation and higher stormwater capabilities (\$10.9m)
- Electrification of gas assets (\$2.7m)
- Innovative program opportunities such as ARENA's Innovation Hub for Affordable Heating (i-Hub) to enable the upscale of zero emission Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) technology in schools.

Lastly, EDU has integrated minimum performance specification standards into all capital works upgrades which include double glazing, insulation, LED lighting, water saving toilets and taps.

JACS response			
Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

JACS is implementing Australia's first plug-in hybrid electric vehicle fire truck and low emissions specialist heavy vehicles, under the \$12.780m Emergency Service Agency (ESA) Vehicle Replacement Program from 2021–22 to 2024–25.

New JACS buildings are integrating all-electric and sustainable design

Existing facilities are being retrofitted to achieve emissions reduction, including \$1.300m expended at the Alexander Maconochie Centre over 2021–22 and 2022–23. Planning commenced for expenditure of \$3.398m to electrify Woden Police Station over 2023–24 and 2024–25.

ESA received \$0.182m in 2022–23 under the National Partnership Agreement to support the development of whole of government bushfire planning and doctrine, including delivery of actions under the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2019 related to climate risk and readiness planning across ESA and the ACT Government.

**Commissioner’s response 2023**

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS, Health, Education & JACS: Satisfactory — Closed

**Recommendation 4**

Transport is the biggest climate change mitigation challenge for the ACT and significant commitment to policy development, action and targets will be central to the ACT continuing its reputation as a climate change policy leader and driver of change.

**Government response: AGREED**

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD	TCCS
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**EPSDD response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

**TCCS response**

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

Transport Canberra has now received all 12 of the first tranche of battery electric buses. These are in service and operating well. The procurement for a further 94 battery electric buses was finalised in May 2023 with delivery expected between 2023 and 2026. Six chargers have been installed at Tuggeranong and two are to be installed at Belconnen Depots. Woden Depot will also have chargers installed in the future. Transport Canberra is progressing the required infrastructure to be able to house and charge larger numbers of zero-emission vehicles at existing TC facilities and future TC depots.

Bespoke “off-site” electric bus housing and charging facilities have been explored and discounted due to the complexities this raises and the inefficiencies and additional costs such a facility would incur.

Transport Canberra has finalised the feasibility into future depots. This has been reviewed by government, with Transport Canberra now progressing next steps. Transport Canberra will use the Depot Feasibility Study and further investigations to inform site suitability and energy capacity for the new depot.

In addition to the public transport network, Transport Canberra and City Services also holds the largest and most complex fleet within ACT Government including passenger, commercial, heavy vehicle, plant and equipment (HVP&E). TCCS are actively engaging with industry and monitoring rapidly changing developments within vehicle categories and sub-categories; running trials where relevant and installing suitable charging infrastructure across relevant TCCS sites. In 2022–23, TCCS undertook trial of an electric compact street sweeper and electric mini excavator.

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### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

TCCS: Satisfactory — Open: Continue reporting progress in the following reporting year.

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## Recommendation 6

**Commitment to social equity in the face of climate change challenges must be strengthened in all new policy initiatives.**

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**Government response: AGREED**

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**Responsible Directorates:**

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 9

Engage the community in meaningful conversation about the credibility and validity of investing in offsets to support carbon neutrality against other investment options.

Government response: AGREED

### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

# Independent Audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment (2017)

## Government’s Response and Directorate updates

This Section provides an update on the implementation status of the six recommendations from this investigation that remained open for the 2022–23 reporting year.

### Recommendation 2

It is recommended that the ACT Government adheres to prescribed timeframes for delivery of all commitments and/or formalized with the Commonwealth the approval process to be adopted in the event of changes to due dates on commitments.

Government response: AGREED

Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD
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#### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

#### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 3

It is recommended that the ACT Government improves the process for collection of evidence on implementation of the commitments in the Plan.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

### EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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### Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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## Recommendation 4

It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures that all the research undertaken as a function of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and the Plan is made publicly available on the web, is accessible and easy to find, and includes historical research as well as the most recent scholarship and reports.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

## Recommendation 5

It is recommended that the ACT Government notes the Key Risks section and incorporates the recommendations in this section into future management.

Government response: AGREED

#### Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

## EPSDD response

### Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation

Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Comments on status

- Nil response.

## Commissioner's response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Recommendation 6

It is recommended that the ACT Government further investigate the commitments that have been termed *Undetermined*.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Recommendation 8

It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures adaptive management principles are carefully scrutinised and considered for incorporation into implementation of the commitments for this Plan.

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Government response: AGREED

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Responsible Directorates:

EPSDD

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## EPSDD response

Current status of the government response/actions required to address recommendation			
Discussion, planning, and resourcing phase	Commenced programs and activities required	Programs and activities well advanced	Fully implemented or completed
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Comments on status

- Nil response.

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## Commissioner’s response 2023

EPSDD did not respond within reasonable timeframe.

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# Complaint investigations and investigation recommendations

The Commissioner investigated one complaint in 2022–23 regarding management of the environment in the Territory. This was received in August 2022 and was in relation to *Failure of ACT Heritage Council to consider environmental sustainability in its decision to re-plant trees at Downer*. A full investigation was conducted and the final complaint report was distributed to stakeholders in June 2023.

## B2.4 Activities Under the Objects of the Act

This section relates to the objects of the Act under s2B (a) – (e) in the Act.

### B2.4.1 Summary of the Objects of the Act

The objects of the Act are to ensure regular and consistent reporting on matters relating to the condition and management of the environment and progress towards ecologically sustainable development in the Territory. This is outlined in **B2.4.2**, and **B2.4.3** below.

### B2.4.2 Advocacy and community engagement

The Commissioner and other Office staff engage with the community through a variety of direct means including meetings, presentations, launches, networking events, seminars and project support with a wide range of individuals and groups. Presentations from the Commissioner and other staff at conferences, seminars and forums are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

#### Online Engagement

The Office also uses online platforms to promote community engagement. Events involving the Commissioner and Office staff are routinely posted on social media, and statistical insights are monitored to determine which issues are of interest to the public.

The aim of using social media in the Office is to reach a broader audience and export the message of ecologically sustainable development.

- The Office's Facebook profile had 1,957 followers on 30 June 2023.
- The Office's Twitter account, @EnvComm\_ACT had 2,177 followers on 30 June 2023.
- The Office's Instagram account, @envcomm had 1,100 followers on 30 June 2023.

### *State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT*

In 2022 OCSE released a report on the State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT, which sought to understand the quality and ecological health of the ACT's aquatic ecosystems, review existing policies and practices relating to waterways, and identify actions for Government and community to improve water quality and catchment health.

To support the report's release in August 2022, two interactive ArcGIS Storymaps were developed to enhance community engagement with the investigation's key findings. The report was also promoted across OCSE's social media platforms to coincide with the tabling of the report in the Legislative Assembly.



Credit: OCSE

### *Can Canberra 'Burn Right Tonight' or is there 'no safe level of air pollution'?*

#### *An Investigation into wood heater policy in the ACT*

In 2023 OCSE released a report on wood heater policy in the ACT (see section B1.1.2). To support its release, OCSE developed an animated explainer video about the health impacts of wood heaters. The video and report were promoted across OCSE's social media platforms to increase community awareness of the key issues raised in the investigation.



Credit: OCSE

### *Community Surveys*

The Office engaged the community through a number of online surveys during the reporting period. Topics included community attitudes towards climate change, visitation to Canberra Nature Park during COVID-19 lockdowns, and experiences of blue-green algae in Lake Tuggeranong. Survey findings were used to inform reports, Storymaps and online profiles that will complement the 2023 ACT State of the Environment Report.

### **Hosting Events**

#### *International Women's Day Lunch*

In March 2023, the Office co-hosted a lunch celebrating International Women's Day with Landcare ACT. The event was held at Weston Park and was open to all women and gender diverse people working or volunteering for the environment. A keynote address was given by Dr Maxine Cooper, Independent Chair of the ACT Landcare Board, reflecting on her personal journey working in the environment space.

## Messages of Appreciation

Feedback provided on an ad hoc basis gives an indication of the work the Commissioner has been undertaking with the community and individuals:

*“Dr Lewis, I cannot thank you enough for your excellent presentation. It provided a compelling overview of the infrastructure challenges facing urban environments to meet the demands of growing populations in a sustainable way. Your presentation highlighted what seems a simple issue of water quality and management is hugely complex and not amenable to easy fixes. [...] Once again, sincere thanks for your time and expertise. It is nice meeting people who are making a real difference to the challenges of the environment and climate change.”*

U3A Treasurer on the Commissioner’s U3A Presentation

*“A very comprehensive and informative report. Thank you for putting this together. [...] The information in the report will certainly help with further educating the general public on the importance of our waterways, their purpose and function.”*

Molonglo Conservation Group Program Manager on the  
State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT report

*“Thank you for joining us at the Better Futures Forum in Canberra, we had excellent positive feedback from the event and your contribution was really helpful in shaping the discourse.”*

UNSW Program Manager on the Better Futures Forum

*“Thank you for so generously donating your time, contributing your expertise and sharing your passion for a sustainable future. The feedback we have received from participants has all been very positive — that the day was interesting, informative and inspiring.”*

CBR360 Event Manager on the CBR360 Symposium

*“The interview is excellent — one of my colleagues said the carbon footprint explanation was the clearest and most concise she’s heard and she’s been in the biz for a long time [...] Thanks again for your involvement, flexibility and enthusiasm, you’ve both been a dream to work with!”*

TVNZ Reporter on 1News story

*“Thanks so much for generously sharing your deep knowledge and insights on today’s panel, which I think was a very successful event.”*

ACT Human Rights Commissioner on the Time to Act: Right to a Healthy Environment event

*“Thank you so much for last Friday — it was brilliant and we’re so thrilled to have you as one of our 100 speakers.”*

Program Producer on the 100 Climate Conversations project

### B2.4.3 Submissions

The Office comments and provides input into ACT Government draft documents by specific invitation or through the public consultation process (often advertised via Your Say on the ACT Government's website).

Submissions to public consultations are made publicly available on the Commissioner's website. This is not the case with submissions by invitation.

**Table 4: Summary of Submissions to Public Consultation Matters in 2022–23**

Submission	Recommendations	Submitted
<b>Inquiry into Electric Vehicles in the ACT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACT Government should strongly advocate for federal policies that encourage the uptake of EVs across Australia.</li><li>• ACT Government should consider the ways in which scope 3 emissions can be minimised in the transition to EVs.</li><li>• ACT Government should ensure that legislation is in place to support and promote the environmentally sound recycling of EV batteries, whether this occurs within the ACT or in partnership with surrounding jurisdictions.</li><li>• ACT Government should embed support for EVs into all future development and infrastructure strategies.</li><li>• ACT Government should work with other jurisdictions to establish consistent and reliable charging infrastructure along major routes to and from Canberra.</li></ul>	5 August 2022
<b>Inquiry into Urban Forest Bill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 'regulated tree' dimension requirements for native species should be removed entirely, or at the very least lowered to align with the Australian average.</li><li>• The heritage protection afforded to exotic trees should end when the tree in question dies or is removed. Such trees should be replaced with climate-appropriate native species from approved ACT Government planting lists.</li><li>• Consideration of solar access should be taken into account in the protection of dense-foliage evergreen exotics in residential areas. In cases where these trees have a significant impact on nearby residents' energy use, the benefits of protecting them need to be weighed against the environmental advantages of replacing them with an appropriate native species that allows for solar access.</li><li>• The Urban Forest Bill should be amended to state that the criteria for tree registration must align with the intent of the Bill and its objectives.</li><li>• DI2018-50 should be amended to dispel the implication that trees are more worthy of protection for their historic and aesthetic value to humans than to their inherent ecological, genetic and botanic significance, particularly as habitat for endangered species.</li></ul>	22 August 2022
<b>Lawson North Residential Development — EPBC Referral Submission (EPBC 2022/09298)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Federal Government should withdraw Defence Housing Australia's proposed urban development of Lawson Grasslands.</li></ul>	7 September 2022

Submission	Recommendations	Submitted
<b>Inquiry into Waste Management of Absorbent Hygiene Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Government should conduct an in-depth analysis of absorbent hygiene product supply chains for the ACT to gain a better understanding of the environmental impacts across their life cycle.</li> <li>• ACT Government should provide financial support for community services such as cloth nappy libraries and provide free or discounted product trial packs through community and medical hubs.</li> <li>• ACT Government should establish an absorbent hygiene rebate scheme for individuals, drawing on lessons from other jurisdictions such as the City of Hobart.</li> <li>• ACT Government should explore a laundering service subsidy program targeting the community and care sectors.</li> <li>• ACT Government should expand the citywide FOGO processing infrastructure to accept certified compostable nappies and continence aids and invest in the technology to facilitate this.</li> <li>• ACT Government should investigate whether other composting techniques may be viable in the ACT.</li> <li>• ACT Government should promote its Recyclopedia resources more widely to maximise uptake of sustainable absorbent hygiene products, for example through articles in community newsletters, at fairs and events, and through workshops.</li> <li>• ACT Government should facilitate and fund free educational campaigns and workshops in collaboration with community organisations on topics such as menstruation and incontinence. These programs should be culturally and linguistically appropriate, targeting sectors of the community that may have limited exposure to this topic.</li> </ul>	24 October 2022
<b>Light Rail: City to Woden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Government should choose materials, especially concrete, with the lowest possible scope 3 carbon emissions for the construction of light rail infrastructure.</li> <li>• ACT Government should maximise plant cover throughout the light rail corridor and select local native species which offer co-benefits in terms of food and habitat provision for wildlife.</li> <li>• ACT Government should ensure that rigorous erosion and sediment control measures are implemented and effectively maintained throughout the construction process.</li> <li>• ACT Government should ensure that all waste produced throughout the construction process is considered for appropriate reuse or recycling.</li> </ul>	19 September 2022
<b>Shared E-Scooter Expansion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Government should work with e-scooter operators to conduct use surveys to determine what type of trips e-scooters are replacing in the ACT.</li> <li>• ACT Government should work with e-scooter operators to conduct a whole-of-life-cycle audit of carbon emissions resulting from the e-scooter schemes. This should include emissions associated with manufacture, freight, operations and disposal.</li> </ul>	4 October 2022



Submission	Recommendations	Submitted
<b>Single-use Plastics: Tranche 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Government should conduct an in-depth analysis of the environmental impacts of single-use plastic alternative products across their life cycle. This work should be undertaken, and results considered, prior to the third tranche of single-use items being banned from 1 July 2023.</li> <li>• ACT Government should develop reusable and returnable food container services, in partnership with affected business and stakeholders.</li> <li>• ACT Government should provide information and resources for retailers and suppliers impacted by potential bans to assist with their transition.</li> <li>• ACT Government should expand its new FOGO facility at the Hume Resource Recovery Estate to process certifiable compostable products.</li> </ul>	18 November 2022
<b>Draft Circular Economy Strategy 2022-25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Government should build upon existing research to develop and implement a comprehensive set of circular economy indicators and metrics that will holistically measure the ACT's transition to a circular economy.</li> <li>• ACT NoWaste should proactively engage with business areas responsible for developing environmental policies to enable complementarity and strategic alignment.</li> <li>• ACT Government should priorities opportunities to apply circular principles to public procurement in expenditure areas such as furniture, ICT equipment, and food and catering.</li> <li>• ACT Government should establish a circular procurement hub to enable information sharing of lessons and best practices across government.</li> </ul>	12 December 2022



Superb Parrot. Credit: OCSE



Submission	Recommendations	Submitted
<b>Draft New Territory Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The target for urban infill should be strengthened to at least 80% of new residential dwellings.</li> <li>• A moratorium should be implemented on the expansion of Canberra's urban footprint beyond currently identified suburbs in Molonglo as basis for proposed, potential and possible development sites and change areas in the District Strategies. This should include the removal of currently designated Future Urban Areas in the Territory Plan which are on greenfield sites and sites which are known to support endangered species and habitats.</li> <li>• Future investigation areas within the District Strategies should be clearly discussed as such and not embedded into planning decisions in a manner that presupposes outcomes and strengthens their case for development.</li> <li>• The Territory Plan should comprehensively consider and incorporate relevant elements of existing and draft government strategies, plans and policies.</li> <li>• The Territory Plan and District Strategies should clearly articulate how competing drivers and priorities will be considered.</li> <li>• The Territory Plan's environmental considerations should be expanded to recognise climate change, biodiversity and ecological integrity as critical aspects of the natural environment, and should limit adverse outcomes for these matters.</li> <li>• Specific and detailed Ngunnawal consultation should occur to determine whether any significant adverse environmental or cultural impacts will occur, which should be taken into consideration at the Territory Plan scale.</li> <li>• Ngunnawal cultural matters should be embedded throughout the Territory Plan and considered in all planning decisions. Protection of Ngunnawal cultural matters should be given greater weight in planning decisions than European heritage matters.</li> <li>• Blue-green connections and stormwater flows should be considered beyond the district level using evidence-based approaches.</li> </ul>	20 January 2023
<b>Inquiry into the ACT's Heritage Arrangements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicit recognition of climate change risks should be introduced to the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> to enable systematic assessment of sites at risk from climate change and to introduce climate change considerations into the management of heritage sites.</li> <li>• The way in which Ngunnawal traditional sites, practices and knowledge are considered and protected under heritage arrangements should be reviewed to ensure these are appropriate for a living and ongoing culture.</li> <li>• The way in which natural heritage is defined and assessed in the broader context of environmental protections in the ACT should be reviewed to determine whether the current arrangements represent the best approach to ensuring the protection of matters of natural significance in the ACT.</li> <li>• Models should be investigated for the implementation of heritage management plans which better support land managers through the provision of resources, funding and expertise for the management of heritage places</li> </ul>	24 February 2023

## B2.5 Information in Agency Annual Reports

This section relates to s23 in the Act.

No further information pertaining to s23 is required to be reported.

## B3. Scrutiny

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

## B4. Risk Management

Risks are considered and addressed appropriately in all activities of the Office. Advice is sought on procurement for major commissions on an as-needs basis. Risk is discussed at staff meetings and a risk register has been developed for the Office, as well as staff undertaking risk management training available in ACT Government's MyLearning platform.

## B5. Internal Audit

According to the ACT Government Internal Audit Framework "in the case of a small agency with no board, the governing body may elect not to delegate their 'conformance' responsibilities and functions to a committee." This means that the Commissioner has the authority to choose whether auditing responsibilities will be delegated or not.

Staff in the Office are aware that the EPSDD's Audit Committee is available for assistance if required.

## B6. Fraud Prevention

EPSDD manages the corporate functions of OCSE and reporting under this section is covered in the EPSDD 2022–23 Annual Report.

## B7. Freedom of Information

Section 96 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) sets out the reporting requirements for agencies in relation to the operation of the FOI Act during the financial year.

While no decisions were made under the FOI Act in the 2022-23 financial year, the Office transferred documents and provided information for two access applications received by EPSDD (as information was also held by EPSDD). These two access applications were counted in EPSDD's annual reporting as the Information Officer who decided the applications was an EPSDD Executive.

### Submitting an application

EPSDD manages FOI Act applications on behalf of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

Subject to the FOI Act, every person has an enforceable right to obtain access to government information.

We can assist you to locate the information you are seeking. Please contact the EPSDD Information and Knowledge Management Team on 13 22 81 or email [EPSDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDFOI@act.gov.au).

For more information on making an access application, visit:

[www.environment.act.gov.au/about-us/access-government-information](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/about-us/access-government-information).

Access applications are recorded in a disclosure log, as required by the FOI Act. To view the disclosure log for the EPSDD Portfolio (which includes the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment), visit:

[www.environment.act.gov.au/about-us/access-government-information/disclosure-log](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/about-us/access-government-information/disclosure-log)

## B8. Work Health and Safety

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

During 2022-23 the Commissioner did not receive any notices under the Act, and there were no notifiable incidents. The Commissioner does not pay a first-tier worker's compensation premium.

Eight stand-up desks are available in the office to aid staff health management.

Workstation assessments are available through EPSDD and have been utilised by staff.

EPSDD manages the corporate functions of OCSE and reporting under this section is covered in the EPSDD 2022-23 Annual Report as relevant. Staff are also encouraged to take part in relevant initiatives run by EPSDD.

## B9. Human Resources Management

EPSDD manages the corporate functions of OCSE and reporting under this section is covered in the EPSDD 2022-23 Annual Report as relevant.

### B9.1 Workforce Profile

#### B9.1.1 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) headcount and demographics

As noted in **Section B1.5**, variations can occur in OCSE's workforce profile at different times in response to changing needs and situations. OCSE's total headcount is currently 7 staff (including one on leave since October 2022). OCSE's FTE count is 6.3 as two employees are part-time.

The following tables are based on the number of paid staff on the last pay of the financial year, being 21 June 2023. Gender and other breakdowns of OCSE's workforce are encompassed in the EPSDD Annual Report.

**Table 5: Headcount by classification**

Classification group	Total
Administrative officers	2
Senior officers	4
Statutory office holders	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

**Table 6: Headcount by employment category and average years of service**

Employment category	Total
Casual	0
Permanent full-time	4
Permanent part-time	2
Temporary full-time	1
Temporary part-time	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>
Average years of service	6.0

**Table 7: Headcount by diversity group**

Diversity Group	Headcount	% of total staff
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1	14.3%
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse	0	0.0%
People with a disability	0	0.0%

Table 8: Headcount by age group

Age group	Total
Under 25	0
25–34	2
35–44	3
45–54	0
55 and over	2

Table 9: Permanent recruitment and separation rates

Classification Group	Recruitment rate	Separation rate
TOTAL	17.0%	0.0%

## B9.2 Attraction and Retention Incentives (ARins)

The Office had no ARins arrangements during the 2022–23 reporting year.



Black swan family. Credit: Ryan Colley

## B9.3 Participation in Learning and Development Programs

The Office is committed to strengthening workforce and organisational capacity through building skills and capabilities. This learning and development is guided by individual performance and development plans and supported through our strategic plan. Diversity and inclusion training is strongly encouraged.

Mentoring options have been discussed with all staff. During 2022–23, two staff undertook one-on-one career coaching with an external provider.

Another staff member attended a week-long study tour titled 'Reimagining our Future — Sustainability, Innovation, Reconciliation.'

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

- Climate Governance
- Climate Action Collaborations Between Government, Industry and Civil Society
- Women in the Environment
- Circular Economy
- The Global Consumptogenic System
- Future Farming in the Territory's Changing Climate
- Effective Carbon Removal - ANU Climate Update 2023
- Electrification in Sweden and Australia
- ESG In Australia
- Sustainability Initiatives in ICON Water
- Water Security Vulnerability in the ACT
- Exploring Our Relationships with Local Waterways - Waterways Country Symposium
- Wetland Restoration
- Nutrient Offsetting for Sewage Treatment
- Connecting Nature, Connecting People
- Solutions for Protecting the ACT Environment
- Human Health, Climate and Environmental Change Solutions — HEAL Conference
- The Political Economy of Health and Climate Change: Identifying Strategies to Develop Healthier Climate Policies
- Air Pollution Minimum Exposure Levels and the Risks of Harm to Human Health
- Reporting on Nature-Related Risks
- Managing Disaster Risk and Building Disaster Resilience
- Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)
- Ngunnawal Language Training
- Truth Telling and Healing
- Looking Back, Moving Forward: Indigenous Knowledge and its Application in Modern Science
- Exploring Junior Landcare's New First Nations Perspectives Resources
- Black Mountain On-Country Tour

- Measuring Wellbeing in the ACT
- Wellbeing Government in Practice: Lessons from a Global Leader with the Welsh Future Generations Commissioner
- Mental Health Awareness Training
- The National Strategy for Volunteering
- Recycled Artwork
- Recycling and Sustainability Initiatives — Two Before Ten Tour
- Behavioural De-Escalation
- How to Have 'Difficult Conversations'
- CPR Training
- The ACT's Economic Outlook
- Social Enterprise Procurement
- Circular and Sustainable Procurement
- Following the Money: Trade Associations, Political Activity and Climate Change
- New Corporate Credit Card Acquittal System
- Corporate Credit Card Use and Management
- APIAS Refresher
- International Travel
- ACT Planning Strategy Review Consultation
- Legislative Assembly Processes
- State of the Environment Success Planning
- Women and Leadership

The Office has also engaged in mentoring external staff, university students, and early career graduate researchers. In 2022-23, the Office hosted an intern from the University of Canberra conducting undergraduate research on community climate attitudes. The Office has also provided local content to several course assessments.

## **B9.4 Future Learning and Development Areas Identified as Priorities**

Learning and development priorities for all office staff are identified within individual performance plans and in our strategic plan.

## **B9.5 Whole of Government Learning and Development Initiatives**

Staff are encouraged to participate in Whole of Government Learning and Development Opportunities.

The Office actively participates in the ACTPS Graduate Program. During 2022–23, the Office hosted two graduate placements.

## **B9.6 Participation in Study Assistance Program and ACTPS Training Calendar**

In 2022–23, one staff member commenced further study under the Study Assistance Program. A total of \$4,400 was provided as financial support together with 8.84 FTE days of study leave.

All staff attended mandatory sessions and took up other ACTPS advertised training opportunities. Details of learning and development programs offered to all ACT Government staff, including the office staff, can be found in the EPSDD 2022–23 Annual Report.

## **B10. Ecologically Sustainable Development**

### **B10.1 Office Accommodation**

The Office is located on Level 3 of the Nara Centre, 3 Constitution Avenue, Canberra City ACT 2601.

Staff and the Commissioner have access to and frequently use bicycle parking.

### **B10.2 Resource Management Planning**

The Office is covered under the EPSDD Resource Management Plan.

The Office had an accreditation with the 'Business Recycling Program' in 2022-23 and renewed its accreditation for the following year in August 2023.

The Office ensures that its facilities are appropriate to maintain independence from relevant ACT Government activities.

A range of strategies are in place to assist in achieving more sustainable resource management, including:

- continuing to work towards becoming a paperless office by using electronic data management via Objective Electronic Data Management software for filing and to minimise paper and cartridge use. The Office did not purchase any paper for printing this last financial year.
- using 100% recycled paper for printing.
- circulating electronic versions of reports for comment rather than hard copies, as well as developing interactive reports online to reduce the need to print reports.
- striving for sustainable procurement through approved tendering assessment processes.
- using staffs' own coffee cups and not disposable ones.
- using the compost bin located in the office's floor to dispose of organic waste, and recycling bin located in the office for recyclable waste.
- keeping non-disposable dishes and cutlery in the office.
- encouraging staff to ride, carpool or use MyWay passes to attend off-site meetings and events where feasible.
- working remotely as appropriate to reduce transport emissions and in response to COVID-19.



**Table 10: Sustainable development performance — current and previous financial year**

Indicator as of 30 June 2023	Unit	Previous FY 2021–22	Current FY 2022–23	% change
Agency staff and area				
Agency staff	FTE	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	0
Workplace floor area	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	160.04 <sup>b</sup>	160.04 <sup>b</sup>	0
Stationary energy usage				
Electricity use	Kilowatt hours	8409.5 <sup>c</sup>	11831.7 <sup>c</sup>	40.69 <sup>c</sup>
Natural gas use	Gigajoules	25.48 <sup>c</sup>	45.5 <sup>c</sup>	78.54 <sup>c</sup>
Diesel	Kilolitres	0 <sup>c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	–
Transport fuel usage				
Electric vehicles	Number	0	0	–
Hybrid vehicles	Number	0	0	–
Other vehicles (not electric or hybrid)	Number	0	0	–
Total number of vehicles	Number	0	0	–
Total kilometres travelled	Kilometres	0	0	–
Fuel use – petrol	Kilolitres	0	0	–
Fuel use – diesel	Kilolitres	0	0	–
Fuel use – Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Kilolitres	0	0	–
Fuel use – Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	Cubic Metres (Cm3)	0	0	–
Water usage				
Water use	Kilolitres	18.44 <sup>c</sup>	26.06 <sup>c</sup>	41.34 <sup>c</sup>
Resource efficiency and waste				
Reams of paper purchased	Reams	0	0	
Recycled content of paper purchased	Percentage	N/A <sup>d</sup>	N/A <sup>d</sup>	
Waste to landfill	Kilograms in 2021–22, litres in 2022–23	92 <sup>e</sup>	548.88 <sup>e</sup>	See explanatory notes for this column
Co-mingled material recycled	Kilograms in 2021–22, litres in 2022–23	33.8 <sup>e</sup>	405.82 <sup>e</sup>	
Paper and cardboard recycled (including secure paper)	Kilograms in 2021–22, litres in 2022–23	87.6 <sup>e</sup>	298.26 <sup>e</sup>	
Organic material recycled	Kilograms in 2021–22, litres in 2022–23	0.3 <sup>e</sup>	14.12 <sup>e</sup>	
Greenhouse gas emissions				
Emissions from transport	Tonnes CO2-e	0 <sup>c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	–
Scope 1 emissions	Tonnes CO2-e	0.48 <sup>c</sup>	2.34 <sup>c</sup>	78.52 <sup>c</sup>
Scope 2 emissions	Tonnes CO2-e	0 <sup>c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	–
Total emissions Tonnes	Tonnes CO2-e	0.48 <sup>c</sup>	2.34 <sup>c</sup>	78.52 <sup>c</sup>

See explanatory notes over page.

*Explanatory notes for Table 10*

- a. The figure for FTE was calculated taking into account two staff members work part time.
- b. The figure for workplace floor is for Nara Centre. The total office space area is 160.04 m<sup>2</sup>, and occupancy area is 40.01 m<sup>2</sup>.
- c. Water use, electricity, gas, diesel and emissions estimates were obtained from Climate Change and Energy Division in EPSDD. Please note that some data reported in the table above may differ from figures reported in the 2021–22 Annual Report. This is potentially due to retrospective changes to agency occupancy and the use of accrual data in the previous financial year. Where actual data is not available, the Enterprise Sustainability Platform provides estimations using an accruals function. Accruals are calculated from the average annual daily consumption of the most current 12-month period applied for the number of days of missing data.

Emissions reported for stationary energy and transport fuels include Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions only. Scope 1 are direct emissions from sources owned and operated by the government including: emissions from transport fuel and natural gas use. Scope 2 are indirect emissions from mains electricity.

The ACT met its 100% renewable electricity target in 2019–20. This is the fourth year that the ACT Government will be reporting zero greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use.

- d. The Office did not purchase paper this financial year.
- e. Resource efficiency and waste figures were obtained from CMTEDD. Please note that figures were reported in kilograms for 2021–22 and litres in 2022–23.



**Bridge at Lyneham Wetland. Credit: OCSE**

SECTION C.

# Financial Management Reporting



## C1. Financial Management Analysis

Further information on the Office's financial management is covered in the EPSDD 2022–23 Annual Report.

## C2. Financial Statements

The ACT Government appropriation for the Office in 2022–23 was \$ 1,955,000.

Further information on the Office's financial management is covered in the EPSDD 2022–23 Annual Report.

The financial transactions for the Office are formally reported in the consolidated financial statements of the EPSDD 2022–23 Annual Report as part of 'Expenses on Behalf of the Territory'.

## C3. Capital Works

The Office has no capital works projects.

## C4. Asset Management

The Office 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, the Office continues to work with ACT Procurement to complete procurement actions where necessary.

### C5.2 External Sources of Labour and Services: Individual Contracts Exceeding \$25,000

During 2022-23 the Office initiated one contract exceeding \$25,000:

1. Calculation of the ecological footprint of the population of the ACT for the 2023 State of the Environment Report (\$35,200.00 including GST).

## C6. Statement of Performance

EPSDD manages the corporate functions of OCSE and reporting under this section is covered in the EPSDD 2022–23 Annual Report as relevant.



Environmental volunteer overlooking Farrer Ridge. Credit: OCSE



SECTION D.

# Appendices





# Appendix 1

## Staff presenting at conferences, seminars and forums

### Summary of presenting at conferences, seminars and forums for 2022–23

Date	Type of Activity, e.g., conference, seminar	Name of Conference, seminar, etc.	Provider	Attendee
22-28 Aug 22	Presentation and Attendance	National Landcare Conference	Landcare Australia	Miranda Gardner
6-7 Sep 22	Keynote Speaker and Panel Member	Better Futures Forum	UNSW	Sophie Lewis
15 Sep 22	Closing Address	CBR360 Circular Economy Symposium	Conservation Council ACT	Sophie Lewis
11 Oct 22	Presentation	U3A Canberra	University of the 3rd Age	Sophie Lewis
19 Oct 22	Interview	Interview by NZ SUNDAY	NZ SUNDAY - Kristin Hall	Sophie Lewis
21 Oct 22	Presentation	Probus Canberra	Probus	Sophie Lewis
09 Dec 22	Panel Member	International Human Rights Day Lunchtime Forum	ACT Human Rights Commission	Sophie Lewis
13 Dec 22	Presentation	ANU Graduation Address	ANU	Sophie Lewis
02 Mar 23	Presentation	Having Your Say as a Young Person in the ACT	Lake Tuggeranong College	Victoria Herbert and Vanessa Lavis
10 Mar 23	Interview	100 Climate Conversations	Powerhouse Museum	Sophie Lewis
03 May 23	Presentation	Having Your Say as a Young Person in the ACT	Hawker College	Victoria Herbert and Vanessa Lavis



# Appendix 2

## Compliance Statement

The 2022-23 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report must comply with the Annual Report Directions (the Directions) under section 8 of the Annual Reports Act. The Directions are found on the ACT Legislation Register:  
[www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)

The Compliance Statement indicates the subsections, under Parts 1 to 5 of the Directions, that are applicable to the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and the location of information that satisfies these requirements:

### Part 1 — Directions Overview

The requirements under Part 1 of the Directions relate to the purpose, timing and distribution, and record keeping of annual reports. The 2022–23 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report complies with all subsections of Part 1 under the Directions.

To meet section 15 Feedback, Part 1 of the Directions, contact details for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment are provided within the 2022–23 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report to provide readers with the opportunity to provide feedback.

### Part 2 — Directorate and Public Sector Body Annual Report Requirements

The requirements within Part 2 of the Directions are mandatory for all reporting entities and the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment complies with all subsections. The information that satisfies the requirements of Part 2 is found in the 2022–23 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report as follows:

- Transmittal Certificate, see **Section A**, page 6
- Organisational Overview and Performance, inclusive of all subsections, see **Section B**, pages 8–112, and
- Financial Management Reporting, inclusive of all subsections, see **Section C**, pages 114–115.

### Part 3 — Reporting by Exception

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has nil information to report by exception under Part 3 of the Directions for the 2022–23 reporting year

### Part 4 — Directorate and Public Sector Body Specific Annual Report Requirements

The subsections of Part 4 of the 2023 Directions are applicable to the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and can be found within the 2022–23 Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Annual Report:

- Ministerial and Director-General Directions, see **Section B2**, pages 15–104.

## Part 5 — Whole of Government Annual Reporting

All subsections of Part 5 of the Directions apply to the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Consistent with the Directions, the information satisfying these requirements is reported in the one place for all ACT Public Service directorates, as follows:

- Bushfire Risk Management, see the annual report of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Human Rights, see the annual report of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Legal Services Directions, see the annual report of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate
- Public Sector Standards and Workforce Profile, see the annual State of the Service Report, and
- Territory Records, see the annual report of Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic, Development Directorate.

ACT Public Service Directorate annual reports are found at the following web address:  
[www.cmd.act.gov.au/open\\_government/report/annual\\_reports](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/annual_reports)