



Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ENERGY
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MEDIA RELEASE

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TARGETS ADOPTED

The ACT has set a new benchmark for a sustainable Canberra with the passage of legislation for the country's most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Simon Corbell, said today.

"Today, the ACT Government and the Canberra community have adopted a strong and ambitious targets framework to meaningfully address climate change and create a low carbon future for our city," Mr Corbell said.

"Around Australia, people have become disenchanted with the lack of real action to address climate change. By passing the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Bill 2010, the ACT is showing the rest of the country what must be done."

The legislation commits the ACT to making a 40 per cent cut in emissions, based on 1990 levels, by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050. In addition it:

- mandates regular reporting to the Legislative Assembly on the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions trends;
- establishes a Climate Change Council to provide independent advice on climate change issues as they effect business and the wider community; and,
- and encourages private organisations and industries to take action through voluntary sector agreements with Government.

The legislation, which has been debated in the ACT Legislative Assembly, provides the framework for helping the Territory realise the Government's aim for the ACT region of zero net emissions by 2060.

"This legislation is just one of the strategies this government is pursuing to create a more sustainable city for us all," Mr Corbell said.

"Recently, I announced the proposed changes to the Feed-in Tariff Scheme to include medium and large scale renewable energy generation while we are also developing the Sustainable Energy Policy 2010-2020 and Action Plan 2 of the climate change strategy *Weathering the Change*."

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