

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**Directorate**

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To:	Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability	Tracking No.: 20/00045
Date:	29 October 2020	
From:	Deputy Director-General	
Subject:	WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 2 November 2020	

- DDG, Sustainability and the Built Environment

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 2 to 6 November 2020.

Key Issues**2020 ACT emissions reduction target**

- EPSDD has received the results of the 2019-20 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. These results confirm that the ACT has successfully met its legislated emissions reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2020.
- ACT emissions for 2019-20 were 47% below 1990 levels. Transport emissions fell by 11% from 2018-19 to 2019-20. However, this was largely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and are likely to rise again in the near future.
- A brief on the full results is currently being developed by Climate Change Policy.

Electric vehicle consultancy results

- EPSDD has received a series of reports from consultants Everergi. The reports make a series of recommendations on policy and regulatory changes necessary to encourage greater uptake of zero emissions vehicles in the ACT.
- The reports outline:
 - Changes to the Territory Plan to allow electric vehicle (EV) charging in new apartments and mixed-use developments;
 - Options to promote investment in public charging infrastructure;
 - Regulatory measures to increase EV uptake in commercial vehicle fleets; and
 - Technical options for combining solar PV parking structures with EV charging.
- The reports are being used to review existing policies and regulation relating to zero emissions vehicles in consultation ACT Government Directorates.

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NoWaste Meeting

CCSD attended a TCCS NoWaste meeting on Thursday 22 October 2020 with regards to planning for the next Government waste collection contract. The work commissioned to Arup consulting includes the assessment of potential waste collection fleet to transition to low emissions (reducing the diesel fleet to electric or hydrogen).

Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice (ASHA) – webinars

The next ASHA webinar will be held 6pm-7pm on Wednesday 4 November 2020 on ‘Staying Cool in Summer’. This webinar will provide participants with tips and advice on how to keep the home and garden cool to help stay comfortable and reduce energy use and save on bills. A range of webinars are being planned and scheduled until mid-December.

Community Zero Emission Grants

On 20 October 2020, the Australian Dance Party released ‘Get Electrified!’ – the second video in its ‘Move to Zero 2.0’ campaign – which celebrates the environmental and health benefits of EVs:

<https://www.facebook.com/australiandanceparty/videos/387140822691768/>

Program Delivery Review- Household Energy Efficiency Program Low Income

Following a training workshop with SVDP staff and Executive new program delivery processes will now be implemented including increased household participation in Home Energy assessments to encourage behaviour change and new monitoring and evaluation methods.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) – Insulation Training Development Contract

CIT Solutions have delivered the second milestone report for the contract to develop and deliver insulation installer training, to support the potential delivery of eligible insulation activities under the EEIS. The milestone report includes draft training material. The report and associated material is currently under review.

out of scope

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 17 December 2020**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 21 December 2020

- DDG, Sustainability and the Built Environment 17/12/20

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 21 to 25 December 2020.

Key Issues**Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)– ActewAGL 2019 Energy Saving Result (ESR)**

The EEIS Administrator has delivered the 2019 Energy Saving Result. The emissions savings from activities undertaken in 2019 was 94,017 tCO₂-e, with 29,016 tCO₂-e of this final result delivered in Priority Households. 94,017 tCO₂-e is 6,462 tCO₂-e higher than the previous compliance period. This will be the last compliance year that the ESR will be determined using an emissions factor, as the scheme moves to an energy metric.

2020 Wholesale Electricity Market Report

On 14 December 2020 the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) published its 2020 Wholesale Electricity Market Performance Report. The report found that wholesale prices in the National Electricity Market (NEM) are at significantly lower than they were two years ago, and the AER expects retailers will pass on those savings to consumers. A key driver of the lower prices has been the increased amounts of low-priced capacity on offer, driven by changes in supply conditions as well as further new entry of large-scale solar and wind generation.

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Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 21/01534

Date: 21 January 2021**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 25 January 2021

- DDG, Sustainability and the Built Environment 20/01/21
- DDG, Land Strategy and Environment 21/01/21

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 18 to 29 January 2021.

Key Issues**Actsmart Schools It's Your Move: Sustainable Transport Project**

This project has been co-designed with ACT Health and ThinkPlace to encourage year 9 and 10 students to use the design thinking process to solve an identified school-based transport problem to encourage school community wide behaviour change. The package of resources is being finalised, ready to roll out throughout Term 1 2021. Expressions of Interest from targeted schools close 31 Jan 2021.

Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP)

The ESP is a digital platform used to collect data on energy and water use for all ACT Government Directorates on a site by site basis. The platform is used to measure emissions, water and energy use by building to support Directorates to detect spikes in usage quickly and identify opportunities for resource use improvement. Energetics has been selected to conduct a review of the current platform, as well as identifying alternatives, with the contract for the platform due to expire in October. The review will assist ACT Government in maximising the platform, driving cost and emissions reductions across government.

Energy Efficient Improvement Scheme (EEIS) Compliance Plan for 2021 Review

Tier 1 – ActewAGL Compliance Plan for 2021 has been submitted and a review of the plan has been completed. Internal EEIS checks for the compliance plan against the current legislation have been undertaken.

ActewAGL will maintain the following activities into the 2021 Compliance period:

- Activity 2.1 – the installation of high efficiency ducted electric heating program in residential premises;
- Activity 2.3 – the installation of high efficiency room electric room heaters in residential premises. A significant proportion of this program is expected to be delivered into Housing ACT properties to support the PHT;
- Activity 2.4 - install insulated space conditioning ductwork in residential premises;

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- Activity 3.1 - decommission an electric resistance water heater and install a specified high efficiency water heater;
- Activity 3.2 - decommission a gas or liquefied petroleum gas water heater and install a specified high efficiency water heater;
- Activity 4.2 – commercial lighting upgrade activities in business premises; and
- Activity 5.1 – decommissioning and disposal of a refrigerator or freezer in residential and business premises.

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CHIEF MINISTER'S FORTNIGHTLY ISSUES BRIEF

DATE: 2/01/2021

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Climate Change and Sustainability Division

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme – Approved energy savings providers

- Following discussion with industry (primarily hot water heat pump installers), EPSDD is reviewing mechanisms to expand participation of approved energy savings providers to deliver activities under the Scheme.

Actsmart for Transport Project

- The Canberra Bike Library has had strong public interest in the program since launching in August 2020. Negotiations are underway to add three e-bikes to the fleet.

The content has been cleared by

Name: Alex Magee

Position: Senior Director - Office of the Director-General, on authority of the Director-General.

National Recognition campaigns

Campaign	Dates	Minister Attending
Nil		

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Applicant Type	Subject	Due date	Comments
	Community zero emissions grant to JT Clay for <i>The Carbon Diet</i>	03/03/2021	Status: In progress Activity: Third party consultation underway

From 28 April 2020, CMTEDD request advice is for inclusion of

1. new FOIs*; and
2. FOIs that are considered sensitive** because they have been requested by an MLA, media organisation or are sensitive for some other reason.

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
 Directorate**

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To:	Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Tracking No.: 20/00045
Date:	28 January 2021	
From:	Deputy Director-General	
Subject:	WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 1 February 2021	

- DDG, Sustainability and the Built Environment 28/01/2021

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 1 to 5 February 2021.

Key Issues
Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme – Approved energy savings providers

Following discussion with industry (primarily hot water heat pump installers), the EEIS team is reviewing mechanisms to expand participation of approved energy savings providers delivering activities under the Scheme.

Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program

The Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency program, currently delivered by St Vincent de Paul, reached a milestone of over 3,500 energy assessments for vulnerable households since the program began in October 2015. The program is a free service that also provides draught proofing, education and other energy saving materials. A trial of the National Energy Scorecard (developed by Victorian Government) is being incorporated into the program as a potential opportunity to further improve the information collected and scope of recommendations provided to households.

Waiving registration for Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV)

Following the announcement on 21 January 2021, Climate Change Policy is progressing with details to implement a waiver of registration fees for new ZEVs, commencing in May 2021. At this stage, it is not clear if this will be through Cabinet or can be completed through the Climate Change Sub-Committee of Cabinet as the key parameters have already been agreed.

Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Event
2 February 2021	Officers from the Energy Policy team are meeting with the Australian Energy Regulator to discuss potential amendments to national gas rules.
3 February 2021	The Energy Policy team is meeting with the ACT Energy Consumer Policy Consortium. This bi-monthly meeting is to facilitate engagement between energy consumer representatives and ACT Government energy policy and programs staff.

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3 February 2021	<p>A Special General Meeting of the Australian Energy Market Operator will be held to consider, and if agreed, pass a resolution to appoint two new non-executive Directors of AEMO.</p> <p>The Executive Group Manager or Executive Branch Manager, Policy will attend and vote on your behalf under an existing proxy arrangement. The two proposed candidates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• [REDACTED] is a Brisbane-based company director, Chair of infrastructure Australia and the former Chair of ERM Power.• [REDACTED] is a Melbourne-based engineer and company director specialising in information technology. He is the Managing Director of an IT consulting firm, a Director of carsales.com and a former Chair of the Australian Information Industry Association.
4 February 2021	<p>Members of the Actsmart Household team will attend the Conservation Council workshop “<i>Make the Switch to an all-electric home</i>” at the Canberra Environment Centre on 4 February.</p> <p>The workshop will provide an opportunity for Actsmart Households to raise awareness about programs and services the team can offer, and provide details about the recently launched home energy assessment webtool.</p>



**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 04 March 2021

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 8 March 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 03/03/2021

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 8 to 12 March 2021.

Key Issues

out of scope

Climate Change and Energy

SunSpot online solar PV calculator demonstration

Last Friday 26th February 2021 the Council Liaison Officer from SunSpot (developed by the Australian PV Institute) demonstrated the online solar PV calculation tool to staff from the Climate Change & Energy division. There was also a discussion on how to improve the platform to make it more useful for Government programs and the ACT Community. SunSpot received a grant under round 2 of the Community Zero Emissions Grants to roll out the tool for the ACT.

SolarShare Community Solar Farm Launch

Minister Rattenbury has been invited to the SolarShare Community Solar Farm launch on Thursday, 11 March at 11am.

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Actsmart for Transport Workshops

“Introduction to Bike Maintenance and Repair” workshops have been aligned with the Canberra Walk and Ride Week, and are scheduled for the following times:

- Tuesday, 9 March 2021 at the Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club, at 6pm
- Monday, 15 March 2021 at the Downer Community Centre, at 1pm
- Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at the Chifley Community Room, at 6pm

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

The EEIS Administrator sent a letter to Rachael Turner, General Manager - Retail, ActewAGL relating to incorrect information provided by ActewAGL to its customers about a recent reduction in ActewAGL support for heating and cooling upgrades. The letter indicated this was due to reductions in “government rebates”. Communications with Ms Turner indicated this was done by a more junior staff member, and it would be corrected. The Administrator will chase up, and is using this as an opportunity to reframe communications around government versus ActewAGL’s role in the EEIS. A letter is being prepared from you to John Knox, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ActewAGL to address broader concerns around the partnership.

ZEV team meetings with zero emissions vehicle manufacturers

The Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV) team met with Hyzon to explore their plans to bring hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to the Australian market. Hyzon manufacture hydrogen buses and heavy vehicles, with trials of the vehicles in Australia being lined up, including placing 10 coaches with Fortescue in Western Australia. They are also partnering with infrastructure and hydrogen producers such as Global NRG, Pure Hydrogen and Viva Energy to establish consortiums to deliver full hydrogen solutions and are looking for other opportunities to bring heavy hydrogen vehicles to the Australian market, such as buses and waste collection vehicles.

The ZEV team met with Toyota to discuss their trial with BHP of an electric light utility vehicle, the EV LC70, with Toyota indicating that this type of electric vehicle may be widely available to the Australian market in 2023-24 if interest is sufficient. Toyota will remain in contact with the ZEV team if they look to trial the vehicle in a non-mining environment.

The ZEV team met with Ateco Group, the Australian importers of LDV Vans, to discuss the eDeliver 3 and eDeliver 9 electric vans which have been rolled out in the UK and Ireland. Ateco are seeking to indicate sufficient interest to the manufacturer from the Australian market to justify importing them, and may seek interest for a trial of the vehicles as a first step into the Australian market.

Sustainable Household Loan Scheme

The research report from the focus groups to help inform design of the Sustainable Household Loan Scheme has been finalised. The report confirmed the information from the Your Say Community Panel survey in terms of barriers/motivators to uptake of the Scheme.



Meetings to discuss potential partnerships for emissions reduction

The Climate Change Partnerships team are exploring potential options for partnerships with Ikea and ANU representatives in Canberra this week as the start of delivering the new partnerships workplan. Further meetings with other organisations including University of Canberra will follow.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Date	Event
Tuesday 9 March 2021, 2.30pm	Gene McGlynn and Miriam McMillan are meeting with representatives from ANU Below Zero Emissions Initiative to discuss potential partnership activities.
Wednesday 10 March 2021, 1pm	The Actsmart Household Team and the Australian Energy Foundation are holding a consultation workshop with stakeholders to review delivery of the Actsmart home energy assessments for renters. Invited stakeholders include Better Renting, ACTCOSS, Conservation Council, SEE Change, CARE Financial, Canberra Environment Centre, the Australian Institute of Architects and the Real Estate Institute of the ACT.
Thursday 11 March 2021, 10am	Ros Malouf and Miriam McMillan are meeting with Ikea to discuss potential partnership activities. This is a follow up conversation after Ikea showed initial interest.



**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 18 March 2021

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 22 March 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 18/03/2021

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 22 to 26 March 2021.

Key Issues

out of scope

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Climate Change and Energy

Climate Change Council meeting

The ACT Climate Change Council will meet on Friday 26 March 2021. The Council has prepared a draft agenda which will be circulated to you prior to the meeting. Penny Sacket's membership will expire in July 2021 and a new Council Chair will need to be appointed. The Climate Change Policy team has prepared a brief for you to select a new Council Chair and a separate brief has been prepared to initiate the appointments process for new members to the Council. The intent is to appoint new members with skill sets in transport and health care, and we are considering the most supportive process to include an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander member. Climate Change Policy team is in consultation with Mary Mudford, Traditional Custodian Engagement for EPSDD.

Six monthly report on the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy

The Climate Change Policy team has initiated the project to report on the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy. The team is working with CMTEDD to ensure that emissions mitigation commitments in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement of the 10th Assembly which are not captured in the Climate Change Strategy are reported on in 2021.

Social Cost of Carbon

The Climate Change Policy team engaged a consultant to provide a report on the theory and application of the social cost of carbon in ACT Government decision making. The Climate Change Policy team is working with Procurement ACT in CMTEDD to integrate the findings of the report into procurement guidance.

Home energy assessments for renters

As at 15 March 2021, 228 renters and property owners have completed a home energy assessment either in-home, via phone or using the webtool as part of the Actsmart Renter's program. More than 90% of participants who have given feedback via an online survey were satisfied with their assessment, and over 60% said they had made energy efficiency changes and were more comfortable as a result. Future delivery options are being considered following consultation with stakeholders last week.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

The EEIS Administrator is considering an amendment to the eligibility requirements for entities/applicants to become an Approved Energy Savings Provider (AESP) under the EEIS. This amendment would allow for applicants to registered under the Clean Energy Regulator's (CER) Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) to be accredited as AESPs for activities for which they have CER accreditation. An application fee would also be introduced. This process amendment would allow for the completion of the application assessment for Harvest Hot Water. Work is underway to secure reciprocal arrangements with the CER.

Sustainable Household Scheme

As of 17 March 2021, 2450 people have registered their interest in updates regarding the scheme. The most popular products are solar (1614) and battery (1405). Following this are heating and cooling (818), EV (807), hot water (748) and electric appliances (807), noting that some households have registered an interest in more than one product i.e. solar and battery. An article was published in the March edition of the Our Canberra newsletter, distributed to households across Canberra from 8 March 2021. Social media

posts have also gone out through the ACT Government account and the Chief Minister's account in recent days.

Hydrogen station launch events

The station has completed the final verification steps including fuel purity testing and the Hyundai Nexo vehicles can now be refuelled. This will enable eight Hyundai Nexos to be refuelled for use during the Hyundai Nexo launch events on 24 and 25 March 2021, with the station launch occurring subsequently on Friday 26 March 2020

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**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 31 March 2020

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 6 April 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 6 to 9 April 2021.

Key Issues

out of scope

Climate Change and Energy

Community Gardens Round 7

The new grant round will ideally be launched in early May 2021 to coincide with composting awareness week. Minister Vassarotti is expected to launch this grant round.

Mugga Lane waste to energy facility

Geoffrey Rutledge and Gene McGlynn were invited to a site visit of the facility. The facility operator LGI are analysing opportunities to expand the emissions captured from the Mugga Lane waste facility. Waste emissions are 8% of total ACT emissions and waste emissions from the Mugga Lane site are anticipated to continue to contribute to ACT emissions for the long term. LGI is examining options to use the captured landfill gas for green gas, renewable electricity or hydrogen production. A brief is being prepared on this opportunity.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

Compliance period reporting from obligated retailers for 2020 is underway with reviews and a briefing to the EEIS Administrator to follow. From this process we will understand the Tier 2 retailer Energy Saving Contribution and the Energy Savings Result for Tier 1 activity delivery, which will inform EEIS revenue for the year.

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Sustainable Household Scheme

As of 30 March, 3231 people have registered their interest for updates regarding the scheme. The most popular products are solar and battery, followed by heating and cooling, EV, hot water and electric appliances. Noting that some households have registered an interest in more than one product ie solar and battery. An article was published in the March edition of the Our Canberra newsletter, distributed to households across Canberra from 8 March. Social media posts have also gone out through the ACT Government account and the Chief Minister's account in recent days. Eligibility criteria was published on the Actsmart website on 22 March 2021.

H2X

Geoffrey Rutledge and the ZEV team met with H2X to discuss their plans for FCEV manufacturing in Australia and opportunities for the ACT Government for adoption of these vehicles. H2X will send through details for hydrogen generators which can replace diesel generators on work sites. An in-person meeting between ACT Government and H2X to be arranged in May. H2X to advise ACT Government when new vehicles become available and to support hydrogen ecosystem in ACT.

Foton Mobility hydrogen bus trial

The ZEV team met with Foton Mobility, who will be manufacturing battery and fuel cell electric buses in Moss Vale, NSW from 2022, to discuss the possibility of taking on two hydrogen buses on trial with view to purchase. The 12-month trial would start in August with the ACT having the option to purchase the vehicles at the end of the period if they proved successful. Further discussions will be held with Transport Canberra about the viability of taking on these buses in place of diesel leases, as well as with ActewAGL to determine whether the station production could be expanded to meet the needs of the buses in the required timeframe.

Meeting with Arrival

Arrival is a manufacturer of electric vans. The ZEV team will meet with Arrival to discuss plans for manufacturing hub in Australia that will see electric vans produced domestically at prices comparable to ICE alternatives, as part of wider discussions with NSW Treasury.

Next Generation Energy Storage Program

The second submission period for the program has closed and the evaluation of applications has commenced with staff on the panel from policy, programs and Access Canberra. It is expected that successful parties will be announced at the end of May. 17 applications were received in the latest round and should see in further increase in consumer choice.

Energy Network Modelling Procurement

Action 4.5 of the *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025* requires EPSDD to develop a plan for achieving zero emissions from gas use. To inform the gas transition plan and to fully understand the costs, benefits and limitations of potential transition pathways, Energy Policy is commissioning independent economic and network modelling. The tender for this work is expected to be released in the first week of April. For probity reasons, enquiries received by your office regarding the tender should be directed to Tenders ACT (tendersACT@act.gov.au or 02 6207 7377).

Community Club Initiative

The Actsmart Business Team is conducting a market sounding on Wednesday 7 April 2021 with members of Clubs ACT and the Community Clubs Canberra to seek views and options to inform the design of the Initiative.

Successful ARC linkage bid – liquid organic hydrogen storage technology

On 24 March 2021, Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Projects scheme released its grants to a number of 2020 applications. The ACT's project led by the ANU received \$780,000 from the ARC to develop an innovative Liquid Organic Hydrogen Storage technology that will cultivate Australia's hydrogen energy industry, enhance fuel security and protect the environment. This project is a collaboration between The Australian National University, The University of New South Wales, Global Power Generation Australia (GPG), Hydrogenia, Evoenergy and Illuminact. Funding from GPG (\$625K) was a result of the ACT's reverse auction deed commitment.

Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Event
8 April 2021	Mr Gene McGlynn, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy, has accepted an invitation to speak at Evoenergy's Energy Consumer Reference Council meeting. Primary topic of discussion will be electricity price pass through costs for the coming financial year, and Mr McGlynn will speak about large FiT pricing and dynamics.



Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 15 April 2020**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 19 April 2021

- EGM Climate Change and Energy 13/04/2021

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 19 to 23 April 2021.

Key Issues**Climate Change and Energy****Sustainable Household Scheme**

As of 12 April 2021, 3,486 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Scheme. The most popular products are solar and battery, followed by heating and cooling, EV, hot water and electric appliances. Some households have registered an interest in more than one product i.e. solar and battery. An article was published in the March edition of the Our Canberra newsletter, distributed to households across Canberra from 8 March 2021. Eligibility criteria was published on the Actsmart website on 22 March 2021.

Low-income household (Solar for Public Housing)

The two large complexes (Common Ground, Gungahlin and Toolangi, Kaleen) that were part of the Solar for Public Housing trial have now been connected to the grid, apart from a portion of Kaleen property which is awaiting roof repair works by Housing ACT. This installation represented a first of its kind technology for the ACT, allowing every unit to be personally connected to the solar installation. Over 100 tenants are estimated to save approximately \$350-\$400/year through their electricity accounts. Education sessions are being organised at both sites to support tenants in making the most from the system, including access to individual solar generation data. A communication strategy is being prepared to promote the project's achievements as well as opportunities for others to consider this technology in large multi-unit dwellings.

Electricity retailer Compliance Period Reporting

Electricity retailer Compliance Period Reporting for 2020 is complete. The EEIS Administrator is writing to electricity retailers to inform them of the conclusion of their reporting responsibilities.

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Actsmart Schools

Term 2 of ACT Schools commences this week, and the Actsmart Schools team will be contacting schools to develop new case studies and good news stories showing the actions that schools and their community are taking to address the complexity of climate change challenges and adaptation. After meeting with different organisations across the ACT, the team will be developing a stakeholder map to develop a climate action resource for schools trying to connect with the various programs that support schools and their community. The team are working the Australian National Botanical Gardens to host the next teacher professional learning which will focus on biodiversity – the participants will have the opportunity to take the Twilight Tour of the gardens Tuesday 11 May 2021.

FCEV meeting

The ZEV team will meet with Toyota to determine leasing opportunities for the Toyota Mirai FCEV. The vehicle is likely to be significantly more expensive to lease than battery electric alternatives but may prove viable where for sites where EV charging infrastructure may prove too costly or challenging to install.

Arrival meeting

The ZEV team will meet with UK electric van and bus startup Arrival to discuss their plans for locating a micro-factory in Australia, following their listing on the Nasdaq where the company was valued at over US\$13bn, with the company planning on manufacturing multiple vehicle types that may suit the needs of ACT Government fleet.

out of scope

Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Rental Properties

The Sustainability Policy team is negotiating a possible contract price variation with ACIL-Allen to include additional energy performance standards to be analysed as part of the regulatory impact statement. This will improve the rigour of the assessment and better inform a preferred minimum energy performance standard.

out of scope

out of scope



**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 23 April 2020

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 26 April 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 22/04/21

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 26 to 30 April 2021.

Key Issues

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Energy and Emissions Reduction

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme

A new contract with Energetics to undertake metrics for the 2022 EEIS is due to commence this week. The supplier will undertake an analysis for Energy Savings Targets, Energy Savings Contributions and priority Household Targets. Once analysis is complete and a proposed recommendation developed, your office will be briefed to ensure target settings are completed by 30 June 2021.

Joint National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee and National Electricity Market emergency management forum

Energy Policy will attend a national online forum on 28 April 2021. This meeting covers reflections from summer 2021-21 and gas and electricity security outlooks looking forward.

Third Progress Report on the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025

Preparation of the 3rd Progress report has commenced across government which would cover the period September 2020 to March 2021. EPSDD is proposing to incorporate data on Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) registrations in the ACT to bolster reporting against the ZEV Plan and address findings of the Auditor General's 2021 report ACT Government's vehicle emissions reduction activities.

By aligning reporting alongside the whole of government reporting on the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement of the 10th Legislative Assembly (PAGA), this will further streamline processes, and provide comprehensive reporting to government.

Sustainable Household Scheme

As of 19 April 2021, 3,635 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Scheme. The most popular products are solar and battery, followed by heating and cooling, EV, hot water and electric appliances. Noting that some households have registered an interest in more than one product i.e. solar and battery. The Request for Tender (RFP) was released to the market on 12 April 2021 and will close 10 May 2021. An industry information session was held on Tuesday 20 April 2021 to discuss the RFP with potential tenderers.

Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Rental Properties Consultation

Stakeholder consultation sessions will continue on 27 and 28 April 2021 to inform the development of a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the minimum energy performance standards for rental properties. Consultants ACIL Allen are conducting the consultation process, and will meet next week with Legal Aid ACT's Tenant Advice Service, Canberra Community Law, Care Financial Counselling, Tenants Union ACT, Better Renting, ACTCOSS, St Vincent de Paul, ACT Shelter, Conservation Council ACT, Insulation Australasia, Aust Building Sustainability Assoc, Master Electricians Australia, Insulation Council of Aus & NZ, and National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA).

out of scope

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: April 2020**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 3 May 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 29/04/21

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 3 to 7 May 2021.

Key Issues**Actsmart Schools**

The team is presenting a short promotion of the program at the *Designing a Sustainable Home: a rich STEM project* professional learning session for ACT teachers held at the Academy of Future Skills on 3 May and 6 May 2021. The team will be finalising the professional learning we are leading *Understanding biodiversity and its role in climate action* at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on 11 May 2021.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme

Energetics has been engaged and work has commenced on the EEIS metrics project. This project will produce a report and recommendations for setting the EEIS target. The draft report is due to be delivered this week with the final report due on 17 May 2021.

Gas transition – economic and network modelling tender evaluation

Tender responses for the Economic and network modelling for transition pathways closed on 29 April 2021. Tender evaluations commenced on 3 May 2021 and are expected to be completed this week.

LGI waste to energy emissions opportunity

Deputy-Director General, Geoffrey Rutledge and Climate Change and Energy Executive Group Manager, Gene McGlynn along with Waste Policy and Climate Change Policy team members will visit the Mugga Lane waste to energy facility on 5 May 2021. They will discuss the potential to expand the operation to capture more landfill gas and use the green gas for energy supply in the ACT.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Act 2010 Review – steering group formed

The steering group for the project to undertake a 10-year review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* was initiated and a steering group is now formed. The group will review material as it is developed and provide insight into the functioning of the Act.

Actsmart Solar for Business Trial - evaluation

A survey of businesses that participated in the Solar for Business trial is expected to be sent out this week. Responses from businesses will form part of the evaluation of the trial. The trial program is due for conclusion on 30 June 2021.

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Next Generation Energy Storage Program (Next Gen)

The second submission period for Round 5 of the Next Gen program has closed and the evaluation panel has recommended that 8 additional suppliers join the program. This is in addition to the current 7 suppliers who are part of the program. This decision is currently being signed off internally with an announcement expected in May 2021. Increased providers will also support the delivery of the Sustainable Household Scheme with interest in solar and battery proving to be popular options for those householders registering an interest. Increased suppliers in the program encourages competition and increases choice for consumers. It is expected that a media event will occur with the Minister in May/June 2021.

TCCS Electric tipper truck open day

The ZEV team, through the heavy and non-passenger vehicle working group, set up an open day with TCCS and SEA Electric to allow ACT Government fleet and sustainability managers to have a test drive and hear about the early experiences of the electric tipper truck. TCCS were able to explain the benefits and challenges they have faced so far with the vehicle, while SEA Electric explained how these vehicles can be less expensive than diesel alternatives over the life of ownership. Similar sessions will be held again in the future.

Hyundai Nexo Lease cost in media

An article published on CarAdvice on 27 April has questioned the cost to the taxpayer of the Hyundai Nexo FCEVs, stating the cost for the 3-year lease to be \$99,000/year for Queensland Government and states that "While the cost of the 20 Hyundai Nexo hydrogen cars involved in the Canberra fleet trial has not been revealed, it is unlikely to differ greatly, if at all, from the Queensland pricing". The ACT Government may receive media enquiries on this matter. As part of the Neoen-funded project, the Nexos in the ACT Government fleet have zero cost for the 3-year lease.

Launch of Round 7 of Community Garden Grants

Minister Vassarotti will announce the opening of the CGG Round 7 on 3 May 2021. A total of \$40,000 of funding will be available for the round, with funding up to \$10,000 per project. This funding round will focus on projects addressing circular economy, zero emissions and carbon capture.

Sustainable Household Scheme

As of 27 April 2021, 3,770 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Scheme. The most popular products are solar and battery, followed by heating and cooling, EV, hot water and electric appliances. Noting that some households have registered an interest in more than one product i.e. solar and battery. The Request for Tender (RFP) was released to the market on 12 April 2021 and will close 10 May 2021. An industry information session was held on 20 April 2021 to discuss the RFP with potential tenderers.

Partnerships with ANU and Ikea

The Climate Change Partnerships team are progressing discussions with ANU and Ikea. These two partnerships are tests for working with large-scale influential organisations within the Canberra community who have the potential to help increase the reach of our programs and initiatives. A brief will be coming to you shortly seeking your agreement to the proposed activities to partner with the ANU Below Zero Emissions Initiative and IKEA Canberra. The tiered approach to partnership building provides a pathway for us to develop further arrangements with other likeminded organisations such as the University of Canberra.

out of scope



Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

Directorate

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 20/00045

Date: 6 May 2020

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 10 May 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 10 to 14 May 2021.

Key Issues

out of scope

Climate Change and Energy

Under embargo - ACT Government: Fleet Environment Award Winner

ZEV team has been advised (under embargo) that they have been successful in their nomination and the ACT Government has won the Australasian Fleet Management Association (AfMA) *Fleet Environment Award*. The Awards Presentation dinner will be held at Crown Tower Melbourne 20 May 2021. Minister Rattenbury has filmed an 'Award winner journey highlights' clip which will be shown on the night of the Awards presentation.

Canberra Bike Library

A one-year extension for the Canberra Bike Library has been approved. Contract negotiations will start this week with SEE-Change.

Solar for Business

A survey of businesses that participated in the Actsmart Solar for Business trial was sent out 3 May 2021. Responses from businesses will form part of the program evaluation of the trial.

Next Generation Energy Storage Program (Next Gen)

The second submission period for Round 5 of the program has closed and the evaluation panel has recommended eight additional suppliers join the program. This is in addition to the current seven suppliers who are part of the program. This has been approved by the Deputy Director-General and deed negotiations will now commence. There will be an opportunity to announce the new suppliers in June 2021.

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Actsmart Schools

The team will be facilitating a professional learning session on 11 May 2021 at the Australian National Botanic Gardens: *Understanding biodiversity and its role in climate action*, followed by a twilight tour of the botanic gardens. This session is open to all educators in ACT schools and members of the parents and citizen associations.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

The Climate Change and Energy Division is currently working on proposed EEIS targets for the 2022 calendar year. External consultant Energetics is working on the analysis, with a final report due on 17 May 2021. Following this, an information brief will be provided to seek your agreement to the proposed 2022 targets. Should you agree, a further brief will be provided with the instruments required to implement the new targets.

Gas transition – economic and network modelling tender evaluation

Tender evaluations commenced on 3 May 2021 and a decision on the preferred tenderer and contract negotiations are expected to commence this week.

Gas transition – meetings with Icon Water and Evoenergy

There is a Minister’s meeting with Icon Water to discuss the gas transition plan on 10 May 2021. A further meeting between Government officers and Evoenergy is scheduled on 14 May 2021 to discuss the modelling assumptions, inputs and potential for collaboration and information sharing.

Senior Energy Officials Meeting

A Senior Energy Officials Reference Group meeting is scheduled on 11 May 2021. Details regarding this meeting will follow.

Partnerships with ANU and Ikea

The Climate Change Partnerships team are progressing discussions with ANU and Ikea. ANU have advised that they intend to launch the Below Zero Emissions Initiative on 20 May 2021 and will include information about the partnerships as part of the announcement.

Charging infrastructure planning

EPSDD and MPC to have an information session with the Jet Charge infrastructure team to understand how to best plan for charging infrastructure, especially in new builds. CIT Woden campus and Light Rail park-and-ride parking charging will be a focus.



Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Event
11 May 2021	The Actsmart Household Team is presenting an education session at Common Ground, Gungahlin to support Public housing tenants and on-site management on how to make the most of the solar system that has been installed at their property through the Housing ACT Solar Stimulus project.
12 May 2021	The Actsmart Household team is presenting a one-hour workshop on “Staying warm on less this winter” to the Majura Women’s Group.

out of scope

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 21/01534

Date: 13 May 2021**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 17 May 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 17 to 21 May 2021.

Key Issues**Community Partners**

The quarterly meeting with the community partners (ACT Conservation Council, SEE-Change, Canberra Environment Centre) will be held on 19 May 2021 to review the past quarter's activities and new activities for the next quarter.

Actsmart Business Energy and Water Program

The Actsmart Business Energy and Water Program (the Program) is supporting the City of Adelaide to roll out the same small business program as is operating in the ACT. This cross jurisdictional sharing was set up to gain insights from the SA Loan Scheme and in return the SA Government sought advice on the ACT's business Program. The Program team has delivered Program documentation (forms and processes) and is providing two hours of detailed training on how to use some of the software.

Next Generation Energy Storage Program

Through the round 5 submission period two evaluation process, eight suppliers were deemed successful to join the panel. Eight draft deeds have been developed and provided to these suppliers as part of the deed negotiation process. Pending successful deed negotiations, they will commence in the program on 1 June 2021.

TCCS Electric tipper truck open day

The ZEV team, through the heavy and non-passenger vehicle working group, have set up an additional open day with TCCS to allow ACT Government fleet and sustainability managers to have a test drive and hear about the early experiences of the electric tipper truck. Interest in the vehicle is high across Directorates and an extra site visit has been scheduled for 26 May 2021 to accommodate staff that couldn't attend the first session. TCCS will explain the benefits and challenges they have faced so far with the vehicle.

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New Zero Emission Vehicle options

The ZEV team held some meetings with companies who are about to begin distributing zero emission vehicles in Australia. In both cases this will service an asset class where zero emission alternatives were previously unavailable. One company will be distributing electric cargo and passenger vans, while the other company is distributing ride-on electric mowers. The Territory will look to trial demonstration models and evaluate the costs and fit-for-purpose characteristics of the vehicles.

Solar power assets

Two separate contract inception meetings will take place this week. One contract will involve inspecting selected existing solar assets to assess their condition and determine the requirements for establishing remote monitoring. This will lead to improved monitoring of system performance and reduce maintenance costs on existing solar assets. The second contract is a desktop assessment reviewing the potential for additional solar power on Territory facilities. The study will identify optimal array sizes and the potential for co-located battery systems. This information will be used to inform ZEG programs and has the potential to help cross-subsidise other emissions reduction projects such as gas boiler replacements.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) was contracted to develop an accredited insulation installation training course. Fourteen students who work in the insulation industry finished piloting the course on 8 May 2021. The course is designed to increase safety standards and consumer confidence in the delivery of government supported insulation activities. CIT expect to deliver three to four courses before December 2021. The EEIS team is working with CIT on strategies to create demand for course enrolment including exploring for you to be involved in a good news media event to promote the course. The cost of the course is \$750 per person which is covered by the EEIS budget however \$500 per person rebate has been secured from the ACT Training Fund Authority reducing the cost to \$250 per person in 2021. Net cost for students attending the course is nil in 2021.

External consultant Energetics is working on the analysis and recommendations for proposed EEIS targets for the 2022 calendar year, with a final report due on 17 May 2021. Following this, an information brief will be provided to seek your agreement to the proposed 2022 targets.

Energy Senior Officials meetings

The Energy Senior Officials Reference Group will meet on 17 May 2021, the topic being discussed is Distributed Energy Resources and Flexible Demand.

ZEV Public Charging Masterplan for the ACT, and 50 public chargers

An RFQ for provision of analysis and modelling services to identify locations for the Charging Masterplan will close on at 2pm on 24 May 2021, and responses will be evaluated throughout the week. The successful supplier will deliver analysis to determine the number of charging stations required to support the ACT's ZEV drivers through to 2030, and advise on the spread and location of charging sites. Engagement with Planning and Procurement teams on delivery of 50 public chargers (locations to be determined by the Masterplan) has commenced.

Reporting on the ACT's zero emissions vehicle uptake

The Climate Change Policy team and Access Canberra are partnering on a project to develop and publish an indicator on the uptake of ZEVs in the ACT. This indicator will be online by late June 2021. The indicator will be reported along-side the ACT's emissions reporting until the new EPSDD website architecture is in place in H2 2021. This project will ensure we deliver recommendation 1C of the Auditor General's report into the ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicle Action Plan.

out of scope

Actsmart Home Energy Assessments for Renters

The Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) are contracted to deliver the trial of the Actsmart Renter's Program until 30 June 2021. As of 7 May 2021, 308 home energy assessments have been completed under the program. In-home assessments and the webtool are in steady demand. The AEF are implementing a range of promotional strategies to seek greater engagement with the phone-based assessments. An options report for future program delivery has been received from the AEF which will be provided in a brief for your consideration.

Launch of ANU Below Zero Emissions Initiative

ANU have advised they intend to digitally launch the Below Zero Emissions Initiative on 20 May 2021. We are working with ANU on a partnership for this work, but it will not be announced at the launch as the partnership agreement has not yet been formalised.

Sustainable Household Scheme

As of 10 May 2021, 4,000 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Scheme. The most popular products are solar and battery, followed by heating and cooling, EV, hot water and electric appliances. Noting that some households have registered an interest in more than one product i.e. solar and battery. The Request for Tender (RFP) was released to the market on 12 April 2021 and closed 10 May 2021. An industry information session was held on 20 April 2021 to discuss the RFP with potential tenderers.

out of scope

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 21/01534

Date: 3 June 2021**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 7 June 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 3/6/21

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 7 to 11 June 2021.

Key Issues**ActewAGL Retail Standing offer prices**

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) must make its annual price determination for ActewAGL's standing offer customers on or before 7 June 2021. It is expected that this will create some media interest. Taking Evoenergy's recently approved network prices, and the low wholesale electricity costs into consideration, Climate Change and Energy policy are currently expecting the impact on retail bills to be in the vicinity of 10-12%. A brief will follow once the ICRC releases its report.

Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program (BSGIP)

ANU will be presenting a quarterly update to ESPDD staff on 9 June. The meeting will outline recent BSGIP research and forthcoming projects.

REVS V2G Project

Jet Charge have informed the consortium that the WallBox V2G charging station has twice failed AS4777 certification. WallBox will address the issue that caused the failure, and will seek certification again in 2-3 months. To avoid delay in the remainder of the project and to ensure that ACT Government vehicles are not impacted, single-directional chargers will be installed as a temporary measure, to be replaced once certified V2G chargers are available.

The Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice Officer will be presenting an online workshop on Wednesday 9 June 2021 titled 'Understanding electric vehicles'.

NABERS steering committee

The next quarterly meeting of the NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) steering committee is due to meet on 10 June 2021. This meeting provides an update of NABERS key themes and priorities and will also include an update and discussion on net zero emissions building certification.

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Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee and Energy Minister's Meeting

The next Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee (ENCRC) and Energy Minister's Meeting is scheduled for 11 June 2021. ENCRC agenda items include an update from the ESB on post-2025 Market design update, transmission reforms; gas market reforms; and governance. The gas market reform paper (draft as at 1 June) is attached.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

An Instrument of Authority is currently being established with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) to allow for a streamline process for the disclosure of information of Approved Energy Savings Provider (AESP) applicants that have identified their registration with CER. Whilst this process is being established, CER has provided confirmation of Harvest Hot Water's registration and compliance as a Registered Agent. Owner of Harvest Hot Water, Mr Erik Olbrei, will be formally notified soon by letter of his successful application to become an AESP once the EEIS Administrator has been briefed.

Review of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*

A Request for Quote to the Policy Suppliers Vendor Panel for a review of the Climate change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act), will close on 9 June 2021. An assessment panel will evaluate the suppliers quotes and it is anticipated that a decision will be agreed, and a contract established the week of 21 June 2021.

Hydrogen bus proposal

The ZEV team will meet with ARENA to determine their appetite for co-funding a proposed large-scale hydrogen bus project. The proposal would see a large hydrogen refuelling station for both bus and public use developed at Tuggeranong Bus Depot. The station would be capable of supporting 100 zero emissions buses, with 30 hydrogen buses to join the fleet initially. Excess hydrogen would be injected into the gas mains to reduce emissions from gas usage.

Energy awareness campaign for households

A brief is being prepared to seek your approval to run an energy awareness campaign during the winter months which is targeted at households. The campaign aims to reduce the number of Canberrans who experience winter energy bill shock by encouraging people to get on the best energy plan and make simple changes to improve their home's energy efficiency. Following your approval, the campaign package will progress to the Independent Reviewer process. A campaign strategy to reach the most vulnerable in our community will be to work collaboratively with several key partners such as ACTCOSS, Care Financial, St Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army to promote campaign messages, and the suite of services and support available.

Sustainable Household Scheme

Kieran Lawton has started as Executive Branch Manager -Climate Action Programs; he joins Executive Branch Manager -Climate Action Policy Megan Edwards in the Office of the Coordinator General Climate Action.

As of 28 May 2021, 4,363 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Sustainable Household Scheme. The most popular products are solar and battery, followed by heating and cooling, EVs, hot water and electric appliances. Some households have registered an interest in more than

one product i.e. solar and battery. An update to the Scheme's webpage to include FAQs and an email update to registered households is expected to occur during the coming week.



Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**Directorate**

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To:	Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Tracking No.: 21/01534
Date:	10 June 2021	
From:	Deputy Director-General, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction	
Subject:	WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 14 June 2021	

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction .../.../...

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 14 to 18 June 2021.

Key Issues**Minimum energy performance standards for rental homes**

A survey of renters and rental providers to obtain views on the options being considered for minimum energy performance standards for rental homes and to provide data to inform the Regulatory Impact Statement was undertaken over the period 5 – 19 May 2021 through the ACT Government's YourSay website. A "Listening Report" which summarises the results has been prepared and will be published on the YourSay site in the next week. The Regulatory Impact Statement, which will inform the option to be taken forward, is expected to be completed by the end of June. A briefing will then be prepared to go to the Climate Action Sub-Committee ahead of progressing to further stakeholder engagement and the drafting of the regulation.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

An information brief has been prepared for you to approve the EEIS target settings for 2022. The *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* (the Act) requires a Determination to be made on the Energy Savings Target and the Priority Household Target at least six months prior to the start of the compliance period if the value increases. The brief is recommending an increase to the targets for 2022 so it will be critical to get your approval prior to 30 June 2021.

Next Gen Energy Storage Program

Seven deeds have been finalised for the new installers. It is expected the one remaining deed will be finalised in June. This will bring the panel to 15 installers which provides more options for customers. There is a media announcement due to take place 16 June 2021.

Review of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act

The tender for a consultant to conduct the review closed on 10 June. Detailed work is expected to commence around 17 June 2021.

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Sustainable Household Scheme

The tender process for the Sustainable House Scheme was finalised on 9 June and contract negotiations are set to begin. As of 7 June 2021, 4,802 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Sustainable Household Scheme. Over 3,500 households are interested in solar, and 3,000 are interested in battery storage, making them the most popular products. There is also significant interest in the other products under the scheme, with over 1,500 households interested in Electric Vehicles (EV) in particular – more than the total number of current EVs registered in the ACT. Most households have registered interest in more than one product, with a clear correlation between solar and battery, as over 80% of households interested in battery storage also expressed interest in solar installation. An update to the Scheme’s webpage to include FAQs and an email update to registered households is expected to occur during the coming week.

The Enterprise Sustainability Platform (ESP)

The ESP is a centrally managed online platform used for the collection, analysis and reporting of electricity, gas, water and fleet fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emission data and the associated utility costs. The ESP also provides a single source of data for meeting agency and WhoG reporting requirements. The ESP service provider tender is now live, closing on 27 July 2021. The current contract is due to expire later this year.

Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Event
17 June 2021	Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice: Online interactive workshop for households (Topic: Understanding solar for your home)



**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

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To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 21/01534

Date: 24 June 2021

From: Deputy Director-General

Subject: WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 28 June 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 23/06/21

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 28 June to 2 July 2021.

Key Issues

out of scope

Climate Change and Energy

Minimum energy performance standards survey Listening Report

As part of the external engagement undertaken in support of the Regulatory Impact Statement a public survey of renters, rental providers and owner occupiers was conducted through the ACT Government's YourSay website. The purpose of the survey was to:

- obtain the views of renters and rental providers on the three main options being considered:
 - ceiling insulation
 - an energy efficient heater or
 - a performance based ("star") rating
- gather background information on renters and rental providers to assist in assessing the options; and
- gather information on rental properties in the ACT, including on their existing energy efficiency.

A "Listening Report" summarising the main results of the survey has been prepared and is attached for your consideration.

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National energy market matters

On 29 June 2021 there is an Energy Senior Officials Reference Group meeting on the overall Post 2025 Market Design recommendations.

On 2 July 2021 there is another meeting of the Working Group to discuss the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) powers for Wholesale Market Monitoring, which was raised in recommendation 41 of the ACCC's Retail Electricity Pricing Inquiry (REPI).

Treasurer's meeting with Energy Networks Australia

The Treasurer is meeting with Energy Networks Australia on 14 July 2021. The meeting topics include electricity price rises, the future of gas, and the role of batteries. The CEO of Energy Networks Australia is expected to share views on these issues and ask about the Government's policy relating to these issues. Energy Networks Australia may seek a separate meeting with you.

Electricity Reference Price and Comparability and Transparency Code

Treasury and Energy Policy have been working with the Independent Competition Regulatory Commission (ICRC), and energy retailers, to finalise the framework for the ACT Government to finalise its reference price determination. Energy Policy and Treasury officials are currently working through a few implementation questions with the ICRC, which we aim to have addressed in the final code. A reference price determination instrument is expected to be made this week, with the ICRC finalising its code shortly thereafter. A brief will follow shortly.

Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Industry Development project

Industry consultation finalises on July 2nd for the Public Charging Masterplan. Consultation aimed to ensure that industry views are captured and considered in the analysis for the Public Charging Masterplan. Industry stakeholders engaged include ZEV manufacturers, chargepoint operators, and industry bodies. Internal stakeholder engagement with Treasury, TCCS and teams in EPSDD has also been ongoing. Likely ZEV demand to 2030 is uncertain thus scenarios have been designed and forecasts of future ZEV uptake under these scenarios is underway. This will inform the 2030 Sales Target and other ZEV policy analysis.

NSW Zero Emissions Vehicle incentives announcement

The NSW Government has announced a suite of new financial incentives and investment in charging infrastructure to support the uptake of electric vehicles. From September, battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles under \$78,000 will not incur stamp duty, and \$3,000 rebates are available to the first 25,000 vehicles under \$68,750. NSW has also delayed implementation of a road user charge until 2027 (or when electric vehicles make up 30% of new car sales). The NSW Government will provide a further \$171 million for a charging network to ensure that all households will be located no more than 5 km from a charger. Electric vehicle 'super highways' and 'commuter corridor's will be created through the installation of ultra-fast chargers throughout the state. A further \$33 million will support the NSW Government passenger fleet transition to electric vehicles, with a target of fully electric fleet by 2030. EPSDD has contacted NSW to explore opportunities for charging in the ACT region and how to integrate with this announcement.

Ballard

The ZEV team met with Ballard to discuss their plans for hydrogen fuel cell technology across a range of applications, including conversion of CNG buses to zero emissions Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs). Ballard will be seeking to trial a converted CNG bus later in 2021 or early 2022. The ZEV team meet regularly with TCCS colleagues and share opportunities.

out of scope

Actsmart Home Energy Assessments for Renters

Following your approval to extend this program to June 2022, the contract extension with the Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) has been finalised. AEF is completing their end of project evaluation report for the first year of delivery (2020/21) covering project implementation, results against key performance indicators and any issues arising and recommendations. This will be supported by a presentation to the Actsmart Households team.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) – Target Setting 2022

The determinations detailing the EEIS Targets for 2022 are due for notification on the ACT Legislation Register on 30 June 2021. These determinations are for the Energy Savings Target, Priority Household Target, Energy Savings Contribution and the Shortfall Penalty. A brief (21/35674) has been provided for your consideration.

Sustainable Household Scheme (SHS)

As of 21 June 2021, 5,397 households have registered their interest to receive updates about the Sustainable Household Scheme. Over 4,000 households are interested in solar, and 3,300 are interested in battery storage, making them the most popular products (noting that individuals can register for more than one product). The Scheme Guidelines were released by the Chief Minister are now available on the Actsmart website, and an industry briefing for suppliers and installers was held on Thursday 24 June. Actsmart Household team workshop bookings have increased significantly since the SHS guidelines were released with 122 registering for a workshop since Saturday.

Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Event
29 June 2021	Nexport Managing Director and CEO of Nexport to further explore their plans to import affordable EVs to the Australian market as well as electric bus and truck manufacturing in Australia. Discussions will include the opportunity for the electric truck manufacturing to be based in the ACT.
30 June 2021	Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice: Online interactive workshop for households (Topic: Efficient all electric homes)
2 July 2021	Relaunch of Canberra Bike Library with SEE-Change

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Tracking No.: 21/01534

Date: 22 July 2021**From:** Deputy Director-General**Subject:** WEEKLY BRIEF – Commencing 26 July 2021

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 23/7/21

Purpose

To provide a summary of the current work from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The report also includes matters scheduled to occur from 26 to 30 July 2021.

Key Issues**Climate Change and Energy****Gas Transition**

On 30 June 2021, the ACT Government signed a contract with GHD (and ACIL Allen as a consortia) to undertake techno-economic analysis of the electricity network and provide strategic policy regarding possible fossil gas transition pathway options. The work will consider current and announced policies, as well as possible transition options: providing an in-depth understanding of the technical and economic impacts on our energy infrastructure, and end costs to consumers. Initial modelling findings will be provided in September, with a draft strategic report to be received in December 2021.

Electric vehicle behaviour change trial

The electric vehicle behaviour change trial has commenced, testing the effectiveness of four different sets of messages that encourage uptake of electric vehicles. Print flyers and social media ads have been distributed to 11 ACT suburbs, with the social media ads running for four weeks. EPSDD will brief the Minister on insights generated from the trial in due course.

Actsmart Schools

Finalising virtual event *Food *Waste* Different by Design* taking place on 18 August during National Science Week aligning with the theme – Food: Different by Design. The guest panellists for this event will be representatives from ACT NoWaste – Love Food Hate Waste program, Ozharvest, GoTerra and Coleman Court.

Actsmart Schools is also finalising workshop that will be delivered at the Independent Education Union's ACT Sustainability Conference hosted at Merici College on 6 August. Theme aligned with National Science Week – Food: Different by Design. Keynote speakers will be Dr Sophie Lewis –Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment and Brad Moggridge – Associate Professor University of Canberra sharing his Indigenous water management knowledge.

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Next Gen Energy Storage Program

The final supplier (Photonic Solar) has onboarded. The expansion to 15 installers will allow consumers more choice and with the Sustainable Households Scheme commencing it is expected that installations will significantly increase.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS)

There has been complexity in delivering insulation activities due to issues related to accreditation and training of installers, required under the EEIS Codes of Practice. Considerable progress has been made through the design and delivery of training by CIT this year. We are working with other jurisdictions, industry and the Energy Efficiency Council to map out a national accreditation pathway as the Clean Energy Council steps back from this role from December 2021.

out of scope

Government Fleet ZEVs entering the second-hand market

Since late 2018, 16 government zero emissions vehicles (14 battery electric, 2 plug-in hybrid) have had their leases terminated and resold in the second-hand market. Of these vehicles, 10 have been re-registered in the ACT. Purchasing businesses include Pickles ACT, Lennox Motors, and wholesalers. It's noted that these wholesalers are based interstate, and represents a potential risk to retaining second-hand ZEVs in the ACT. This initial tranche provides a baseline for us to measure flow of ZEVs from the Government's fleet to the ACT second-hand market.

Sustainable Household Scheme

As of 15 July 2021, 6205 households and 70 businesses have registered their interest in the SHS. There is strong interest in all eligible products, but most registrations have expressed interest in solar (4,600) and battery (3,800). The contract with the loans provider Brighte was signed on 13 July 2021 with a media announcement made by Chief Minister on 15 July 2021. Invitations for the first 100 householders to participate in the pilot program were sent out on 16 July 2021. The first loan was approved on Friday 16 July 2021.

Brighte have commenced accrediting suppliers who will be added to the approved supplier list before the full Scheme launch. A risk assurance review for the Scheme has commenced with supplier Charterpoint, to be completed prior to the full Scheme launch.

out of scope

Stakeholder Engagement

Date	Event
Wednesday, 28 July, 12:30pm	Actsmart Households online workshop: Staying warm on less this winter
Thursday, 29 July, 7:00pm	Actsmart Households in-person workshop: Building and renovating beyond 7 stars

