



DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE,  
ENERGY AND WATER

# Corporate Plan 2010–2014



## Chief Executive's message

*This corporate plan translates the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water's role in sustainability into strategic priorities and actions that we will focus on delivering over the next five years.*

*A comprehensive and unequivocal corporate plan is fundamental to guiding our decisions on the allocation of resources between a wide array of potential policies and programs. Like all good corporate plans, ours deals with this challenge by starting with the end in mind and by always applying the discipline of doing first things first.*

*Given the significant, complex and difficult issues confronting us in the areas of sustainability and management of climate change it is vital that our business planning is both rational and robust.*

*Of these challenging issues our Minister, Simon Corbell MLA, has identified climate change as the most important and the most urgent.*

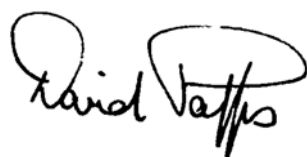
*We will not address climate change by waiting for others to lead. Canberra as a city state, as the nation's capital and as a progressive and clever community has the ability to take a leadership role, and have an impact, both locally and globally.*

*The ACT Government has responded to this challenge by committing to a goal of zero net emissions for the ACT by 2060, and has tasked us with developing the roadmap to that goal and then leading its implementation.*

*A new Department brings with it new expectations, from Government, from our community and from our staff. I am committed to building a values-based organisation that is respected for its intellectual rigour, delivers on Government commitments, provides proactive regulatory services that include education as well as enforcement, and excels in service to the public.*

*Driving change through our work is, I believe, what ultimately delivers the sense of personal achievement that motivates and energises people in the public service. As an organisation we must model the change we want to see. That can be very challenging but unless we do so our credibility within Government and the community will be diminished.*

*I believe Canberra, and the ACT, are in a unique position to be at the forefront in Australia on sustainability and adaptation to climate change, and DECCEW and its people will be a major part of leading that change.*



David Papps  
Chief Executive  
December 2009

## Strategic Priorities

In order to identify strategic priorities over the next five years the Department has drawn on the Government's long-term vision for Canberra as well as contemporary policy settings. Of these, the Government's decision to make Canberra, and the ACT, carbon neutral by 2060 provides the overarching objective for what the Department will do.

*The Canberra Plan – Towards our Second Century sets out the Government's vision:*

*Canberra will be recognised throughout the world as a truly sustainable and creative city; as a community that is socially inclusive – acknowledging and supporting those who are vulnerable and in need and enabling all to reach their full potential; as a centre of economic growth and innovation; as the proud capital of the nation and home of its pre-eminent cultural institutions; and as a place of great natural beauty.*

The Government has identified a number of specific priority projects that have been captured in this plan. These include the development of a solar power facility; an expanded Feed-in Tariff scheme; water and energy policies; a waste strategy; greenhouse gas emission reduction targets; and a review of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*.

These policy initiatives are complemented by the regulation and enforcement capacity provided through the statutory functions of the Environment Protection Authority.

*The Department has five strategic priorities:*

- *leading the community towards making Canberra a zero-net emitter;*
- *promoting sustainable, secure, and equitable energy supply;*
- *securing sustainable water resources;*
- *protecting our environment and promoting contemporary, best practice environmental standards; and*
- *excellence in public service.*

Performance indicators for each will be articulated in the annual Government Budget Papers. Oversight of this plan will be by the Department's Executive Management Board.

## Leading the community towards making Canberra a zero-net emitter

The Government's vision for Canberra is to set the benchmark in carbon neutrality and sustainability.

The Department will continue to work across Government, the business sector and the broader community to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The Department will raise awareness of climate change through engaging with the community and building partnerships with business, Government and researchers on mitigation, adaptation and offsets.

The Department will:

- revise the ACT's climate change strategy, *Weathering the Change*, and develop Action Plan 2 as a comprehensive road map to carbon neutrality;
- develop and implement policies and programs that significantly increase energy efficiency;
- increase the ACT's use of renewable energy and support the growth of a clean economy; and
- develop and implement, in collaboration with other agencies and the community, climate change adaptation strategies.

## Promoting a sustainable, secure, and equitable energy supply

As part of the drive to carbon neutrality the Government has committed to an ACT Sustainable Energy Policy. The primary focus of the energy policy will be on reducing emissions associated with energy use; it will contain specific and measurable interim targets; the equitable provision of energy; and ensure security of supply. It will reinforce the Government's commitment to maintaining reliable electricity and natural gas supplies and delivery infrastructure to meet consumer expectations. The policy, and its programs, will also support the growing development of distributed energy and increase our focus on energy efficiency.

The Department will:

- prepare a Sustainable Energy Policy;
- continue to promote the Feed-in Tariff scheme to households and businesses and advise Government on the implementation of stage 2 of the program;
- facilitate the establishment of a large-scale solar power facility capable of powering at least 10,000 Canberra homes; and
- support the uptake of GreenPower and solar hot water in our community.

The Department will remain an active participant and leader in the existing COAG National Energy reforms, especially through implementing the National Framework for Energy Efficiency Stage II program.

The ACT Government will continue to work closely with ActewAGL and TransGrid to put in place a second electricity supply line to the ACT and south-eastern NSW to ensure continued energy security for the ACT. Through these and other targeted initiatives the Department will enable the ACT to go beyond our national commitments to become the Solar Capital and an exemplar in energy efficiency.

## Securing sustainable water resources

Securing Canberra's future water supply is one of our highest priorities. We must develop the capacity to cope with extended dry periods if, as is forecast, the effects of climate change further reduce the long-term average inflows to our dams. The ACT Government will continue to explore and support ways to reduce demand for water, encourage sustainable water use through building design and rain and grey-water harvesting, and pursue various options to reduce our reliance on rainfall.

The Department will work across Government and with ACTEW to secure the ACT's water supply and with the broader community to achieve sustainability in water use.

The Department will:

- review, update and oversee the implementation of the ACT water policy (*Think Water, Act Water*);
- work with industry and the community to identify and implement water savings measures and promote water savings programs and technologies, including through rebates where appropriate;
- review Environmental Flow Guidelines to ensure the continuing health of the ACT's rivers and lakes; and
- increase the use of non-potable water and multiple usage of water through initiatives such as reintegration of urban ponds as part of the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways project.

## Protecting our environment and promoting contemporary, best practice environmental standards

The ACT has high-value natural and built environments with a legislative framework in place to protect and maintain those assets.

The Department will continue to promote knowledge sharing and implementation of contemporary, best practice environmental standards.

The Department encourages responsibility by the whole community for protecting the environment. This includes working with community and businesses in promoting sustainable development and natural resource management.

This is supported by a regulatory framework that includes the key roles of Conservator of Flora and Fauna and the Environment Protection Authority.

The Department will:

- continue to implement its statutory responsibilities, especially through the Environment Protection Authority, to protect the quality of the ACT's air and water and environment generally;
- review and update the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*;
- develop a comprehensive waste policy underpinning waste reduction programs;
- increase community awareness and engagement in protecting our natural and built environment; and
- support the Natural Resources Management Council and policy and programs that preserve our natural environment.

## Excellence in public service

The Department's greatest assets are its people. The Department is a small but dynamic organisation responsible for developing and overseeing a range of nation-leading environmental policies and programs. The Department is a 'values based' organisation, and we seek to ensure it will remain a great place to work.

The Department is committed to excellence in the fields of public administration and management; upholding and promoting public service values at all times and making a significant contribution to improving the public service in the ACT. This includes:

- maintaining collaborative partnerships across Government and outside of Government;
- providing quality, timely and strategic advice;
- modelling high quality financial management;
- implementing quality risk management, monitoring and reporting; and
- maintaining high standards of ethical behaviour and leadership.

The Department will also, through all its operations, strive to set the standard within the ACT Public Service for sustainability. Everything we do and say will demonstrate our tangible commitment to leading the way to carbon neutrality.

The Department's branches each have a business plan which reflects the strategic priorities identified in this corporate plan but which contain the detailed work programs necessary to deliver these priorities.

## Values in Action

As a Department, we will:

- actively communicate with colleagues and listen to alternative viewpoints;
- develop strong policy and briefing advice;
- respect and meet deadlines;
- constantly review our programs, policies and procedures to see how we can work better;
- seek ongoing professional development and share our learning;
- treat staff and stakeholders with courtesy and sensitivity;
- respect the diversity of our colleagues and utilise their skills;
- be responsive to our Minister and key stakeholders;
- ensure open and transparent decision-making;
- act in accordance with our obligations as public employees;
- provide timely and constructive feedback on work produced; and
- provide flexible working conditions.

# Our Values

## Collaboration Leadership

We will lead by example

We will actively collaborate with each other and other agencies and non-government organisations

We will build a strong team through quality relationships

We will focus on outcomes

## Innovative Inspirational Influential

We will make a positive difference to our community and our environment

We will seek out and instil best practice

We will be resilient and adaptable

We will anticipate emerging issues

We will be known and respected as an organisation

## Respectful Recognised Responsive

We will serve our community well

We will treat each other and our stakeholders with respect

We value each other and appreciate being valued

## Professionalism Integrity

We will be open and trustworthy in our approach to each other and stakeholders

We will act with integrity at all times

We will be outstanding in our public service

We will exemplify true work / life balance



DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE,  
ENERGY AND WATER

Telephone: 13 22 81 Email: [environment@act.gov.au](mailto:environment@act.gov.au)

[www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)