



ACT CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-19

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO COUNTRY

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

ACCESSIBILITY

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Letter of Transmittal

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the ACT Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2019.

The Climate Change Council was established under Section 16 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the Act) to advise you as Minister on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing and adapting to climate change.

This Report has been prepared pursuant to section 19 of the Act, and outlines the Council's activities during 2018-19, the advice given and recommendations made to you as Minister. Subsection 19(3) of the Act provides that within 21 days after receiving this report, it must be presented to the Legislative Assembly.

In presenting this Annual Report, it is an honour and pleasure to thank my Council colleagues of the last year for their energy, professionalism and dedication. Four of those colleagues, who started with the Council in its infancy, have served the maximum of two terms: Professor Barbara Norman (previous Council chair), Professor Frank Jotzo, Professor Will Steffen and Mr Toby Roxburgh. Whilst I will miss their involvement, the Council will continue – with the assistance of its newly appointed members – to advance the interests of the ACT community by providing sound and strategic advice on climate change to its elected government.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Penny D Sackett
Chair
ACT Climate Change Council
27 August 2019

Introduction

The ACT Climate Change Council (the Council), established in 2011, is an advisory body to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability (the Minister).

The Council plays a pivotal role in informing climate change policies in the ACT and in providing leadership to the community, working to raise awareness of climate change risks and community benefits from effective climate action, influencing community views and attitudes, and encouraging everyone to take action towards a decarbonised economy and a more resilient Territory.

ACT residents are welcome to raise an issue with the Council, invite Council members to attend a local event or alert them to recent climate change news or research.

Statutory obligations

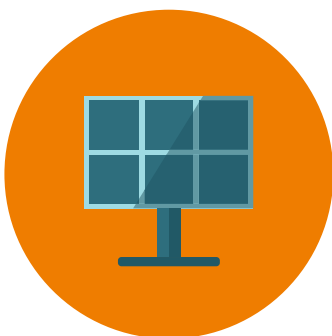
The Council is established under Part 4 of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act), which also sets out the functions of the Council and outlines how they are to be exercised.

The main function of the Council is to advise the Minister on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, addressing, and adapting to, climate change. In exercising its functions the Council must try to consult with representatives from business and the community, including environmental and conservation entities, on matters relating to climate change. The Council must also make efforts to provide information to private entities to encourage action to address, or adapt to, climate change.

In exercising a function under the Act, the Minister must consider any relevant advice given by the Council.

Section 19 of the Act requires the Council to provide an annual report about the Council's activities during the financial year, including any advice or recommendations made to the Minister. The Council must give the report to the Minister within three months after the end of the financial year.

The Act can be found at: <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2010-41/>



Administration

Remuneration

Remuneration for the Council is set by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal and reviewed annually.

From 1 July 2018 to 31 October 2018, members were remunerated according to Determination 6 of 2018, which provided a per diem rate of \$525 for the Chair and \$450 for members. From 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2019, members were remunerated according to Determination 15 of 2018 and then Determination 5 of 2019, which provided a per diem rate of \$540 for the Chair and \$465 for members.

The attendance of members at Council meetings during the reporting period is provided at **Appendix A**, and a summary of expenditure is provided at **Appendix B**.

Gender Report

The gender balance of the Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. For the 2018–19 reporting period, membership included four male and three female members.

Freedom of Information

No freedom of information applications concerning Council business were received during 2018–19.

Accountability and Secretariat

The Climate Change Policy team within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provides Secretariat support to the Council. Further information on the work of the Council is available at www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/climate_change_council.



Membership

Members are appointed under the Act, which prescribes that the Council must comprise at least five, but not more than nine members appointed by the Minister. The Minister must, to the greatest extent practical, ensure the Council includes people with a broad range of skills and knowledge relating to mitigating or adapting to climate change.

During the 2018-19 financial year, the Council consisted of seven members, with a diverse range of skills and experience in areas such as climate change science, energy, community development and urban planning.



PROFESSOR BARBARA NORMAN
(CHAIR)

Professor Barbara Norman is appointed to the Council for her expertise in the built environment.

Professor Norman is the Foundation Chair of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. Professor Norman is Director of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) and an Adjunct Professor with the Australian National University (ANU). Professor Norman is a Life Fellow and past National President of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Life Honorary Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute (UK). Professor Norman advises public and private sectors in Australia and has strong international linkages within Asia, Europe and the United States. She was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Working Group 2 (WGII) “Impacts”, 2014, and was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for her contribution to the community through urban and regional planning.



PROFESSOR PENNY SACKETT
(DEPUTY CHAIR)

Professor Penny Sackett is appointed to the Council for her expertise in climate change science and the community's interest in climate change.

Professor Sackett is a physicist, astronomer and former Chief Scientist for Australia. Professor Sackett has served on Australian, Dutch, European, South African and US science and advisory panels, including several multi-national consortia and working groups. Professor Sackett was appointed Director of the Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories in 2002, serving a five year term. In October 2008 she took the post of Chief Scientist for Australia and retained academic status at the ANU to enable continued mentoring of students. As Chief Scientist for Australia (2008-2011), Professor Sackett provided independent advice to the Australian government on matters of science and innovation, and was a vocal champion of evidenced-based decision making. Professor Sackett is currently an Honorary Professor at the ANU Climate Change Institute, and a private strategic advisor.



TOBY ROXBURGH

Mr Toby Roxburgh is appointed to the Council as an energy specialist.

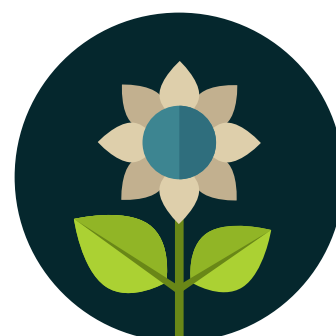
Mr Roxburgh is the chair of the Canberra branch of the Australian Institute of Energy, and has cofounded and supported a number of companies addressing energy and climate change. Mr Roxburgh is the technical lead for Energy Estate and has over 16 years of experience in sustainable energy projects. He has worked across the energy delivery spectrum: from education and energy policy through to cost benefit analysis, feasibility, design, construction, commissioning and operation. Mr Roxburgh brings passion and experience from his work in the energy sector across fields including: education, policy, planning, sustainable design, energy efficiency, district energy, renewables, carbon reduction and energy productivity. He has also been involved in light rail and demand management projects for ActewAGL, district energy delivery for the City of Sydney, remote solar PV systems for Indigenous communities through Indigenous Affairs, and energy master planning and delivery for the ANU to reduce carbon emissions, over 500MW of solar PV farms (through Renew Estate), electric bus and truck transport transformation (through Electromotiv) and is driving pumped storage, floating solar, solar thermal and other technologies forward.



PROFESSOR WILL STEFFEN

Professor Will Steffen is appointed to the Council for his expertise in climate change science.

Professor Steffen is a Councillor on the publicly-funded Climate Council of Australia and a global change researcher at the ANU. Professor Steffen is the sustainability theme leader of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures. Previously Professor Steffen served as the Science Adviser to the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Professor Steffen has served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, an international network of scientists studying global environmental change based in Stockholm, Sweden and is currently a guest researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. His research spans many fields including climate and Earth System science, with an emphasis on incorporation of human processes in Earth System modelling and analysis; and on sustainability and climate change, with an emphasis on urban areas. Professor Steffen was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), Working Group I (WGI).





PROFESSOR FRANK JOTZO

Professor Frank Jotzo is appointed to the Council for his expertise in climate change science and as an energy specialist.

Professor Jotzo is an Associate Professor at ANU, Director of the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy at Crawford School of Public Policy and an ANU Public Policy Fellow. Professor Jotzo has research expertise in the economics and policy of climate change (including mechanisms and policy design for greenhouse gas control), policy frameworks for adaptation to climate change and international climate policy, as well as energy policy and land-use change policy. Professor Jotzo has published widely, advised governments and consulted for international organisations. Professor Jotzo was an advisor to the Garnaut Climate Change Review, advisor to Indonesia's Ministry of Finance, consultant to international organisations and was a Lead Author of Chapter 3 and the Technical Summary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).



MS KAREN JESSON

Ms Karen Jesson is appointed to the Council as a community development specialist.

Ms Karen Jesson is the Community Development Manager with Communities@Work. She has over 11 years' experience in Community Development (CD) and works with a variety of stakeholders and groups in the ACT. She has qualifications in Community Development and Management, as well as Permaculture Design and Home Sustainability Assessment.

Karen has assisted in the development and delivery of some key projects within the ACT. She is passionate about making connections and sharing information. On numerous occasions she has been instrumental in delivering conferences and workshops which has seen both national and internationally recognised speakers present best practice thinking in the field of CD.

She established the Sustainability Network, which saw two key outcomes, namely the development of Canberra loves 40% and Canberra City Farm achieved. She is one of the founding members of Canberra Transition Town.

Karen is a member of the Climate Change Council and involved in a variety of projects, including working closely with the Suburban Land Agency to deliver the Mingle Community Development program in the new and emerging communities of Wright and Coombs.



MR BEN PONTON

Mr Ben Ponton is appointed to the Council as Director-General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Mr Ponton was appointed to the role of Director-General in April 2017. Ben is a registered town planner with over 25 years' experience in both the private and government sectors and is passionate about achieving high quality outcomes through meaningful and effective engagement.

Ben has experience within the private sector where he worked as a town planning consultant before beginning his government career with various New South Wales local government authorities. For the last 14 years, Ben has worked for the ACT Government in areas such as strategic planning, environmental policy, land and planning regulation, transport, city services and urban renewal. Ben focuses on citizen-oriented Government and believes in engaging with citizens early to build a sustainable and prosperous community for all.



Activities

Meeting Highlights

The Council formally met seven times in the 2018-19 reporting period, with five regular meetings and two additional meetings to specifically discuss aspects of the new ACT Climate Change Strategy under development.

3 July 2018

A representative from the City Renewal Authority (CRA) attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of the CRA and development of a Sustainability Strategy. Council members discussed specific issues such as the importance of green walls and green roofs for reducing urban heat, and opportunities to reduce emissions in buildings.

The Minister provided an update on the Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan, Global Climate Action Summit and the National Energy Guarantee. The Minister also emphasised the importance of engaging with the community on climate change.

4 September 2018

Council members were joined by representatives from the Suburban Land Agency, as well as the ACT Government Architect. Discussion included topics such as urban heat, measuring canopy cover, tree species for future climates, communication of energy efficiency and running costs of a building, the need to increase minimum energy performance standards for multi-unit dwellings, shading and roof colour.

15 November 2018

Council members received a briefing on the Planning Strategy Refresh from EPSDD representatives.

Members of the Climate Change Ministerial Advisory Group (CCMAG) joined the Council to discuss how the group can assist in the goal of reducing emissions in the Canberra community. This covered issues such as implementation of the climate change strategy, engagement with the community, participation and resourcing, as well as ideas to reduce emissions from the transport sector.

19 December 2018 and 8 January 2019

Council members attended two short meetings with EPSDD officials to provide their expert input into the development of the Climate Change Strategy.

28 February 2019

Council members received a briefing from Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) representatives on the development of the Integrated Transport Strategy. Members discussed linkages with the ACT's emissions reduction targets, and committed to drafting a submission on the Strategy.

23 May 2019

Council members received a briefing from students involved in the recent school climate change strike, and noted their support of the work being done by the group. Council also discussed recent highlights, longer-term achievements and opportunities for the Council to pursue in the future.

The Minister gave his heartfelt thanks to the Council members for their work over the years and emphasised how Council has contributed to the success of the ACT's climate change work.

Advice and Recommendations

The Council provides advice to the Minister and the Government on a number of issues. ACT Government officials occasionally engage with Council members on an ad-hoc basis for advice on other climate-change related matters.

In 2018-19, key advice to Government included:

The Social Cost of Carbon (SCC)

In its recommendations about interim emissions targets for the ACT Government in 2017, Council recommended the use of SCC as a minimum measure for public investments to make up for any possible future overshoot in emissions above targets.

The Council recommended that the ACT not rely on emissions offsets to cover any possible future emissions overshoot. The Council also recommended that an SCC be applied in any cost-benefit analyses used to inform public investments or policy and regulatory decisions in the ACT.

In July 2018, Council members met with the Under-Treasurer to provide a briefing on the practical implications of SCC, as well as developing a formal briefing paper.

The Council's formal briefing paper is available online at https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1389097/act-climate-change-council-social-cost-of-carbon-briefing-paper.pdf

Advice on climate change policy development

Members of the Council continued to provide expert input on development of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25 and the Living Infrastructure Plan, through meetings with representatives from EPSDD.



Submission to the draft ACT Integrated Transport Strategy

In April 2019, members of the Council collaborated to prepare a written submission on selected issues in the draft ACT Integrated Transport Strategy. The submission focused on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport, in the context of the broader objectives of the Strategy.

Key discussion points included prioritising active travel, reviewing public transport pricing, supporting electric vehicle uptake and prioritising electrification of the bus fleet.

The Council's full written submission is available online at:

https://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1389098/act-climate-change-council-submission-on-the-act-draft-integrated-transport-strategy.pdf

Interim Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Legislation

In August 2018, the ACT Government formally legislated interim greenhouse gas reduction targets of:

- 40% below 1990 levels by 2020;
- 50-60% below 1990 levels by 2025;
- 65-75% below 1990 levels by 2030;
- 90-95% below 1990 levels by 2040; and,
- net zero emissions by 2045 (previously 2050).

These targets were based on Council advice, which considered the level of emission reduction targets required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as the latest technological and economic developments.

More information about the ACT Government's emissions reduction targets is available at <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc>.

Publications

Carbon Budget fact sheet

In 2018, Council members collaborated to produce a fact sheet explaining the concept of carbon budgets, including how the concept was used in determining the ACT's interim greenhouse gas reduction targets, and implications for ongoing emissions reduction work.

The Carbon Budget fact sheet is available online at: https://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1297707/What-is-a-Carbon-Budget.pdf



WHAT IS A CARBON BUDGET?



How is a 'carbon budget' relevant to the ACT?

Like a household budget, climate science sets a carbon budget for the amount of greenhouse gases that can be 'spent' (emitted) for a given level of global warming. If we exceed this budget, global temperatures will become higher.

This summary explains the concept of a carbon budget, and why it is useful in determining whether possible future actions on climate change will be sufficient to limit global warming below a certain temperature. The ACT Climate Change Council used a carbon budget to arrive at its recent recommendations for greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions targets for the ACT.¹

Canberra Times articles

In early 2019, Council members published a series of opinion articles in The Canberra Times, exploring how Canberra can transition to carbon neutrality.

1. Sackett PD, Jotzo F and Steffen W (2019) Can a growing city cut carbon emissions to zero? *The Canberra Times*. 19 January 2019. Available online at: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/5996626/can-a-growing-city-cut-carbon-emissions-to-zero>
2. Norman B (2019) Canberra must be greener to cope in a hotter future. *The Canberra Times*. 22 February 2019. Available online at: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/5994914/canberra-must-be-greener-to-cope-in-a-hotter-future>
3. Jotzo F (2019) Making the switch: What will Canberra's commute look like in the future? *The Canberra Times*. 5 March 2019. Available online at: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/5993399/making-the-switch-what-will-canberras-commute-look-like-in-the-future>
4. Sackett PD (2019) We need to change the way we build Canberra homes. *The Canberra Times*. 19 March 2019. Available online at: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/5992666/we-need-to-change-the-way-we-build-canberra-homes/>
5. Jesson K (2019) Community's role in a carbon-free Canberra. *The Canberra Times*. 2 April 2019. Available online at: <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6005333/communitys-role-in-a-carbon-free-canberra>



Engagement

Council members often participate in a range of engagements out-of-session, including meetings, events and presentations.

Meetings with Ministers

In July 2018, Council members met with the Minister for Planning and Land Management to discuss a range of climate change issues, including net zero precincts and the Council's work on climate-wise buildings. Council members also met with the Minister for Education in May 2019 to discuss engagement with students and the climate change components of the school curriculum.

Meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

On 10 April 2019, the Council Chair was invited to meet with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) to discuss action on climate change in the ACT and wider region. This was a productive discussion around issues such as the use of traditional plant species in urban greening, waterways, communications and engagement on climate change issues. The Council Secretariat will continue to liaise with the ATSIEB Secretariat in 2019 to discuss further opportunities for discussion and collaboration.



New Member Appointments

The terms of six of the seven Council members expired on 30 June 2019, and four of these members (Professor Barbara Norman, Professor Frank Jotzo, Professor Will Steffen and Mr Toby Roxburgh) had served the maximum number of terms possible (two).

In November 2018, the Minister announced a public recruitment process for new members of the Council, calling for applicants from across the ACT community, business and industry. This process sought applications from people with expertise in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and insights into actions to address and adapt to climate change and help maintain the ACT's position as a world-leader in climate policy.

More than 60 expressions of interest were received from diverse and highly talented applicants, which reflected the commitment of the Canberra community to achieving the ACT's leading climate change goals.

As a result of this process, the following new Council members were appointed for terms commencing on 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2022:

- Dr Paul Bannister, for his expertise in energy efficiency and the built environment
- Dr Cristopher Brack, for his expertise in environmental management
- Ms Sophia Hamblin Wang, for her expertise in business
- Professor Mark Howden, for his expertise in climate change science

The new Council members will join re-appointed members Ms Karen Jesson and Mr Ben Ponton, with Professor Penny Sackett appointed as the new Council Chair.

More information on new Council members from 1 July 2019 is available at:

https://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/climate_change_council/meet-your-council



Contact the Council

The community and stakeholders are invited to contact the Council via the Climate Change Council Secretariat.

Email: ClimateChangeCouncilSecretariat@act.gov.au

Telephone: 13 22 81 (Access Canberra)

Post: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Connect with the Council online

The Council is active on Twitter and LinkedIn, and invites the community to connect with them through social media.

Twitter: @act_ccc

LinkedIn: ACT Climate Change Council

Website: https://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc/climate_change_council

Appendix A: Meeting attendance

There were five regular Council meetings during the 2018–19 reporting period.

- 3 July 2018
- 4 September 2018
- 15 November 2018
- 28 February 2019
- 23 May 2019

Council members also attended two additional meetings with Directorate officials to discuss aspects of the development of the Climate Change strategy.

- 19 December 2018
- 8 January 2019

Number of Council meetings attended by Council members:

MEMBER	NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN REPORTING PERIOD	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Professor Barbara Norman (Chair)	7	5
Professor Penny Sackett	7	6
Professor Will Steffen	7	6
Professor Frank Jotzo	7	6
Mr Toby Roxburgh	7	6
Ms Karen Jesson	7	6
Mr Ben Ponton	5 ¹	3

Appendix B: Budget

CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL	TOTALS 2018-19
Remuneration	\$21,906
Projects	-
Miscellaneous	\$5,786
Total (excluding GST)	\$27,692

The totals listed here relate to meetings and activities completed in the 2018-19 financial year. Remuneration for Council members is determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal. Council members who are public employees do not receive additional remuneration.

1 As Director-General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, Mr Ponton was not required to attend the two additional meetings, as the focus was on external input to the development of the new Climate Change strategy.

