

2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Mick Gentleman – Minister for the Environment and Heritage –
Tuesday 13 November 2018 – 3:00pm – 5:00pm (2 hours)

Current Issues	
A.	PFAS contamination
B.	Use of Glyphosate by Parks and Conservation Service
C.	Management of feral horses in the ACT
D.	Upper Stranger Pond – recent draining
E.	Tree De-registration
F.	Dry Conditions: Rural Landholders Support Package
G.	Removal of two Aboriginal scarred trees - Wanniasa
H.	Cane Toads in the ACT
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CORPORATE (FOR ALL EPSDD MINISTERS)	
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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: PFAS CONTAMINATION

Talking points:

- Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.
- They have been used in aviation firefighting foams (AFFF), non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.
- Firefighting foam concentrates used to suppress flammable liquid fires previously contained PFAS.
- Phasing out of these concentrates by ACT Fire & Rescue commenced in September 2004, and completely withdrawn from service in April 2005.
- PFAS are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment (i.e. they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time).
- There is no conclusive proof that PFAS cause any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer.
- Despite the current lack of certainty regarding the adverse effects of PFAS on organisms, the persistent nature of PFAS means a precautionary approach for managing PFAS has been adopted.
- Governments in Australia work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination* (February 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions March 2018.
- The NEMP defines the level of PFAS in soil and water that require further investigation. It also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
- Commonwealth, state and territory governments are currently working nationally to update the NEMP, which will be considered by Environment Ministers at their meeting in November, to ensure it remains current and scientifically robust.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/10/2018

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- Issues with PFAS widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies.
- Such issues are improbable in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.
- There are four known affected sites for PFAS in the ACT: Canberra Airport, the former Charnwood Fire Station, the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre and the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre (landfill).
- In recent years the ACT EPA, in conjunction with the National Capital Authority and Icon Water, undertook sampling across ACT waterways to determine background levels of PFAS. The water sampling results did not detect PFAS in ACT waterways.
- The EPA and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have developed a sampling plan that should quantify (occurrence and concentration) of PFAS across the ACT. Sampling will involve existing government water monitoring sites as well as, landfill, industrial, and sewage treatment sites. The sampling program will follow the methods outlined in the NEMP and is expected to begin by November 2018.
- The EPA is changing landfill and sewage treatment plant licenses to incorporate sampling for PFAS's in the standard monitoring programs to determine if discharges or inflows of PFAS are occurring at the facilities.
- An assessment is also being undertaken by the ACT Government to determine what further investigations may be required of ACT sites, in accordance with the NEMP.

Key Information

Charnwood (former Fire Station) site

- PFAS levels at the Charnwood site are below criteria for its proposed use as a childcare centre and the site is subject to the implementation of an EPA approved Operational Management Plan and a Landscape Plan.

Belconnen (former Fire Station and Training Centre)

- The former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal EPA required environmental audit to enable its redevelopment.

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Remaining ESA Fire Station Sites

- ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining fire station sites and further testing will be done at the higher priority locations in the near future.

West Belconnen Resource Management Centre

- There will be further sampling undertaken at the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre as part of the EPA required environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment, consistent with NEMP.

Canberra Airport

- Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore regulated by the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

PFAS in Jervis Bay Territory

- The ACT Government is contracted by the Commonwealth Government to supply certain services to Jervis Bay Territory (JBT), including education, licences, justice services and environmental water testing.
- The Commonwealth Department of Defence is leading the PFAS investigation in JBT, centred on the Jervis Bay Range Facility. The ACT Government is a member of Defence's Project Control Group and provides advice and support where required.

Potential PFAS contaminated sites in the ACT

- AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was used in training exercises. There are a number of other facilities in the ACT that are likely to have stored or used AFFF and thus have the potential for PFAS contamination.
- In addition, landfills and waste water/sewerage treatment plants are potential sources of PFAS contamination from household, commercial and industrial wastes and discharges.
- The ACT Government is unable to progress assessment or remediation at Commonwealth sites because the Commonwealth is not bound by ACT legislation.
- Potential PFAS contaminated sites in the ACT are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Potential PFAS contaminated sites in the ACT

Facility	Location	PFAS Contamination
Commonwealth Land		
HMAS Harman	Woods Lane, Jerrabomberra, ACT	Potential
Duntroon Royal Military College	Staff Cadet Avenue, Campbell, ACT	Potential
Canberra Airport	Pialligo Avenue, ACT	Confirmed
Majura Firing range	Malcolm Vale Road, Pialligo, ACT	Potential
Australian Federal Police Majura	1 Tambreet St, Majura, ACT	Potential
Canberra Deep Space Discovery Centre	Discovery Drive, Paddys River, ACT	Potential
Lawson Naval Base	Baldwin Drive	Potential
AFP Weston Creek	2 Unwin Street Weston, ACT	Potential

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Territory Land		
Charnwood Fire Station (former)	35 Lhotsky St, Charnwood, ACT	Confirmed
Belconnen Fire Station & Training Centre (former)	41 Rae St, Belconnen, ACT	Confirmed
Forrest Fire Station (former)	Empire Circuit, Forrest	Potential
Fyshwick Fire Station	1 Dalby St, Fyshwick ACT	Potential
Gungahlin Fire Station	Anthony Rolfe Ave, Gungahlin ACT	Potential
Ainslie Fire Station	36 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, ACT	Potential
Chisholm Fire Station	6 Benham Street, Chisholm	Potential
Phillip Fire Station	Hindmarsh Dr & Botany St, Phillip ACT	Potential
Kambah Fire Station	500 Sulwood Dr, Kambah ACT	Potential
Greenway Ambulance Station (former Greenway Fire Station)	201 Scollay St, Greenway ACT	Potential
Mugga Lane Resource Recovery Facility	499 Mugga Lane, Jerrabomberra, ACT	Potential
West Belconnen Resource Management Centre	181 Parkwood Rd, MacGregor, ACT	Confirmed
Rail Depot Kingston	Cunningham Street, Kingston, ACT	Potential
Weston Creek Sewerage Treatment Works	Brackenreg Road, Weston ACT	Potential
Lower Molonglo Waste Water Treatment Works	446 Stockdill Drive, Holt ACT	Potential
Oaks Estate Sewerage Treatment Works	Cnr Nimrod Road & Mountain Road, Oaks Estate, ACT	Potential
Kingston Foreshore	11 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston ACT	Potential
Fuel Depots (Fyshwick/Oaks Estate)	16 Ipswich St & 13-17 Barrier St, Fyshwick, ACT and 22 Railway Street Oaks Estate, ACT	Potential

Background Information

- PFAS contamination in the ACT is likely to be limited due to the lack of significant industrial activity and Defence establishments associated with fire training activities which have resulted in the majority of significant contamination identified to date nationally.
- The most significant use of fire fighting foams in the ACT was associated with the fire training facilities operated by Air Services (Commonwealth) at the Canberra Airport. The Airport is regulated by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.
- The contamination of soil and groundwater at the airport is reportedly contained within the site and has not migrated off site into Territory land.
- The EPA is in liaison with Air Services and Canberra Airport regarding the assessment of the contamination at the airport site.

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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: USE OF GLYPHOSATE BY PARKS AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

Talking points:

- Glyphosate or Round-Up is commonly used by protected area managers, farmers and householders to control a broad range of invasive plants.
- The product is relatively inexpensive and easy to use and comes with specific instructions on how it should be applied and the personal protective equipment that needs to be worn by all who handle it.
- Glyphosate breaks down readily in soil with exposure to sun and rain mitigating residual effect on the environment.
- The independent regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, released a press release on 9 October 2018, restating that its recent review of the science concluded that glyphosate is safe if used according to label directions.

Key Information

- In 2017-18 PCS successfully controlled 4,703ha of invasive grass infestations across 170,653 ha of reserves with 1,627L of glyphosate.
- This work protected endangered native plants and protected native animal habitat. It also prevented the spread of blackberry and willows into water supply catchments.
- Substitutes for glyphosate are all potentially more hazardous to humans and the environment.
- Before glyphosate was available a herbicide called paraquat was often used. Paraquat is very toxic and can cause serious adverse impacts on operators through low level exposure to the chemical.

Background Information

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer has been criticised for making claims about glyphosate that do not hold up against the independent scientific research.
- The world's leading toxicologists in the Critical Reviews in Toxicology Journal concluded that "glyphosate is **unlikely** to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans".

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: MANAGEMENT OF FERAL HORSES IN THE ACT

Talking points:

- Feral Horses are managed in the ACT under the *Namadgi National Park Feral Horse Management Plan 2007*. Under this current plan, which permits all recognised best practice techniques of management including the use of aerial shooting.
- The NSW Government has recently introduced legislation that prohibits the lethal control of Feral horses in Kosciusko National Park (KNP). This will likely lead to an increase in the number of horses within KNP with the likelihood of horses spreading into the Cotter Catchment in south-west Namadgi in the future.
- The Cotter River Catchment within Namadgi National Park in the ACT is the primary source of potable water for the Canberra region and crucial habitat for a range of important native species. Protecting the integrity of the Cotter catchment is a primary management objective for the ACT Government.
- The ACT has been vocal in drawing its concerns to the NSW Government and will continue to do so at every opportunity as feral horses do not have a place in our alpine environments

Key Information

- 24 horses were removed from Namadgi National Park between 2007 and 2011. All know resident populations have been removed through trapping and euthanasia within the trap yards. Current management focusses on surveillance and monitoring to detect new incursions
- The *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* (NSW) came into effect on 15 June 2018. The object of the Act is to recognise and protect the heritage value of sustainable wild (feral) horse populations within KNP.

Background Information

- The ACT has a strong and active history of managing feral horses. This resulted in their eradication from Namadgi National Park in 1987, with continued management following their re-emergence along the south-western border with NSW in 2001.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: UPPER STRANGER POND – RECENT DRAINING

Talking points:

- Upper Stranger pond was drained in early September 2018.
- As the pond is operated as part of the ACT stormwater network an investigation of the circumstances was undertaken by TCCS. EPSDD understands from discussions with TCCS the following:
 - the Upper Stranger Pond valve was partially open by the Isabella Weir contractor on 7 September 2018 to lower the level of Upper Stranger Pond, to prevent stormwater overflowing into Isabella Pond where they were working.
 - following the release, the pond was almost fully drained.
 - it is not known who fully drained the pond. The Weir contractor acknowledges they partially lowered the pond.
 - debris may have been caught in the valve preventing it closing. However, the contractor's foreman had operated the valve several times and knew how it worked. The foreman has said he closed the valve properly.
- The draining was not related to an ACT Healthy Waterway Project.
- In March 2017, the 2587kg of carp was removed from the pond. It was restocked with 2000 native fingerlings in January 2018.
- During the recent draining, the majority of fish would have been flushed into Lower Stranger Pond. Restocking will be considered.
- Following rain, Upper Stranger Pond has refilled.

Key Information

- The initial lowering of the pond by the Isabella Weir contractor was undertaken under an existing agreement with TCCS. This is done by using a standard valve key to open a valve at Upper Stranger Pond, which allows the water to flow to Lower Stranger Pond. The subsequent draining of the pond was done without authorisation – presumably using a similar valve key.
- Carp exist within Lower Stranger Pond. The area for carp removal was determined by the Isabella Pond weir upgrades. Lower Stranger Pond was outside and downstream of this area so was not considered for drainage or carp removal. As it is downstream and isolated from Upper Stranger Pond it is not considered a source population for natural dispersal of carp back into Upper Stranger and Isabella Pond.
- Fadden Pond was treated for carp removal as an upstream source of carp in the Isabella catchment. Natural dispersal from Fadden Pond could have resulted in reinfestation downstream if this had not be implemented.

Background Information

- Upper Stranger Pond is a water quality control pond. It was almost fully drained in early September (to the level of the outflow pipe to Lower Stranger Pond).
- TCCS and EPSDD received a number of queries (both from MLAs and the community) around why the pond had been drained and the impact of the draining on the native fingerlings which were put into the pond in January 2018 after the carp were removed.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: TREE DE-REGISTRATION

Talking points:

- The Chief Planning Executive has written to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna proposing the cancellation of the registration of a tree on Franklin Street Griffith to facilitate redevelopment of Blocks 3 and 4 Section 96 Griffith.
- The Conservator has requested that further information is provided on how the retention of this tree would significantly compromise the broader strategic planning objectives of the Territory Plan to assist in his decision making.
- To date, no decision on the de-registration has been made.

Key Information

- Section 5 of schedule 1, of the *Tree Protection (Criteria for Registration and Cancellation of Registration) Determination 2018* (the Determination) provides that 'The Conservator may cancel the registration of a tree if, on advice from the planning and land authority, the registration of the tree will significantly compromise the broader strategic planning objectives of the Territory Plan'.

Background Information

- The tree is a *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) located at block 3 section 96 Griffith.
- This tree was identified as an exceptional quality tree and was included on the Register because of its aesthetic and landscape contribution within the Franklin Street precinct.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: DRY CONDITIONS: RURAL LANDHOLDERS SUPPORT PACKAGE

Talking points:

- A support package was announced on 14 August 2018 for ACT's rural landholders as a result of current dry conditions. The package includes:
 - a freight transport subsidy (reimburse 50% of cost of transporting fodder, water and stock, capped at \$20,000 per primary producers/farm business, available 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019).
 - rural resilience grants (total program funding \$150,000).
- The eligibility criteria for the freight subsidy was based on the NSW scheme. However, the NSW Government has since lifted the off-farm assets test from \$1 million to \$5 million, thereby making more landholders eligible for support. On 17 October, the ACT Rural Landholders Association (President Tom Allen) requested ACT make change to again align support with NSW eligibility criteria. This request is currently being considered by Government.
- There has also been significant interest in the \$150,000 (total program funds) available for rural resilience grants. Successful applicants will be announced shortly.
 - The grants will fund new infrastructure including for fodder storage and water supplies to enable ACT landholders to better manage stock and protect their natural resource base.

Key Information

- Minister Gentleman met ACT Rural Landholders Association on 8 August 2018, where President, Tom Allen, requested freight subsidies in line with NSW.
- Current criteria in NSW Drought Transport Subsidy Scheme - the owners and operators of the business do not have gross off-farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000 (excluding funds in a registered superannuation fund).

Background Information

- There have been half a dozen inquiries for freight subsidies and one application.
- The rural grants were over subscribed with 49 applications seeking \$361,876.

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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: REMOVAL OF TWO ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREES - WANNIASSA

Talking points:

- Two Aboriginal scar trees, recorded as 'MSYB1 (Spook Tree) and MST4, located in close proximity to each other in Wanniasa, have been cut down without authorisation.
- MSYB1 was cut down and mulched in April 2017, with the circumstances leading to its destruction investigated by Access Canberra, who determined that removal was unintentional and there was no evidence of a 'fault' element under the *Criminal Code 2002*. This matter is now closed.
- MST4 was reported as felled to ACT Heritage in July 2018, however aerial photography indicates that the tree was felled between December 2016 and March 2017. The trunk remains on the ground next to the stump. EPSDD investigation into its removal is ongoing.

Key Information

- MST4 will be moved to a secure location in the interim until long term conservation measures have been identified in consultation with RAOs. Relocation of the felled trunk is a coordinated effort between ACT Heritage, TCCS and PCS, guided by advice on its movement and placement from a conservator.
- EPSDD is exploring the offence and enforcement provisions within the *Heritage Act 2004*, as well as a range of education options to increase community understanding of heritage values and specific identification of aboriginal values.

Background Information

- 'MST4' is a *Eucalyptus blakelyi* with a large scar on its trunk, understood to be a canoe scar. This tree was located within Block 6 Section 253 Wanniasa, on unleased Territory land managed by TCCS.
- 'MSYB1' was a *Eucalyptus melliodora* with a scar on its trunk, publically known as the 'Spook Tree'. The tree was located within Block 1 Section 253 Wanniasa, on unleased Territory land managed by the Education Directorate (Wanniasa Hills Primary School).

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

Cane Toads in the ACT.

Talking points:

- Cane toads are an extreme threat category invasive animal in Australia and are listed as a Key Threatening Process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- They adversely impact native animals via predation, competition and poisoning through the ingestion of lethal toxins produced throughout their bodies and concentrated in their skin.
- In suburban settings cane toads are a risk to pets, including cats and dogs.
- Cane toads were introduced into northeastern Queensland in 1935 and have spread throughout the wet-dry tropics of northern Australia and into NSW.
- Their potential to invade southern Australia is difficult to predict but they are expected to extend further south with climate change.
- Toads are unlikely to persist in the ACT environment permanently (too cold) but could possibly survive over the warmer months. Cane toads could also transit through Canberra and infest other regions of southern Australia more suitable for their establishment.
- Surveillance by government and the community is critical for detecting new incursions of cane toads and other invasive animals to allow for a rapid response.
- Following the confirmation of two cane toads in Rosenthal Street Campbell, an Incident Management Team (IMT) was established to manage the potential risks.
- The IMT initiated an emergency response to determine the extent of the infestation, the likely entry pathway (possibly vehicle movement from Queensland) and alert the community on how to identify the toad, prevent its entry into the ACT, protect their pets, and what to do if they suspect they have found one.
- No more toads have been detected and the IMT has been disbanded.

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- It is possible that additional toads that have not been detected could persist for some time over summer. For this reason low level monitoring will continue over the warmer months in areas of concern.

Background Information

- There is currently no ACT legislation specifically pertaining to cane toads. However, the Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Animals) Declaration is under review and a proposal to declare cane toads as prohibited from supply or keeping and notifiable on detection will be progressed for Government's consideration early in 2019.
- Being toxic at all stages of their lifecycle from eggs to tadpoles to adults, cane toads pose a significant threat to native and domestic animals. The toxins stop the heart of most animals that attempt to eat them.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: MOLONGLO RIVER RESERVE

Talking points:

- The Molonglo River Reserve Draft Reserve Management Plan (the draft Plan) has been prepared by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, as required under the provisions of Chapter 8 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*.
- The Molonglo River Reserve is a new reserve comprising approximately 1,280 hectares that follows the Molonglo River from Scrivener Dam to the intersection with the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Reserve.
- The draft Plan describes the values of the Molonglo River Reserve and defines objectives, policies and actions to protect the values and guide management and use of the area over a ten year time frame.
- Consultation on the draft plan concluded on 23 March 2018. A Listening Report has been finalised and is now available on the YourSay website.
- A consultation report will be prepared and responses provided to the comments received.
- The final reserve management plan has been finalised and incorporates comments received during consultation.
- A Variation to the Territory Plan is required to formalise the boundaries prior to the Minister tabling the Reserve Management Plan in the Assembly, as the Plan needs to refer to an existing reserve area. This process will take up to 12 months from date of submission in July 2018, however, a draft variation with immediate interim effect will be issued.
- The Reserve Management Plan will be put up to the Minister for approval by the end of November 2018.

Key Information

- The draft Plan was prepared by Dr Sarah Ryan with extensive input from ACT Parks and Conservation Service staff, the Conservator for Fauna and Flora and the Planning and Land Authority as required under the *Nature Conservation Act 2004*.
- A Community Reference Group was established to review a series of issue papers on the draft Plan and attend facilitated workshops. Identified key stakeholders have been consulted including the local Aboriginal community, National Capital Authority, Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee, the ACT Conservation Council, various environmental groups such as Friends of Grasslands, and recreation groups. All comments have been considered and there is general support for the draft Plan.
- The Draft Reserve Management Plan aims to:
 1. Protect the significant attributes of the reserve such as the river itself, diverse habitats, wildlife corridors, trails and tracks for bushwalking, recreation opportunities, heritage, and research and education opportunities.
 2. Define the boundaries and management zones and to protect against the urban edge effects and invasive pests and animals.
 3. Conserve the natural environment, including a variety of vegetation, aquatic and riparian communities and a rich diversity of species that includes 92 species of birds, five species of native fish and crayfish and more than 200 plant species. The threatened Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Swift and Superb Parrots, high value Box-Gum Grassy Woodland, and grasslands will be protected.
 4. Conserve the geology, landforms, soils, and scenery to avoid damage and disturbance, protect heritage values and allow for recreation and education.
 5. Manage for bushfire by reducing the risk of wildfire for people, homes and ecological communities.

Background Information

- The Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (NES Plan) was approved by the Australian Government Department of the Environment in December 2011. In accordance with this agreement, the reserve management plan was to be finalised by 7 April 2014. A draft plan was prepared meeting this timeframe.
- The draft plan was not released for public consultation in 2014 as the new Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT was being released the same year and consequential changes to the draft plan were required to ensure consistency with the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. An extension was granted by the Commonwealth. Following revision of the draft Plan, further consultation was required with key stakeholders to ensure that the proposed revised policy adequately addressed relevant fire management issues.

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- Additional consultation was also required to resolve whether the Kama Nature Reserve Buffer zone, required under the NES Plan, was a matter to be determined in the draft Plan.
- The NES Plan explicitly states that the Kama Nature Reserve buffer is to be located outside of the Molonglo River Reserve.
- As a consequence of this consultation, an additional section was added to the draft Plan providing functional criteria to guide the design and management of the Kama Nature Reserve buffer zone for the mitigation of urban development edge effects.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT WATER AVAILABILITY

Talking points:

- Despite the very dry conditions, the ACT's water supply is relatively healthy.
- Water available in Icon Water's storages on 31/10/18 was 65.8 percentage of water available. This equates to 183 Gigalitres (GL). This is down from 100% full in Spring 2016.
- The total volume of ACT storage is 277.8 GL.
- Regardless of future rainfall and storage inflow events the ACT has sufficient water availability for at least two years at the current rate of consumption.
- Restrictions are based on a range of factors but in general may be expected when dam levels fall below 35 to 40%, which could be expected if extremely dry conditions continued for another two years
- The ACT consumes about 49 GL per annum.
- The ACT through Icon Water has in place a Permanent Water Conservation Measures scheme to ensure that the community uses water sensibly. We encourage residents to observe these measures and look for other opportunities to be water wise during the summer to save both water and money.
- Compliance with this scheme is undertaken by Icon Water and is more critical in the warmer months, and when dam levels start to fall.
- Our community is protected from the impact of ongoing dry conditions by the Enlarged Cotter Dam, opened in 2013, and the community's involvement in significantly reducing water use per person over the last 15 years.
- Canberrans use approx. 300 litres/person/day compared to 480 litres/person/day prior to the Millenium Drought. Water security modelling predicts water restrictions may only be required one year in 20—or less than 5% of the time.
- See information on dam levels and permanent water conservation measures at iconwater.com.au and tips and tricks for using water more wisely at actsmart.act.gov.au and iconwater.com.au."

Key Information

- Icon Water has undertaken modelling that has determines that there is sufficient water available in the short to medium term at least.

Background Information

- In 2010-13 Icon Water undertook an extensive infrastructure investment program to increase the ACT's water security. This mainly involved the construction of the Enlarged Cotter Dam and the Murrumbidgee to Googong Dam pump and pipeline construction. This has enabled the ACT to significantly increase its capacity.
- Googong Dam is the largest storage dam.
- Since the Millennium Drought the ACT community has reduced its water consumption and maintained a lower volume of water consumption.
- Icon Water also provides water to Queanbeyan city.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: REVIEW OF THE *FISHERIES ACT 2000*

Talking points:

- We have undertaken a review of the *Fisheries Act 2000*, (the Act) which provides for the sustainable management of fishing in the ACT. As part of the review, public consultation was held from 4 December 2017 to 5 February 2018.
- During public consultation, we heard that compliance with and enforcement of recreational fishing rules, pest fish management and managing native fish and their habitat for sustainable recreational fishing were most important to the community.
- Amendments to the Act are being considered as an outcome of the review. These include:
 - A ban on enclosed yabby traps in all ACT waters
 - A range of amendments to improve compliance and enforcement
 - Provisions to facilitate cultural access to fisheries resources
 - Improved habitat protection for native fish
 - Better alignment in fisheries management with NSW and other jurisdictions
- Once the amendments are considered, further consultation will take place with key stakeholders during the drafting process.

Key Information

- The Government is currently considering proposed amendments to the Act, including a ban on the use and possession of enclosed yabby traps in all waters in the ACT, public and private.
- The proposed amendments were raised during the consultation period and public submissions and face to face consultation showed that they were largely supported by the community.

Background Information

- The review and subsequent proposed amendments will ensure that the Act addresses modern fisheries management issues and continues to provide access to high quality recreational fishing into the future, including an appropriate balance between recreation and conservation.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 2014*

Talking points:

- Minor changes to the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act) commenced on 2 October 2018 through the *Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.
- These changes improved processes for the listing of threatened species, threatened ecological communities and key threatening processes. The changes largely related to the production of Conservation Advices which are published once the Minister has made a decision to list a species, ecological community or key threatening process.
- Recent listings under the NC Act include:
 - the Eastern Bettong as Regionally Conservation Dependent on the List of Threatened Native Species - notified on 1 September 2018
 - the ‘*Loss of mature native trees (including hollow-bearing trees) and lack of recruitment*’ as a Key Threatening Process – notified on 27 September 2018

Key Information

- Work continued on the implementation of the NC Act, which commenced in June 2015 through the development of legislative instruments relating to species, ecological communities and key threatening processes.

Background Information

- Instruments prepared in 2017-2018:
 - Nature Conservation (Murray Cod) Native Species Conservation Plan 2017 (NI2017-561)
 - Nature Conservation (Translocation of Native Flora and Fauna) Conservator Guidelines 2017 (NI2017-650)
 - Nature Conservation (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) Conservation Culling Calculator Determination 2018 (NI2018-141)
 - Nature Conservation (Native Grassland) Action Plans 2017 (DI2017-288)
 - Nature Conservation (Protected Native Species) Criteria and Processes 2017 (DI2017-294)
 - Nature Conservation (Listed Migratory Species) Action Plan 2018 (DI2018-27)
 - Activities Declarations for reserves including Sherwood Forest Special Purpose Reserve (NI2017-366) and Bimberi Wilderness Area (NI2017-412).

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT WATER STRATEGY: STRIKING THE BALANCE 2014-44

Talking points:

- The ACT Water Strategy was released in August 2014, together with an initial five year implementation plan. This first implementation plan is now drawing to its conclusion.
- A report card on progress of the first implementation was released in June 2018 and shows very good progress, with 27 of the 31 actions implemented and the remaining four due for completion early 2019. The Report Card is available on the EPSDD website.
- A second implementation plan is now being prepared to continue the momentum already achieved and will provide for a series of practical actions focussing on the overall outcomes of the Water Strategy:
 1. Healthy catchments and waterbodies
 2. A sustainable water supply used efficiently
 3. A community that values and enjoys clean, healthy catchments
- The new Implementation plan will be available for public comment in early 2019.

Key Information

- Achievements from the first five years of the ACT Water Strategy include:
 - Successful implementation of the ACT/Commonwealth funded ACT Healthy Waterways project
 - Establishment of improved water catchment governance in the ACT and Region
 - research into in-lake processes contributing to blue green algae and management of ponds
 - development of an integrated water quality monitoring and modelling program
 - delivery of the H2OK Stormwater education program as the region's first cross-border catchment program
 - 'in principle agreement' to the establishment of interstate water trading between the ACT and NSW
 - continuation of the Waterwatch program, which has seen the program grow to more than 200 volunteers conducting more than 2400 water surveys a year in what is the only regional water quality/river health monitoring program.

- A second Implementation Plan is being prepared for public release early in 2019.
- This work is being informed by a series of expert and stakeholder workshops as well as work done to benchmark the ACT against others cities in Australia.
- Recommendations made to Government recently by the Auditor-General about the handover of new stormwater assets to government and the management of the Lower Cotter catchment respectively are also being addressed in developing the new implementation plan.
- Implementation of the strategy is overseen by a high level Directors'-General Water Group.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT Healthy Waterways Project

Talking points:

- The Project is a \$93.5 million joint initiative of the Commonwealth and the ACT to protect and improve water quality in the ACT and the Murrumbidgee River system.
- The Project remains on-track for delivery by June 2019.
- Civil construction is well underway on 15 of the 20 infrastructure projects. Tendering is underway for the balance of priority assets.
- Each asset will become the property of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) of the ACT Government. TCCS will take responsibility for ongoing operation and maintenance.
- Two research projects are helping us understand water quality issues in lakes and urban ponds, including blue-green algal blooms in Lake Tuggeranong. These are being undertaken by the University of Canberra.
- We are also investing in monitoring, a data management system and modelling capability. This will assist in ongoing water resource management and future planning and development decisions.
- To complement the construction projects, a comprehensive regional education program, known as H2OK: Keeping our waterways healthy.
- H2OK targets urban and rural homeowners to motivate behavioural changes where properties interact with the stormwater system, such as roadside stormwater sumps.
- Community feedback across all parts of the Project has been positive.

Key Information

- Negotiations are underway with the Commonwealth to allow for a two year establishment period for aquatic/water quality plantings, to be undertaken within the existing budget.

Background Information

- The project is now in the implementation phase. Under the Agreement with the Australian Government the project must be completed by June 30 2019.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/01/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 59027
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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage


ISSUE: RELEASE OF 1%AEP FLOOD STUDY MAPS

Talking points:

- The EPSDD Catchment Management and Water Policy team has been working closely with the ACT Emergency Services Agency, to identify areas that potentially could be impacted (in terms of extent, depth and hazard) from riverine flooding in a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event (previously known as the 1 in 100 year flood). These maps will be released shortly.
- The release of the flood maps will be supported by an extensive community education program to allow property owners to interpret the map information and prepare accordingly.
- The flood maps have been based on extensive technical input and flood modelling expertise provided by two locally based professional consulting firms (AECOM and Calibre). Funding for this work was through the Commonwealth Natural Disaster Resilience Program.
- The updated maps cover the main Canberra water catchments as follows:
 - Sullivan’s Creek
 - Yarralumla Creek
 - Weston Creek
 - Woolshed Creek
 - Tuggeranong Creek
 - Jerrabomberra Creek
 - Ginninderra Creek
- The current work is being undertaken in line with proposed actions in the ACT Water Strategy, Striking the Balance 2014-2044, specifically Action 10 *“Improve planning, information and regulation for flood management”*.
- The ACT Government is following the nationally accepted process for developing flood risk mapping as recommended by the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience. The flood mapping and management program was conducted as part of continual improvement to the governments planning and emergency response capability and takes into account the changing environment in terms of landuse and climate. The mapping products support sustainable development and have been

developed in the best interests of the Canberra community in terms of protection of life and property.

Key Information

- A comprehensive communications strategy and collateral has been developed and is undergoing a final internal review.
- A consultant (Calibre Consulting) has conducted ground-truthing work on the flood models and developed high level mitigation options.
- 
- Concurrent with the investigation of mitigation measures and the development of a communications strategy, additional investigations and refinement of the flood models has been undertaken. This means that the maps that will be released in 2018 will be more accurate than those that were available in 2017.
- It is anticipated that ongoing refinement of the models will occur as additional studies are undertaken in future to inform further planning and development projects.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: LOWER COTTER CATCHMENT – RESTORATION WORKS

Talking points: Lower Cotter Restoration and Management Plan

- In February 2018 we released the Lower Cotter Catchment Reserve Management Plan which outlines how we will continue delivering on our commitment to improve water quality and biodiversity in the catchment.
- The restoration works being undertaken range from replanting native species and remediating erosion gullies to controlling invasive species. The result of these works will be a more resilient catchment, thereby improving both Canberra’s environment and our water security.
- The restoration of the catchment allows areas for education, research and low-impact recreation and is building on the hard work undertaken by community volunteers over the past decade.
- Works have delivered: 400 metres of gully restoration; 160 metres of redundant road rehabilitation; 95 hectares of pine wilding removal; 9,200 seedlings planted and 99 hectares of blackberry spraying.

Talking points: Bettong Release Project

- The two year trial ‘beyond the fence’ release of bettongs has concluded and the ANU/ EPSDD staff are in the process of publishing the findings.
- Our ecologists are now considering how we can use the valuable lessons learnt from this research to shape future bettong release projects.
- It is not appropriate to comment on the results or future direction of the project until it is published by our research partners. I anticipate that this will occur in the coming months.
- 47 bettongs were released during the trial period, which involved over 10,000 vertebrate pest bait stations. This trial has concluded as the results are evaluated; other release sites are being considered based on the lessons learnt in the Lower Cotter Catchment.

Background Information

- In 2013, the construction of the enlarged Cotter Dam was completed, activating a further 19,000 ha of land as potable water catchment. The Lower Cotter Catchment Reserve surrounds the enlarged Cotter Dam and incorporates 6350 ha of the Dam’s catchment area.
- In 2015, the Auditor General reported on the restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment. Management actions are focused on actioning the recommendations, as well as continuing broad-scale restoration activities as outlined in the 2018 Lower Cotter Catchment Reserve Management Plan; the plan was open for public comment between 16 Jan 2017 and 10 Mar 2017.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT CATCHMENT GROUPS

Talking points:

- The ACT Government allocated \$352,000 in the 2018-19 Budget to assist three catchment groups - Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group and Molonglo Catchment Group - to transition to a more sustainable funding model.
- EPSDD has had several meetings with the catchment groups and ACT Landcare to develop deliverables that meet the objectives of the budget.
- The first allocation of the funding, totalling \$150,000, has been provided to the catchment groups who are well underway with the development of the deliverables.
- The three projects being undertaken by the groups are 'Investigate Models for Catchment Management in the ACT', 'Value Proposition and Business Case', and 'Capability Framework and Risk Assessment'.
- The remaining funds will be provided to the groups in the first half of the new year to continue further work to achieve the outcome.

Key Information

- Previously, through the National Landcare Program, the Australian Government provided funding to ACT Catchment Groups to deliver outcomes.
- This funding completed in June 2018 and the new National Landcare Program that commenced in July 2018 did not provide a similar funding to the groups.
- The Southern ACT, Ginninderra and Molonglo Catchment Groups approached government seeking assistance to transform to a new model more adaptable to revised funding arrangements.

Background Information

- Supporting core capacity of catchment groups is not a funding priority for the Australian Government whose priorities are threatened species; threatened ecological communities; Ramsar sites; soil and water and adapting to change.
- When ACT NRM developed the tender for the National Landcare Program 2018-23, there was significant consultation with catchment groups and Landcare ACT.
- The ACT Government offers the annual ACT Environment Grant Program which offers approximately \$200,000 a year to fund environmental initiatives. Catchment Groups are regularly successful in gaining funding for projects from these grants.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: SURVEYING AND MONITORING OF ACT THREATENED SPECIES

Talking points:

- The ACT Government continues to undertake surveys to monitor the listed threatened species and ecological communities and support evidence-based decision-making.
- In 2017-18 annual surveys for ACT threatened species included eight plant species; three animals and three fish. In general species populations were stable, although some populations are lower than in previous years due to the current below-average rainfall.
- Some highlights include:
 - Good population numbers of the Eastern Bettong and the Eastern Quoll continue in the Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary.
 - In August 2017, the Little Eagle that flew to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory, tracked with a GPS recorded, returned to Ginninderry in West Belconnen. Research on this species continues in partnership with ANU, Ginninderry and CSIRO.
 - Northern Corroborree Frog surveys in February 2018 in Namadgi National Park found captive-bred frogs at two sites, showing this program is continuing to sustain two small populations.
 - Completion of the second Engineered log-jam near Tharwa to improve fish habitat in the Murrumbidgee River.

Key Information

- Threatened plant species monitored in 2017-18 were: Bridabella Midge Orchid, Button Wrinklewort, Canberra Spider Orchid, Murrumbidgee Bossiaea, Small Purple Pea, Tarengo Leek orchid, Tuggeranong Lignum and the Ginninderra Peppercross.
- Threatened fauna species monitored in 2017-18 were: Grassland Earless Dragon, Little Eagle and the Northern Corroboree Frog.
- Threatened fish species monitored in 2017-18 were: Two-spinned Blackfish, Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch.

Background Information

- Where possible, survey and monitoring results are published on the Directorates web site. The EPSDD Conservation Research unit program report 2015-17 provides further details of each species.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROGRAM 2017-2018

Talking points:

- ACT Environment Grants Program funding has been annually awarded since 1997, and continues to be an important part of supporting the local community to protect and restore our local natural environment.
- In 2017-18 nine projects collectively received \$203,000 for community led environmental projects, from a total of 19 applications received.
- The recipients of the 2017-2018 ACT Environment Grants round include the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group, ACT Wildlife, Kosciuszko to Coast, SEE-Change and Lending a hand Pty Ltd.
- The projects will focus on landscape restoration, biodiversity and native habitat enhancement, native wildlife care and rehabilitation, citizen science and indigenous engagement.

Key Information

- A notional allocation of \$200,000 per year has been made available for the next four years.
- The Grants support the growing contributions of citizen science and community efforts in preserving our natural assets for the enjoyment of current and future generation has seen applicant numbers for the grant program rise in recent years, and we are seeing great results being achieved with the funding.

Background Information

- The Grants program is an ACT Government initiative to provide financial assistance for community-based environmental projects.
- They fund community projects that deliver positive environmental outcomes which align with current ACT Government environmental priorities.
- They continue to encourage community awareness about local environmental issues and promote community engagement in the environment sector.
- The ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-23 describes its vision for nature conservation in the ACT as 'biodiversity rich, resilient landscapes stretching from the inner city to the mountains, where well-functioning ecosystems can meet the needs of people and the environment'.
- Since 2013 there has been 42 successful applications to the value of \$830,000 under the ACT Environment Grants.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT AND REGION CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COORDINATION GROUP

Talking points:

- On 20 October 2014, the ACT Government agreed to the establishment of an inter-jurisdictional coordination body to be known as the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group ('the Coordination Group').
- The Coordination Group has representation from the ACT Directorates involved in Catchment Management (Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development; Environment Planning and Sustainable Development; Transport Canberra and City Services; Health; ACT Emergency Services Agency); and Icon Water. The Commonwealth is represented by the National Capital Authority whilst the NSW Government is represented by South East Local Land Services and the surrounding local Government areas of Queanbeyan-Palerang Council, Snowy Monaro Regional Council and Yass Valley Council respectively. The Group has an independent Chair in Professor Ian Falconer and the community is represented by Dr Fiona Dyer.
- The ACT Government and participating jurisdictions endorsed the Groups ACT and Region Catchment Strategy in August 2015. The Implementation of this strategy is progressing well with three actions already complete; ten progressing as planned; none currently undergoing difficulties whilst the remaining six are due for commencement in the near future.

Key Information

- On 4 August 2015, the ACT Legislative Assembly passed the Water Resources (Catchment Management) Amendment Bill 2015, which amended the *Water Resources Act 2007* and established the Coordination Group as a statutory body.
- The Coordination Group is specified in the work plan for the ACT and NSW Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration (December 2016).
- The Coordination Group and its Catchment Strategy seeks to improve resilience of the ACT and Region to change - in terms of increased potential for temperature rises, rainfall variation and more extreme

climate events, such as bushfires and flooding and changing landuse, particularly increased development.

Background Information

- The Coordination Group provided its annual report to the Assembly in September 2018. The Annual Report details the major achievements of the Coordination Group, being
 - Finalising a framework for interjurisdictional catchment management decision making;
 - Reaching in principle agreement to cost sharing arrangements for key projects identified in the Catchment Strategy;
 - Supporting the ACT Governments endeavours to develop interjurisdictional water trading arrangements as a method of optimising unused water entitlements to provide a funding stream for enhancing catchment management in the region;
 - Strategically reinforcing the role of community based catchment groups by supporting the ACT government’s contribution of \$352K to transition to a more sustainable operating model.
 - Finalising the drafting of a regional post emergency recovery framework which considers the causes and threats to our catchment, and the steps needed to recover in the event that a major disaster occurs.
 - The H2OK Stormwater Education Program is in full swing, promoting the central message “Only rain down the stormwater drain”.
- Priorities for 2018-19 include,
 - Opportunities for wider uptake of citizen science data such as Waterwatch and Frogwatch;
 - Continuation of the H2OK education program;
 - Investigating opportunities for drought resilience in relation to securing long term water supplies for the ACT and Region;
 - Reducing sediment, nutrient and pathogen loads to waterways at key sites across the region; and
 - Exploring ways to increase aboriginal involvement in water planning and management.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT NATIVE GRASSLAND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Talking points:

- The ACT Native Grassland Conservation Strategy and eight associated action plans provide guidance for the protection, management and restoration of native grasslands, and grassland species, over the next 10 years consistent with the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23.
- This 2017 Grassland Strategy is a revision of the original 2005 Lowland Grassland Conservation Strategy. This revised strategy builds on the successful protection and management of grasslands achieved since the original (2005) native grasslands strategy was released.
- This revised strategy broadens the scope beyond lowland grasslands to include all native grasslands across the elevation range from lowlands to sub-alpine areas. This is consistent with the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* listing of natural temperate grasslands which includes grasslands at altitudes from 560 to 1200 m.
- The strategy identifies sites for protection and conservation management, and encourages community participation in conservation of native grasslands.

Key Information

- The ACT Native Grassland Conservation Strategy and Action Plans document was released in December 2017.
- Under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, a draft Action Plan (or Conservation Advice) must be prepared for each ecological community or species listed as threatened, and reviewed after 10 years.
- The action plans associated with this strategy include one threatened grassland community (natural temperate grassland), three threatened plant species (Button Wrinklewort, Ginninderra Peppergrass, Baeuerlen's Gentian) and four threatened animal species (Grassland Earless Dragon, Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth, Perunga Grasshopper).

Background Information

- Natural Temperate Grasslands are one of our most threatened ecosystems with less than 10% remaining in Australia, and provide critical habitat for threatened species.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Talking points:

- The ACT Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy and seven associated action plans provide guidance for the conservation of aquatic and connected riparian ecosystems, and restoration of conservation areas and species over the next 10 years.
- The 2018 Strategy was released on 7 September 2018. This was a revision of the original 2007 strategy.
- The Strategy outlines how the Government will work with the community and key stakeholders to manage threats, maintain and improve ecological condition and enhance biodiversity now and into the future. This includes enhancing the resilience of aquatic and riparian areas to future climate change.

Key Information

- Under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, a draft action plan (or Conservaiton Advice) must be prepared for each ecological community or species listed as threatened, and reviewed after 10 years.
- The strategy is a document developed and released by the Conservator for Flora and Fauna.
- The strategy contains broader information about aquatic and riparian ecosystems, the species they contain and key management concepts which lead to threatened species action plans.
- The action plans associated with this strategy include for fish- Macquarie Perch, Two-spined Blackfish, Trout Cod, Murray Crayfish, Silver Perch; and plants - the Murrumbidgee Bossiaea, and Tuggeranong Lignum.

Background Information

- Prior to release for community comment the strategy was reviewed by all ACT Government Directorates and twice by the ACT Scientific Committee.
- Public consultation for the strategy took place 24 January to 11 March 2018. Comments were received from six organisations. The strategy was revised, where relevant, based on these comments.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY 2013-23

Talking points:

- The ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23 guides the protection and management of biodiversity in the ACT and region over the next decade.
- It articulates a vision for ‘biodiversity rich, resilient landscapes stretching from the inner city to the mountains, where well functioning ecosystems can meet the needs of people and the environment’.
- This desired future is to be achieved through the Strategy’s five key strategies and 33 actions. The key strategies are to:
 - Enhance habitat connectivity and ecosystem function
 - Manage threats to biodiversity
 - Protect species and ecological communities
 - Enhance biodiversity value of urban areas
 - Strengthen community engagement
- The Strategy is supported by a five yearly Implementation Plan 2013-18. Highlights in implementation are:
 - Connecting lowland woodlands, improving native grasslands, and restoring aquatic habitat along the Murrumbidgee river;
 - building our knowledge on soils, vegetation, hydrology and fauna and flora including through community citizen science; and
 - threatened species recovery including through captive breeding of native fauna, plant propagation and translocation projects.

Background Information

- The Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-2023 was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 13 August 2013 and commenced on 14 November 2013.
- The Conservator of Flora and Fauna prepared the Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23 under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*.
- The Strategy is supported by an Implementation Plan 2013-18. A Progress Report on implementation of the Strategy was released in 2016. A second implementation plan will be developed for 2019-23, following a review of progress in implementing the Strategy by the ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: Review of the *Lakes Act 1976*

Talking points:

- The *Lakes Act 1976* (the Act) was reviewed in 2016-17 with the Lakes Amendment Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly in February 2018.
- A copy of a draft Regulation was also tabled along with the Bill.
- The Bill contemporises the Act which was dated and includes updated safety provisions including the mandatory use of life jackets and drug and alcohol offence provisions.
- A number of the technical provisions in relation to navigation and lighting for boat users will be included in regulations to support the Act.
- The Regulation is currently in the process of being finalised in consultation with lake users, managers and regulators.
- The Bill and regulations are modelled on the corresponding NSW legislation due to the ACT's geographic location.
- It is anticipated the Bill will come into effect in February 2019 following finalisation of the supporting Regulation.
- The National Capital Authority which regulates the use of Lake Burley Griffin under the *Lakes Ordinance 1976*, on which the *Lakes Act 1976* was mirrored following self-government, have agreed to review the Lakes Ordinance to maintain consistency between the legislative frameworks.

Key Information

- The ACT Lake Managers' Forum agreed that it would be more expedient for the ACT to amend the Lakes Act, and then for the Commonwealth to amend its Ordinance mirrored on the amended ACT legislation.
- The Justice and Community Safety Directorate advised that it would be more appropriate for the ACT to adapt the drug and alcohol offences in the ACT *Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977* for boat users on lakes, rather than to adopt NSW's marine safety rules relating to drug and alcohol testing and offence.

Background Information

- The Act regulates the use of lakes which are formally declared under the Act. These include Lake Ginniderra, Lake Tuggeranong, the Kingston Harbour and the Molonglo Reach between Fyshwick and Lake Burley Griffin.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

01/11/2018

Cleared by:

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- The Lakes Act is derived from the Commonwealth *Lakes Ordinance 1976* which regulates uses on Lake Burley Griffin and administered by the National Capital Authority.
- The Lakes Act (ACT) and Lakes Ordinance (Cwlth) are similarly worded, given the Lakes Act's origin as Commonwealth legislation.
- The Lakes Act and Lakes Ordinance are dated and inadequate. Neither piece of legislation provides clear or enforceable provisions in relation to navigation, safety, the classification of waterways, or the reconciliation of ACT waters with those administered by the NCA. They are not reflective of comparable legislation in other jurisdictions.
- In August 2015 the ACT Coroner handed down her findings into a fatality that occurred in the Molonglo Reach water ski area (a declared Lake under the Lakes Act).
- One of the recommendations of the Coroner's report is that a review of the relevant legislation be carried out to ensure that it is adequate and carries sufficient deterrent for the unlawful use of Molonglo Reach, and that members of the Australian Federal Police have sufficient powers to enforce relevant legislation, including the issuing of infringement notices and the carrying out of random alcohol and drug testing.
- A working group (the ACT Lake Managers' Forum) comprising representatives from the NCA; ACT Water Police; Access Canberra; Transport Canberra and City Services; Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority was established to progress the review.
- Similar to the process for review of the Act, the Lakes Manager's Forum, Lake Users Group convened by the National Capital Authority and ACT Lake users are being consulted in development of the Regulation to ensure the regulations are appropriate for all waterbodies in the ACT regulated by both the Territory and the Commonwealth.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Talking points:

- The Scientific Committee provides advice on key conservation issues, including listing of threatened species and key threatening processes.
- A new Scientific Committee was appointed for a three-year term on 4 July 2018.
- Following recommendations from the Scientific Committee, as the Minister for the Environment and Heritage listed:
 - the Eastern Bettong as Regionally Conservation Dependent on the List of Threatened Native Species - notified on 1 September 2018
 - the *'Loss of mature native trees (including hollow-bearing trees) and lack of recruitment'* as a Key Threatening Process – notified on 27 September 2018
- The Scientific Committee also supported the NSW nomination of 'Habitat destruction by feral horses' as a Key Threatening Process in NSW.

Key Information

- The new Scientific Committee include returning members:
 - Distinguished Professor Arthur Georges (Chair)
 - Honorary Professor Penny Olsen (Deputy Chair)
 - Associate Professor Mark Lintermans
 - Assistant Professor Jasmyn Lynch
 - Dr Barry Richardson
- Two new members were appointed:
 - Dr Kenneth Hodgkinson
 - Dr Chloe Sato

Background Information

- The seven members were selected for their capacity to contribute on assessing the conservation status of threatened native species of flora and fauna and ecological communities in the ACT region and the ecological significance of threatening processes.
- The Committee is a statutory body under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and comprises representatives with expertise in biology, ecology, conservation science and conservation management of flora and fauna.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: CONSERVATION EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP) is an overarching framework for evaluating and reporting on management of biodiversity values across the ACT conservation estate.
- The CEMP is currently under development, being established to provide strategic evaluation and reporting using an adaptive management approach across ACT reserves.
- The CEMP is an ongoing monitoring framework in which condition of each of eight ecosystem will be reported every four years.
- Initial CEMP monitoring plans and condition reports are completed for Lowland Native Grassland Ecosystems, a first draft has been completed for Upland Native Grassland Ecosystems, and the Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystems Monitoring Plan is scheduled to be completed by early 2019.

Key Information

- The CEMP includes individual monitoring plans for eight ecosystems being: lowland and upland grasslands, lowland and upland woodlands, lowland and upland forests, aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and upland bogs and fens.
- CEMP will provide direct input in the Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program through development of monitoring plans for these ecosystems.
- The monitoring plan for each ecosystem includes a range of indicators and metrics used to track trend in condition over time. This allows consistent and transparent reporting on the status of the ACT's biodiversity values and threats to these values.
- Development of the remaining five CEMP ecosystem monitoring plans is expected to be complete by the end of 2019/20 financial year.

Background Information

- The CEMP was established in response to a review of monitoring programs within the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) estate conducted in 2014 that indicated the need for improved coordination of monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of land management actions at achieving conservation objectives.
- The CEMP is being developed by the Conservation Research unit and PCS with input from areas of the Environment Division.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: KICKSTART MY CAREER THROUGH CULTURE PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The Kickstart Program (2016-20) has finished its second year of delivery, designed to re-engage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and at-risk youth in their education.
- A total of 69 students were involved in the program with 46 of those students identified as Aboriginal.
- The program is based on conservation and land management principles and has a strong Aboriginal cultural engagement component.
- Learning is delivered outdoors or ‘on Country’, where students are able to learn more about Aboriginal culture, conservation, preservation of cultural sites and traditional uses of plants.
- Delivered through schools as a ‘Vocational Learning Option’—short vocational education courses that provide recognised qualifications.

Key Information

- Program facilitators included: CIT Horticulture, CIT Yurauna Centre, Greening Australia.
- Guests included: Elders & Traditional Custodians [REDACTED]. Local Aboriginal Businesses: Yurbay Consultants, Culture on the Move, Thunderstone as well as the ACT Government Murumbung Rangers.
- This Program is a collaboration between EPSDD, the Education Directorate, CIT and Community Services Directorate with all 4 directorates equally contributing funds.

Background Information

- The annual budget for the program including the coordinator salary is in the order of \$170,000.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ACT NRM)

Talking points:

- There are 56 regional natural resource management bodies across Australia with responsibility for delivering national priorities through the National Landcare Program.
- Within the ACT, ACT NRM is the regional natural resource management body and is located within EPSDD. ACT NRM partners with other agencies, organisations and community groups to:
 - leverage funding; and
 - achieve outcomes for biodiversity and sustainable agriculture.
 - This is undertaken through strong community engagement, including with community volunteers, rural landholders and Indigenous peoples.
- The National Landcare Program (NLP) has been a key funding source for ACT NRM. The NLP 1 program ran from July 2013 and was completed in June 2018. ACT NRM was successful in tendering for NLP 2 (2018-23).
- ACT NRM has also leveraged funding through previous Australian Government initiatives including Green Army and Established Pest Animals and Weeds Measure.

Background Information

- The ACT NRM team has 8 fulltime staff members including an ecologist, landcare facilitators, Aboriginal facilitators, and program managers.
- ACT NRM also administers ACT Government programs including
 - The ACT Environment Grants Program
 - 2018-19 Rural Resilience Grants
 - the Kickstart My Career Through Culture Program

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM 2

Talking points:

- The Environment Division through ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM), has been announced as 1 of 47 successful tenderers to deliver nationally the Regional Land Partnerships component of the Commonwealth's National Landcare Program 2.
- There are two funding components to the delivery - core services and projects:
 - Core service funding (approx. \$2.0M), 2018-23, including facilitators (Landcare and Aboriginal) and monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
 - Project funding for 4 out of 6 projects submitted was successful.
- *Protecting and Connecting Box-Gum Woodland in the ACT* (approx. \$1.5M), 2018-23. This project will enhance and connect Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland in the ACT, in particular on rural leases. Partners include Greening Australia and Molonglo Catchment Group.
- *Safe Haven for Quolls and Bettongs in the ACT*, \$160,694 over 2018-19. This project via pest control programs will support Mulligan's Flat Sanctuary including through funding of an indigenous ranger to foster indigenous culture, knowledge and awareness.
- *Reducing the impact of Sambar Deer in the ACT's Ramsar site – the Ginini Flats Wetland Complex*, \$29,500 over 2018/19. This foundation project will help protect ACT's only Ramsar site, Ginini Flats Wetland Complex by synthesising existing knowledge on deer control and monitoring.
- *Better Land Management Practices – Building Evidence for Practice Change: Social Research on Soil Acidity Management Practices*, \$30,000 over 2018/2019. This project focuses on improving soil management practices on farm.

Key Information

- There are over 160 rural lessees in the ACT.
- The majority of Box-Gum Woodland in the ACT is on Reserve, with private land providing a key area of connection.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 59027
Information Officer name: Ian Walker
Contact Officer name: Frank Garofalow Ext: 70497

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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: 2018 CANBERRA AND REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Talking points:

- The 36th Heritage Festival was themed ‘My Culture, My Story’ in line with the national Australian Heritage Festival, which celebrated the strengths of our cultural identities.
- The Festival ran over 15 days in April 2018 with a program of 156 events provided by 60 organisations.
- An external evaluation was conducted to provide future direction so the event remains relevant and continues to fulfil its purpose to highlight our Aboriginal, built and natural heritage raises awareness for the ongoing need of its conservation.

Key Information

- The Festival was held from 14 – 29 April 2018.
- Aboriginal culture featured in a record 18 events with tours, exhibitions, children activities and demonstrations.
- 19 projects funded through the ACT Heritage Grants Program were featured allowing the public to experience the positive results of these projects.
- 97% of participants who filled out a feedback form were very satisfied or satisfied with the event they attended.

Background Information

- The festival is funded through the Community Partnership component of the ACT Heritage Grants Program. \$57,000 was allocated to the Festival and \$20,000 for external research.
- It remains a cost effective way to demonstrate the diversity of our local heritage to over 20,000 participants.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – HERITAGE PROJECTS

Talking points:

- The heritage - better infrastructure fund projects are focused on conserving the ACT's heritage and educating the public.
- In 2017-18, \$151,000 was allocated for heritage projects: Canberra Tracks; Glenburn Homestead Pisé Building Engineering Assessment; Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop Conservation Works; and ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) Cultural Heritage Management System (CHMS).
- \$76,000 was allocated to the conservation, relocation and interpretation of the Outward Bound Aboriginal scar tree through the 2016-17 Capital Works program. This funding was rolled over to continue work on the project.

Key Information

- Canberra Tracks Interpretive Signage Trails
Updated information and a new sign was installed at the site of Toll Dale. The free Augmented Reality app had new downloadable content added. With the unrestricted storage now available as well as the 48 two minute videos, people can now explore our heritage through 360° internal panoramas of places not usually open to the public. Audio clips also bring life to six sites. The sign at Regatta Point outside the Canberra Region Visitor Centre was updated promoting the app.
- Glenburn Homestead pisé wall stabilisation
In 2016-2017, large cracks were recorded in a c.1900 pisé (rammed earth) building, and the lintel around the building's front door partially collapsed. Interim measures to support the door lintel were put in place, and an engineering assessment was completed in June 2018 which identified a conservation strategy and scope of works to guide the immediate and ongoing conservation and management of the place.
- Conservation Management Plan - Aboriginal Heritage Places, PCS lands
Thousands of Aboriginal heritage places occur in lands managed by PCS, which are of cultural and heritage significance. The project commenced with a review of the PCS management estate and current heritage management practices, which has informed a scoping of the CHMS and its governance. The initial stage of the CHMS also includes draft content on Standard Operational Procedures for Aboriginal cultural heritage management.
- Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop Conservation Works.
Minor conservation works to the Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop including the repair of the corrugated iron roof.

- Relocation, conservation and interpretation of an Aboriginal cultural tree, Namadgi Visitors Centre.

In May 2018, an Aboriginal cultural tree was relocated from the Outward Bound property at Tharwa to Namadgi, for conservation and interpretation. The tree was felled and cut into four pieces many decades ago, with one of these pieces containing a large canoe scar in its entirety. At the request of Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAO), the ACT Government funded this project to promote and celebrate the Aboriginal culture and history of the ACT. Conservation works and installation were completed in June 2018. Interpretive signage is currently being prepared in consultation with RAOs and it is expected the Minister will launch the completed project in November 2018.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM 2017-18

Talking points:

- The 2017-18 Heritage Grants Program funded 21 projects totalling just under \$352,000.
- The program is the primary source of government funding for community-based heritage projects, assisting the community to conserve and promote the heritage of the ACT.
- Funded projects included guided nature reserve tours by a Ngunnawal elder, conservation works to heritage listed buildings and collections, oral histories, interpretative signage, and conservation management plans.

Key Information

- Individuals, community groups, and incorporated non-profit or private organisations may apply for an ACT Heritage Grant.
- Assessments are undertaken by expert and professional staff within the Environment Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate.
- The Minister for the Environment and Heritage makes the final decision on successful applications.
- The program is an annual funding program, usually opening in early March.

Background Information

- The total funding of \$351,978 comprised:
 - \$197,354 for 18 individual grant projects;
 - \$52,624 to the Heritage Emergency Fund. The fund exists for urgent requests for conservation works or oral histories in danger of being lost that may arise between formal funding rounds;
 - \$77,000 to the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. A community celebration of the ACT's Aboriginal, historic and natural heritage;
 - \$25,000 to the Heritage Advisory Service. The service provides one hour of free heritage and architectural advice to prospective and existing owners of heritage places. The service was used 60 times in the reporting period.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: SUPPLY OF 24 PARKS AND CONSERVATION STAFF FOR OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT TO BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Talking points:

- The ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) deployed 24 firefighting staff in August and September 2017 to assist in the suppression of wildfires in the Canadian Province of British Columbia as part of an Australian firefighting deployment.
- PCS, along with the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) which also deployed resources, are both signatories to an international agreement to provide emergency support to Canada and the US.
- PCS and ESA work collaboratively and all staff deployed are ratified and endorsed by both agencies. ESA plays the main co-ordinating role.
- The fires were the worst in Canadian recorded history and at the time of deploying, 174 wildfires were burning out of control and a provincial State of Emergency had been declared.
- The scale of the wildfires quickly exhausted all provincial and national crews and Canada sought assistance from the US, New Zealand, Mexico and Australia.
- The Australian deployments were made up of more than 220 firefighters from all Australian states and territories.
- International deployments offer unique opportunities for experienced fire staff to maintain and strengthen their fire management skills.
- The 'development' gained in international deployment is to expose already high-performing staff to different incident scenarios and plays a major role in ensuring that the ACT has sufficient numbers of highly skilled and experienced senior bushfire personnel available.
- All costs were met by the Canadian Government.

Key Information

- PCS has a strong history of assisting in International Deployments, with staff deploying to various locations in North America in 2006, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- PCS firefighters performed a number of senior leadership roles including the National Liaison at the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg,

Manitoba, provincial Liaison Officers based in British Columbia, Agency Representatives as well as field commanders and field crews.

- Deployments lengths ranged from 21 days to 39 days depending on the role undertaken and expected fire behaviour. One deployment was shortened when weather conditions moderated and reduced fire activity to levels that could be managed locally.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: 2017/18 BUSHFIRE OPERATIONS PLAN

Talking points:

- The EPSDD Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP) is prepared each year in consultation with the ACT Rural Fire Service, the ACT Bush Fire Council and the Emergency Services Agency.
- The Directorate achieved 97% implementation of all activities identified in the approved 2017-18 EPSDD BOP, including all the high priority prescribed burns.
- The ACT Parks and Conservation Service has approximately 180 trained and skilled permanent firefighters and annually recruits a further 18 seasonal fire crew to assist with all BOP work, including planned burns.

Key Information

- A total of 37 burns were implemented out of the 45 planned with 8 burns not completed due to lack of appropriate conditions.
- Any burns not implemented will go onto the following year's BOP.
- 100% of the 4,700 ha of slashing and 6,000 ha of grazing was implemented.
- 514 km of the planned 515 km road network maintenance programme was completed.

Background Information

- The weather conditions experienced in 2017/18 oscillated between too wet and too dry. Several larger rural burns were not completed due to unsuitable weather conditions. These burns will be carried over into the next year's programme.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: HEALTHY COUNTRY PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) is dedicated to improving delivery of educational and conservation activities within the cultural landscape by its Aboriginal staff and through the engagement of local Traditional Custodians and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- The Murumbung Rangers consists of all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (currently 9 staff) working within PCS in different roles and locations, who collectively undertake a broad range of cultural interpretation, community engagement, fire, water and land management projects together.
- Achievement highlights for the year include:
 - Re-location of an Aboriginal scar tree from Tharwa to a more appropriate site at the Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre
 - Delivery of a number of cultural burns across the ACT which integrated traditional and contemporary fire methodology and practice
 - Interpretation training to update and refresh the skills of the Murumbung Rangers held in September 2017
 - Namadgi Agreement Working Group has been established to revitalise the Namadgi Agreement in accordance with the wishes of the original signatories and witnesses.

Key Information

- Traditional Custodians have been engaged in both a paid and voluntary capacity in the following park management activities during 2017 and 2018 including:
 - Field trips for Aboriginal Water Assessments (Umbagogong and Ghubur Dhaura)
 - Field Trip to enable EPSDD to consult community on the Lower Cotter Catchment Management Plan
 - engagement of a Traditional Custodian through an EOI process to do designs for the PCS iconic animals for orientation signage
 - A water meeting to share information on the Aquatic and Riparian Strategy and the ACT Fisheries Act Review and gather input from community. The Fisheries Act will require ongoing consultation.
 - Tidbinbilla Grass Tree site clean-up in preparation for a cultural burn

- Three community members were invited to participate in the ACT Key Stakeholder meeting on the release of the Carp Virus.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: KANGAROO MANAGEMENT

Talking points:

- The management of kangaroos is guided by scientific evidence, based on best practice management of the species and is consistent with the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes.
- The annual program helps manage the ACT's valuable grasslands and woodlands against overgrazing, ensuring habitat for creatures such as lizards and ground-feeding birds is retained, and avoiding excessive soil loss whilst still maintaining sustainable numbers of kangaroos.
- As a custodian of public lands, PCS has a legislative responsibility under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* to ensure that risks to protected ecological communities are mitigated.
- There are three types of Eastern Grey Kangaroo (kangaroo) control programs operating in the ACT:
 - The Conservation Cull conducted by the Parks and Conservation Service on public lands - 3,280 culled in 2018 (quota 3,550);
 - The Damage Mitigation cull (or Rural Cull) which is conducted on rural lands to maintain production values of those properties; and
 - Culling undertaken by other public land managers.
- The Conservation Cull is restricted to the period of 1 March to 31 July each year for the welfare of at foot kangaroo joeys still dependent of their mothers.

Budget and Expenditure for Kangaroos Management

- A budget of \$681,500 was identified in 2018 to deliver all aspects of kangaroo population management. This included:
 - Kangaroo Management Program initiative funding of \$545,000; and
 - Environmental Offsets capital funding of \$136,500.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 59027

Information Officer name: Ian Walker
Contact Officer name: Stephen Hughes Ext: 72508

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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: PARKCARE

Talking points:

- ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) facilitates volunteer involvement through the ParkCare Initiative.
- Over the past year ParkCare has diversified volunteer activities and now provides more opportunities for the community to work side by side with our staff.
- Changes to the volunteer program have resulted in the registration of 280 new volunteers.
- The program is attracting younger people with the average age of new volunteers being 36.
- Over the 2017/18 year, ParkCare volunteers contributed 29,362 hours of their time towards the management, maintenance and interpretation of the ACT Parks and Conservation estate.
- The new cloud based software which is being used to manage volunteer activities is successfully tracking registration, verification of qualifications, promoting and scheduling events, recording hours and reporting incidents.

Key Information

- 615 volunteers have registered with ParkCare on the new ‘ParkCare Hub’ over the past year. Of these, 280 are brand new to ParkCare.
- The 29,362 volunteer hours equate to approximately \$990,000 worth of added value to the work of PCS.

Background Information

- ParkCare is an established volunteer program which has been operational for 29 years.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Talking points:

- Invasive species are a major threat to native plants and animals, water catchments and agricultural lands.

Plants

- The invasive plants control program is the largest land management program undertaken by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) (based on the number of control sites and hectares of control work).
- In 2017-18, \$2.2million was spent on invasive plant control covering 14,158 ha and 27,903 control sites, protecting native wildflowers, water catchments and rare vegetation communities.

Animals

- PCS manages wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes, rabbits, wild deer and horses in cooperation with neighbouring land managers to minimise their negative impacts on conservation reserves and agricultural land in the ACT - \$0.210M was invested in 2017-18.
- On-going management projects (eg. feral pigs in Namadgi National Park, wild dogs at the rural land / national park interface) aim to hold pest numbers below a level at which they would cause unacceptable damage to park amenity, agricultural enterprises, or biodiversity values.
- New projects and associated follow-up control tackle new pest incursions or situations where pest numbers in a particular area have increased to a level where they are causing unsustainable damage.

Key Information

- The highest invasive plant control priorities include serrated tussock, African lovegrass, Chilean needle grass, blackberry, broom species, fireweed, Mexican feather grass, Coolatai grass, Spanish heath, crack willow, St John's wort, pine wildings, nodding thistle and alligator weed.
- PCS invasive plant control expenditure will increase to \$2.3m in 2018-19.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: BIOSECURITY

Talking points:

- Expenditure on biosecurity increased by \$1,020,523 million in 2017-18 to \$4,132,688 million due to significant increased investment in invasive species control, training, plant health surveillance around Canberra Airport and our contribution to national projects such as the red imported fire ant eradication program in South East Queensland.
- The ACT and Region Carp Biocontrol Taskforce was established and key stakeholder and community consultation undertaken to prepare for the proposed national release of carp herpesvirus for biocontrol.
- The ACT Government conducted Exercise Bee Prepared in April 2018, setting up an Incident Management Team and a field surveillance team around a simulated Varroa mite detection. Staff also engaged with NSW on cross-border emergency response exercises and training.
- The investment in training and exercises is paying dividends with a well organised emergency response launched following the detection of Red-whiskered Bulbuls in the ACT.
- Biosecurity veterinary officers increased our engagement with rural landholders by supporting information sessions such as ‘What you need to know about biosecurity plans’ and ‘Best Practice Pig Control’, and actively promoting livestock disease investigations.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: SUPPORTING THE WOODLANDS AND WETLANDS TRUST

Talking points:

- The 2018-19 Budget allocated a \$1.438m grant over two years for the Woodland and Wetlands Trust (the Trust) to construct the first stage of an ecotourism and nature learning centre adjacent to the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary.
- The Centre will enhance the tourism experience for visitors already coming to Canberra, as well as attract new visitors.

Key Information

- Funds were appropriated in the 2017-18 ACT Budget totalling \$0.162M to provide a grant to the Trust to design the new Centre.
- Using these funds, the Trust has engaged an architect to undertake design to Final Sketch Plans and lodge a Development Application.
- It is anticipated the Trust will be in a position to tender for construction in the next financial year.

Background Information

- The ACT Labor Party 2016 election commitment to contribute \$1.6M towards the construction of a woodlands learning Centre (the Centre), has played a pivotal role in the Trust securing matching private funding from Odonata, a not for profit organisation established to support nature conservation projects.
- The Trust has secured private funding to match Government funding (\$1.6M contribution from Odonata) - conditional on the realisation of the Government commitment of \$1.6M.
- A Deed of Grant was agreed by the Trust and the ACT Government providing the basis for the \$0.162M being made available to the Trust for the design of the Learning Centre.
- A new arrangement which will either be a Deed of Grant or MOU is in preparation for the new funding appropriated in the 2018-19 ACT Government budget.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT PARKS AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (PCS) 2017-18 CAPITAL WORKS

Talking points:

- In 2017-18 PCS delivered a program of Capital Works valued at more than \$7.6m.
- A range of projects were completed across the PCS estate from modernisation of the Mitchell Depot, remediation investigation of a contaminated site at West Belconnen (Jarramlee), through to river and woodland restoration, and new park infrastructure.
- Establishment of the Molonglo River Reserve and other offset areas within the PCS Estate continued in line with the ACT Government land release program.

Key Information

Projects completed by PCS include:

- **Tharwa fish habitat:** four new engineered log jams for native fish in the Murrumbidgee River corridor installed.
- **Jarramlee Nature Reserve remediation:** Detailed site investigations commenced to determine the nature and extent of ground subsidence across six hectares of the Jarramlee Nature Reserve offset site to inform a Remedial Action Plan.
- **Mulligans Flat predator proof fence extension:** Constructed 13 creek crossings and 11,380 metres of new predator proof fence at Mulligans Flat to expand the existing 485 hectare sanctuary by 801 hectares to a total of 1286 hectares.
- **Molonglo River Reserve establishment:** Barrer Hill restoration completed with 2 000 plus native plants, Ngunnawal totem signs showcasing unique native flora and fauna installed and a new lookout facility. Landscape design for the first special purpose reserve commenced, riparian restoration progressed, research projects and extensive pink-tailed worm lizard restoration works.
- **Jerrabomberra Wetlands education and community centre upgrades:** existing demountable renovated as a base for ACT Wildlife and PCS building upgrade works.
- **Establishment of offset areas:** work continued on the establishment of significant offset sites including for the Strategic Assessments of Gunghalin, Molonglo and Eastern Broadacre, and for offset sites associated with individual developments.
- **Improving our Capacity to fight bushfires:** ACT Fire and Forestry undertook design and construction upgrades on the fire trail network including road works and crossing upgrades.

- **The BIF program:** delivered playground upgrades at Tidbinbilla, Canberra Nature Park signage design suite and the Jerrabomberra upgrades.

ISSUE: Potters Hill Review

Talking points:

- I am aware that the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has finalised its review into the Potters Hill fire, and has provided the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) with their final report.
- I have been provided with an initial briefing from both agencies. I am advised that the report does not highlight any gaps that impact on the safety of the community or firefighters during this current bushfire season. It does, however, suggest a number of future improvements.
- Continuous improvement is part of normal process within ESA and EPSDD and together implementing the recommendations of the report has already commenced. The aim is to have all of the recommendations implemented prior to the 2019-20 ACT bushfire season, and I will be provided with updates on the progress of their implementation.
- The ESA Commissioner has already briefed me on the ACT's preparedness for the 2018-19 ACT bushfire season, and Canberrans can be reassured that our bushfire response resources and each of our emergency services are well prepared to manage and respond to any bushfire risk.
- The recent Pierces Creek fire demonstrated our ability to respond to fire incidents with crews from ESA (ACT Rural Fire Service) and EPSDD (ACT Parks and Conservation Service).
- I would like to thank AFAC for their work on the review. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and staff from the ESA and EPSDD in their continued efforts to keep our community safe.

Key Information

- On 10 March 2018, the Potters Hill prescribed burn was commenced by ACT Parks and Conservation Service, in accordance with the EPSDD Bush Fire Operations Plan. Severe weather conditions on 18 March 2018 resulted in an escape and subsequent uncontained fire. ACT and NSW firefighting operations were commenced as a result, and the fire was contained on 19 March 2018.
- The ESA and the EPSDD agreed to an independent review of the Potters Hill fire, to formally analyse factors leading to the escape, and to provide lessons and consideration of options for continual improvement.
- AFAC was engaged to undertake the independent review. The review also took into account other recent prescribed burns, methodologies and practices in the ACT.
- A final version of the report on the Potters Hill Fire Review was provided to both ESA and EPSDD on 7 November 2018.

Background Information

- On 20 March 2018, *The Daily Telegraph* requested information in relation to the Potters Hill fire. The ESA provided a response to *The Daily Telegraph* on 20 March 2018. On 21 March 2018, *The Daily Telegraph* included an article in relation to the Potters Hill Fire on page 4.
- On 3 October 2018, *The Canberra Times* requested information in relation to the Potters Hill fire. The ESA provided a response to *The Canberra Times* on 4 October 2018. On 7 October 2018, *The Canberra Times* included an article stating that months after the Potters Hill fire, the review was yet to be completed.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 12/11/2018
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78409
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Frank Marando Ext:70367
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

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Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

ISSUE: ACT HERITAGE COUNCIL (annexed report)

Talking points:

- The Council held six meetings during 2017-18. These meetings address the Council's legislative requirements in relation to registrations and providing advice on development applications.
- 21 taskforce meetings were held across the four, sometimes combined, taskforces of Development Assessment, Registration, Aboriginal and Conservation Management Plan.
- The Council continued its work in processing the ACT Heritage Register nomination list which currently stands at 91 places/objects, reduced from 108 at the end of the previous year. During 2017-18:
 - seven nominations were made, five were accepted and two were dismissed;
 - 18 decisions were made on provisional registration including decisions not to provisionally register; and
 - four decisions were made on full registration.
- Six members were appointed in March 2018:
 - Mr David Flannery, Chairperson, expert in architecture (reappointed)
 - Dr Kenneth Heffernan, Deputy Chairperson (new), expert in archaeology (reappointed)
 - Mr Gary Shipp, representative of the Aboriginal community (reappointed)
 - Ms Amanda Evans, expert in landscape architecture (new)
 - Ms Edwin Jans, representative of the community (new)
 - Ms Gay Williamson, representative for the property ownership, management and development sector (new)

Key Information

- Remuneration paid to Council members during the year to 30 June 2018 totaled \$76,200.
- ACT Heritage provides administrative support to the Council including Secretariat responsibilities and administration of Council functions under delegation.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 59027
Information Officer name: Ian Walker
Contact Officer name: Jen O'Connell Ext: 72179

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Background Information

- The Council comprises the Chief Planning Executive and Conservator of Flora and Fauna as *ex-officio* members and nine members appointed by the Minister.
- Three of these appointments are public representatives, including a representative from each of the ACT community, the Aboriginal community and the property ownership, management and development sector.
- The remaining six appointed members are experts in one or more of the following disciplines: Aboriginal culture, Aboriginal history, archaeology, architecture, engineering, history, landscape architecture, nature conservation, object conservation, town planning and urban design.

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

**ISSUE: CONSERVATOR OF FLORA AND FAUNA – MONITORING
BIODIVERSITY (annexed report)**

Talking points: Citizen Science

- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate engages with and promotes the role of citizen science through:
 - the Supporting Canberra Nature Map which has seen 1800 people load over 100,000 wildlife records into a centralised database. It has also led to the public availability of 1.1 million bird records collected by members of the Canberra Ornithologist Group. The records include many significant sightings, has led to a trebling of our knowledge of rare plant distribution and is used daily in development, planning and land management decisions. It has 20,000 different users a month and over a million page visits a year.
 - The programming and methodology behind Canberra Nature Map has been freely made available to other citizen science projects and has been adopted by the Atlas of Life in the Coastal Wilderness, Budawang Coast and ACT Frogwatch projects and a national koala watch program.
 - Support for the Waterwatch community monitoring programs.
 - Engaging locals to search for rescue and report turtles blocked by the Mulligans Flat Predator proof fence.
 - Via the Digivol site of the Australian Museum, engaged over 150 volunteers to analyse over 150,000 images of wildlife captured by cameras at the entrance of ten different hollows in which the threatened Superb Parrot was nesting. This input is key to research on how competition for tree hollows and predation impacts on the breeding success of the parrot.
 - Funding and other support of citizen wildlife surveys, monitoring and research projects such as a project by the Indian Myna Action Group on effective Myna control within woodland reserves, long-term bird monitoring by the Canberra Ornithologist Group and Frogwatch, which together involve hundreds of citizens.

Talking points: Monitoring Biodiversity

- The first Two year biodiversity research and monitoring program (BRAMP) was completed in 2015 (available on website) and another

will be prepared later this year. The Scientific Committee will be consulted on the revised BRAMP.

- Conservation Research and the Parks Service continues to develop initial monitoring plans and condition analysis reports for the eight broad ecosystems within the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP). This program will form the evidence base for adaptive management of biodiversity values in the ACT reserve network by providing a structured, transparent and regular evaluation and reporting framework.

Talking points: Conservator Guidelines

- Conservator Guidelines that require all translocation proposals to be approved by the Conservator have been released and are available on the EPSDD web site. The Scientific Committee and relevant stakeholders, including the Universities, were consulted.

Talking points: Action Plans

- The Native Grassland Conservation Strategy, which includes eight Action Plans for threatened grassland plants and animals, was published in December 2017. The Strategy and Action Plans provide guidance on the conservation of native grasslands and their component species in the ACT, regardless of tenure and land use. The Strategy and Action Plans are available on the EPSDD web site.
- The Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy, which includes 7 action plans for threatened fish, plants and the crayfish, was released in September 2018. The strategy outlines objectives for conservation of aquatic and connected riparian ecosystems for the next ten years.

Background Information

- The conservator's main functions under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* are:
 - (a) to develop and oversee policies, programs and plans for the effective management of nature conservation in the ACT; and
 - (b) to monitor the state of nature conservation in the ACT
 - (c) to provide information to the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
- The Act provides for the Conservator to monitor biodiversity. The conservator must:
 - Prepare and publish a two year biodiversity research and monitoring program;
 - Publish a biennial report on this program and its implementation;
 - consult with the Scientific Committee on priorities and appropriate methods and approaches to monitoring;

- consider the role of citizen science; and
- take reasonable steps to carry out a nature conservation monitoring program (may commission another entity to implement all or part of the program).

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: FINANCIAL REPORT

Talking points:

- The Directorate's financial statements changed considerably in 2018 due to the transfer of Urban Renewal functions, including selected urban and infrastructure projects and the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce and land supply and policy functions including affordable housing to the Directorate on 1 July 2017.
- The Directorate received an Unqualified Audit Opinion from the ACT Audit Office.
- The Directorate had one new interim audit finding regarding the clarity of accountability indicators. This finding was resolved before the completion of the final audit.
- The Directorate's Controlled actual operating surplus was \$75.128 million, which was \$62.723 million higher than the Original Budget, a \$12.405 million variance. This is primarily due to an increase in other revenue (\$61.628 million) from the receipt of Large-Scale Renewable Energy Certificates, which were not budgeted for in the Directorate's Budget.

Key Information/Background Information

The following provides a summary of the key balances in the financial statements.

CONTROLLED STATEMENTS

Key Balances

	Actual 2018	2018 Original Budget	Actual 2017
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total Revenue	298,064	244,060	210,932
Total Expenses	222,936	231,655	163,712
Operating Surplus	75,128	12,405	47,220
Net Assets	634,774	561,373	578,007

TERRITORIAL STATEMENTS

Key Balances

	Actual 2018	2018 Original Budget	Actual 2017
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total Revenue	45,929	54,892	75,129
Total Expenses	45,709	54,892	75,157
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	220	0	(28)
Net Assets	68,060	90,879	76,542

- The net asset position is largely impacted by the valuation of land. The land relates to the Directorate's land rent revenue streams. A valuation is performed on land held at 30 June each year by discounting the value of the annual rental stream for leases held.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: OUTPUT COSTING

Talking points:

- The Directorate's Statement of Performance split Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments, as shown in the Financial Statements, per Output Class.
- The Output splits were based on the four outputs that were listed in the 2017-18 Budget Papers.

Key Information

- A variance is required to be provided in the Statement of Performance when the Actual Result is +/- 5% of the Original Budget.
- A summary of the four output classes and the variance is provided below.

Background Information

- Output Class 1 Planning consists of:
 - 1.1 Planning Delivery
 - 1.2 Planning Policy
 - 1.3 Heritage

Variances between 2018 actual and 2018 original budget for Controlled Recurrent Payments and Total Cost were primarily due to delays in projects relating to building policy, land feasibility and planning policy studies.

- Output Class 2 Environment consists of:
 - 2.1 Environment
 - 2.2 Climate Change and Sustainability
 - 2.3 Conservation and Land Management

All variances between 2018 actual and 2018 original budget for Controlled Recurrent Payments were within 5% and \$1 million.

Variances between 2018 actual and 2018 original budget for Total Cost were primarily due to lower expenditure on the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund and the Next Generation Energy Storage Program and higher forestry harvesting costs as the budget showed forestry revenue net of expenses as opposed to showing gross revenue and gross expenses.

- Output Class 3 Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication consists of:
 - 3.1 Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication

The variance between 2018 actual and 2018 original budget for Total Cost was primarily due the timing of cash transfers to the Territory Banking Account associated with the land sales program.

- Output Class 4 Land Policy and Renewal consists of:

- 4.1 Land Policy
- 4.2 Urban Renewal

Variances between 2018 actual and 2018 original budget for Controlled Recurrent Payments and Total Cost were primarily due to changes in the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce demolition program.

- Output Class EBT Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment consists of:

- EBT 1 Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

All variances between 2018 actual and 2018 original budget for Expenses on Behalf of the Territory and Total Cost were due to lower expenses associated with ongoing investigations and reports.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Talking points:

- The Directorate’s Information Management Team processes FOI applications for the entire EPSDD Portfolio, including the Suburban Land Agency and the City Renewal Authority.
- All requests under the *FOI Act 2016* were completed within the statutory timeframe which included extensions agreed by the applicant or as permitted for third party consultation.
- During 2017-18, the Portfolio received 144 FOI applications:
 - 87 under the FOI Act 2016 (75 related to the Directorate);
 - 57 under the FOI Act 1989 (47 related to the Directorate); and
 - 11 applications were carried over from 2016-17 (6 related to the Directorate).
- At the end of the 2017-18 financial year, a number of applications were pending decision: 10 under the *FOI Act 2016* (8 for the Directorate) and 12 under the *FOI Act 1989* (4 for the Directorate).
 - 63 of the 67 legacy requests have been completed. The remaining 4 are being finalised.
- There were 3 Portfolio internal reviews under the *FOI Act 1989* of which 2 decisions were affirmed and 1 was in progress at the end of the reporting period. The outcome of the pending review was the release of further information.
- There were no formal Ombudsman reviews of Portfolio decisions under the FOI Act 2016.

Key Information – EPSDD applicant type

Applicant	Received in 2017-18
MLA	23
Media	10
Legal firm	6
Organisations	15
Constituents	68

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: **RESTRUCTURING**

Talking points:

- On 8 March 2017, the Chief Minister announced structural arrangements for delivering the Government’s land release program, new suburbs, urban renewal projects and suburban renewal activities.
- In response, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) and the City Renewal Authority (CRA) were established and came into effect on 1 July 2017.
- Additionally, the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (PHRT) was transferred from CMTEDD to EPSDD.
- Further, the EPSDD realigned key functions within the Directorate to ensure efficient and functional alignment across the Directorate and Portfolio.

Key Information

- On 1 July 2017 the SLA had a headcount of 68 staff. As of 30 June 2018, SLA had a headcount of 80 staff. An overall increase in headcount of 12 staff.
- On 1 July 2017 the CRA had a headcount of 9 staff. As of 30 June 2018, CRA had a headcount of 24 staff. An overall increase in headcount of 15 staff.
- On 1 July 2017 the PHRT had a headcount of 12 staff. As of 30 June 2018, PHRT had a headcount of 12 staff. Overall, the headcount as remained the same.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

Talking points:

- There were two voluntary redundancies within EPSDD during the reporting period.
- One was a Senior Officer Grade A position within the Planning Delivery Division and the other was a Senior Officer Grade B position within the Office of Sustainability and the Built Environment.

Key Information

- The redundancies occurred following a functional review of the positions and a review of the required staffing structure of the respective line areas.
- Both positions have been abolished from the EPSDD staffing establishment.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATION COSTS

Talking points:

- The Directorate recorded expenditure of \$1.474 million in 2017-18. This was an increase of \$0.030 million compared to \$1.444 million in 2016-17.
- The Planning Delivery expenditure mainly relates to the Swimming Pool Safety Campaign.

Key Information/Background Information

- A breakdown of expenditure is as follows:

	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000
Public Notifications - Heritage	1	1
Public Notifications - Territory Plan	-	1
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions - Environment	152	99
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions - Master Plans	9	10
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions – Transport and Land Studies	4	4
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions – Climate Change	24	38
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions – ACT Healthy Waterways and Water Catchment	9	76
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions – Planning Delivery	103	164
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions – Asbestos Response Taskforce	422	370
Community Consultation, Publications and Promotions – Urban Renewal	11	-
Recruitment	33	17
Signage (for display in nature reserves)	29	76
Newsletters and Subscriptions	10	28
ACTSmart Business and Office	235	238
ACTSmart Public Events Recycling	42	35
ACTSmart Schools	97	62
ACTSmart Business Energy & Water	96	61
Home Energy Advice Team	50	54
ACTSmart - General	93	60
Outreach	33	12
Miscellaneous	21	38
Total	1,474	1,444

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: BULLYING STATISTICS

Talking points:

- EPSDD did not have any formal reports of bullying/harassment during the reporting period.
- EPSDD had two code of conduct investigations that were finalised during the reporting period. Both investigations were related to allegations of fraud.

Key Information

- In relation to the allegations of fraud, both investigations resulted in breaches of the ACTPS Code of Conduct with low to mid-level sanctions implemented.
- During the reporting period EPSDD had 15 RED Contact Officers and 1 RED Executive Sponsor.
- RED training is a training program within the all staff 'core requirements' as well as being included in the induction program.
- 267 individuals currently working for EPSDD have complete this training.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: STAFFING PROFILE

- EPSDD’s FTE as at 30 June 2018 was 635.1. This is an increase of 73.97 (11.65%) on 2017.
- EPSDD’s Headcount at 30 June 2018 was 672. This is an increase of 77 (11.45%) on 2017.
- The Diversity Profile was comprised of the following:
 - 23 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People - currently our portfolio is tracking against our ATSI target (22 people).
 - 82 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse People - no specific target.
 - 22 People with a Disability - currently our portfolio is tracking against our disability target (21 people).
 - 4 female executive – 26.7% of executives. It is noteworthy that as at 23 October 2018, 7 female executive are engaged at EPSDD being 38.88% of the executive. EPSDD actively delivering on the objectives set by the Territories Women’s Action plan.
- Further profile reporting
 - FTE and Headcount by Gender
 - Female: 319.7 FTE 348 Headcount 51.8%
 - Male: 315.3 FTE 324 Headcount 48.2%

Headcount by Age Group and Gender			
	Female	Male	Total
Under 25	11	3	14
25-34	97	79	176
35-44	118	83	201
45-54	75	92	167
55 and over	47	67	114

Key Information

- The diversity profile is based on information captured on the whole of Government reporting system and provided to Directorates. It is noted that disclosure is not compulsory and as some employees choose not to disclose their diversity status, they are not considered in the figures above.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: **WORKERS COMPENSATION**

Talking points:

- A reduction of 0.58% in the workers' compensation premium rate for 17-18 compared to the previous year demonstrates the directorates active management of WH&S.
- Main injury types are conducive to the work required of the Parks and Conservation Service.
- The number of compensation claims has increased during the reporting period but has not deterred the directorate in reducing its premium.
- EPSDD has a 2018-20 Workplace Health Safety Strategy with a great emphasis on early intervention strategies and good work practices.

Background Information

- Machinery of Government (MoG) changes introduced on 1 July 2017 resulted in the integration of the previous Land Development Agency (LDA), Economic Development and Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (PHRT) with the Directorate. The number of employees increased from 595 to 672 in the reporting period.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: SINGLE SELECT PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS – NOTIFIABLE CONTRACTS

Talking points:

- The Directorate entered into 80 contracts totalling ~ \$88m in the period.
- This is a significant increase over FY16-17 (22 contracts) and is in part due to improvements in internal contract management and reporting systems and several Administrative Arrangements.
- Eleven (11) contracts were reported in Annual Report C.5 ‘Government Contracting’ as ‘select’ however three (3) were incorrectly listed and competitive quotations were sought for them.

Key Information

- ‘Select’ Contracts executed FY17-18:

Description	Methodology	Reasons for Single Select
Purchase of 185 Portable Radios	Standing Offer	Common use arrangement
Purchase of Stromlo 12 x 15m Demountable	Select	Compatibility with existing equipment
Technical Support and Maintenance for Portable Radios	Standing Offer	Common use arrangement
3D Canberra – Aerial Imagery and City Renewal Authority Boundary Update	Select	Compatibility with existing equipment
Consultation on Design Obligations for the National Energy Guarantee	Select	Supplier specialist knowledge
Caloola Farm Crossing Replacement Design & Superintendence	Select	Varied above threshold
Coaching Services People Dynamics	Select	Supplier specialist knowledge
Cultural Landscape Project	Select	Supplier specialist knowledge

- Contracts incorrectly listed as ‘Select’ or ‘Single Select’

Waste Away Contract July 2017 - June 2019	Quotations	
Box-Gum Park forb enhancement program	Quotations	
Aboriginal and Heritage Consultation - Tidbinbilla	Quotations	

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: DIRECTORATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS

Talking points:

- Changes to administrative arrangements on 1 July 2017 resulted in a 13% increase in staff and a larger property and fleet portfolio for EPSDD. These included urban renewal functions (including selected urban and infrastructure projects) and the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce, land supply and policy functions including affordable housing.
- **Electricity** use increased by 1% from the previous year. This was a good result in light of the 9% increase in cooling degree days (requiring air-conditioning) between 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- **Natural gas** use decreased by 14% from the previous year. This was partly due to a consolidation of office space in Dame Pattie Menzies House, which is shared with CMTEDD, and partly due to a 4% reduction in heating degree days (requiring heating).
- Despite a dry summer and autumn, **water** consumption decreased overall by 13%, largely due to water management at some irrigated parkland sites.
- The 22% increase in diesel transport consumption correlates to increased use of the fleet's larger 4WD vehicles through expanded programs including the kangaroo management program and bushfire management program.

Key Information

- A sustainability officer was put in place during the year to monitor and report on utility and other resource usage, identify energy saving opportunities and support directorate staff to improve resource efficiency.

Background Information

- The 2017-18 EPSDD Annual Report does not include data for the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE), Suburban Land Agency (SLA) or City Renewal Authority (CRA), which is outlined in the relevant agency's annual report. As the 2016-17 EPSDD Annual Report included data for those agencies (ie OCSE, SLA and CRA) updated figures excluding those agencies have been provided for 2016-17 in the B.9 Ecologically Sustainable Development table. This updated data is as set out on pages 125-126 of the 2017-18 EPSDD Annual Report.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

Talking points:

- EPSDD supports the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Framework, through active initiatives and employment opportunities in line with 'Closing the Gap', being a strategic national, state & territory priority.
- EPSDD staff support employment and inclusion initiatives, including:
 - an Indigenous Natural Resource Management facilitator to promote indigenous participation to achieve increased environmental outcomes;
 - an Aboriginal Liaison Officer to liaise with indigenous communities and promote participation to establish or recognise heritage places and objects and natural and Aboriginal heritage; and
 - a Healthy Country Manager responsible to further develop and implement programs across ACT parks and reserves, rural lands and waterways in partnership with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- The Murumbung Ranger Program and Murumbung Mentoring Program are initiatives to support and retain Indigenous staff.
- EPSDD are liaising with Reconciliation Australia to finalise the Innovative Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), to launch in December 2018.
- The Director-General EPSDD holds regular meetings with the Elected Body (and identified EPSDD officers) to assist with actively carrying out their functions and mutual benefits for all, and last met on 23 October 2018.

Key Information

EPSDD FTE	EPSDD total head count	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 30 June 2018	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 22 Oct 2018
635.1	672	22	25

- 2017-2018 target was 21 staff, new target for 2018 -2019 is 25 staff. EPSDD are achieving the expected target, and are forecasted to achieve above the new 30 June 2019 target.
- Disclosure is not compulsory and some employees choose not to disclose. Any such employees would therefore not be considered in the figures above.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: **AUDIT REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Talking points:

- The ACT Government values the important role that the Auditor-General performs in reviewing the performance of our services and functions. The Directorate's Audit Committee monitors progress on the implementation of strategies to address Auditor-General report recommendations.
- The Annual Report includes information on nine Auditor-General reports and includes updates on 27 open recommendations.
 - Since 30 June 2018 the two remaining recommendations from the Public Housing Renewal Program Audit have been completed.

Key Information

- Activities underway to address open recommendations include:
 - Continuing to actively review salary reports and introducing reporting improvements to support these reviews (2016-17 Interim Audit Management Report).
 - Finalising an agreement for managing the sale of rural land between the Directorate and the Suburban Land Agency (2016-17 Final Audit Management Report).
 - Finalising remaining strategies to improve potable water catchment management (Restoration of the Lower Cotter Catchment, 2015).
 - Upgrading Directorate IT business systems and working with Shared Services to implement security risk management measures while new operating systems are developed (2016-17 Financial Audit on Computer Information Systems).
 - Providing education and training on probity and records management requirements, and considering opportunities to improve procurement controls and reporting processes (Tender for the Sale of Block 30 (formerly block 20) Section 34 Dickson, 2018).
 - Working with Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and the Suburban Land Agency to improve the management of stormwater assets (Acceptance of Stormwater Assets 2018).
 - Reviewing the Directorate's strategic objectives and indicators in anticipation of the release of revised whole of government guidance material (ACT Government Strategic and Accountability Indicators, 2018).
 - Completing studies as part of the current Planning Strategy Refresh to determine the timing of a study into the long term future urban form. (Assembly of Rural Land West of Canberra, 2018).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 19/10/2018

Cleared by:

Information Officer name:

Contact Officer name:

Director

Jacqui Bear

Jasminder Singh

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Ext: 70697

Ext: 53477

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Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ISSUE: FRAUD AND INTEGRITY

Talking points:

- In 2017-18 the Directorate completed a comprehensive internal review and assisted the AFP's investigations into a suspected case of fraudulent invoicing.
 - Additional internal control measures in relation to invoice payments were introduced within the Directorate to protect against the payment of fraudulent invoices.
- Two code of conduct investigations and two instances of alleged reportable conduct were investigated during the 2017-18 financial year. Both code investigations resulted in identified breaches of the ACTPS Code of Conduct with low to mid-level sanctions implemented.

Key Information

- EPSDD is currently developing an Integrity Framework for the EPSDD Portfolio, including review of its *Fraud and Corruption Prevention Plan 2017-19*. Fraud and ethics training is available to all Directorate staff and was recently completed by all staff in Urban Renewal Branch, Suburban Land Agency and City Renewal Authority.
- EPSDD received an FOI request from the media in relation to conduct investigations commenced in 2016-17 and which resulted in findings of misconduct as reported in the 2017-18 Annual Report (Section B.8 Public Sector Conduct).
 - By virtue of this FOI request the Directorate became aware that the investigations and results should also have been reported in Section B.6 (Fraud Prevention) of the Annual Report. The Directorate is preparing a corrigendum to reflect this.
- The AFP investigation relates to one suspected case of fraudulent invoicing involving an operational area transferred by CMTEDD, following the 1 July 2017 Machinery of Government changes.
 - EPSDD engaged KPMG to undertake the Accounts Payable Fraud Detection and Prevention Review completed in October 2017.
 - Nothing in the review or identified by the AFP has indicated current or former members of staff were involved in the fraudulent conduct.
- In addition to the above, six allegations of fraud or corruption were assessed in 2017-18 under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*. The Senior Executive Responsible for Business Integrity and Risk (SERBIR) for EPSDD concluded that there was no finding of fraudulent or corrupt behaviour in relation to any of the allegations.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

24/10/2018

Cleared by:

Chief Operating Officer

Ext: 76322

Information Officer name:

Craig Simmons

Ext: 76322

Contact Officer name:

Clinton Dengate

Ext: 55501

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2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Andrew Barr – Chief Minister –
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal
City Renewal Authority

Friday 9 November 2018 – 10:15am – 11:30am (1 hour 15 minutes)

CORPORATE - Performance Reporting	
Corp.1.	Financial Report
Legislative and Policy Reporting	
Corp.2.	Freedom of Information
Corp.3.	Voluntary Redundancies
Corp.4.	Bullying and Fraud Statistics
Corp.5.	Staffing Profile
Corp.6.	Workers compensation
Corp.7.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.8.	Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.9.	ATSI employment strategies
Hot Issues	
A.	West Basin and Waterfront Development
B.	Sydney and Melbourne Buildings Revitalisation
C.	Precinct Renewal Program
D.	Affordable Housing in the City Renewal Precinct
E.	City Centre Christmas Festival
F.	Management of City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy
G.	Haig Park
H.	Precinct Revitalisation Program – Akuna Street Business Complaints

Performance Analysis

City Renewal Authority

1.	Financial Variance – 2017-18 SOI vs Actual	pp. 50-52, 54-55.
2.	CRA Dividend	pp. 49-50, 53.
3.	Consultants, Marketing and Communication Costs	pp. 14, 52, 74, 90, 93.
4.	Westside Container Village Asset Transfers	pp. 21, 124.
5.	Recognition of 2017-18 Land Sales	pp. 51, 53-55, 72, 90, 93, 96.
6.	Balances transferred from the former Land Development Agency	pp. 48, 54-55, 69, 77, 82, 87, 91-92, 99.
7.	City Activation Program	p. 32.
8.	Design and Place Strategies - General	pp. 15-16, 22-23, 28-29, 31-32.
9.	Civic, Arts & Cultural Precinct	p. 23.
10.	Land Sales - Asset Recycling Initiative (sites located within the City Renewal Precinct)	pp. 22, 32.
11.	Precinct Revitalisation Capital Works	-

ISSUE: FINANCIAL REPORT

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) achieved an operating surplus of \$1.229 million in 2017-18, which was higher than the original budget of \$0.027 million deficit due primarily to higher than anticipated revenue from land sales.
- The Authority reported a return to Government of \$1.884 million, made up of dividends, income tax and payroll tax. This is \$1.754 million higher than the 2017-18 Budget of \$0.130 million.
- In 2017-18, the Authority maintained a strong net asset position of \$37.309 million due to its cash, capital works in progress and inventory holdings in comparison with its liabilities.
- Liquidity risk of the Authority is low as the current ratio between the total current assets and the total current liability is 2.6 which shows that the Authority is able to meet its short-term debts as at 30 June 2018.

Key Information

Operating Statement	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total Revenue	10,516	6,954	3,562
Total Expenses	8,761	6,992	(1,769)
National Tax Equivalents	526	(11)	(537)
Operating Surplus	<u>1,229</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>1,256</u>

Balance Sheet	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Current Assets	13,350	29,049	(15,699)
Non-Current Assets	31,993	5,966	26,027
Total Assets	<u>45,343</u>	<u>35,015</u>	<u>10,328</u>
Current Liabilities	5,176	791	(4,385)
Non-Current Liabilities	2,858	26	(2,832)
Total Liabilities	<u>8,034</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>(7,217)</u>
Net Assets	<u>37,309</u>	<u>34,198</u>	<u>3,111</u>
Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)	2.6	36.7	

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
 Cleared by: Malcolm Snow, CEO CRA
 Information Officer name: Joey Lee, CFO SLA/CRA
 Contact Officer name: Joey Lee, CFO SLA/CRA

Ext: 51805
 Ext: 53367

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Talking points:

- Under a service agreement with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), all Freedom of Information (FOI) applications directed to the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) are processed by the EPSDD Information Management Team. This arrangement ensures consistency and efficiency for EPSDD Portfolio FOI processing.
- During 2017-18, the Authority received six FOI applications (four under the *FOI Act 1989* and two under the *FOI Act 2016*). In addition, two applications were carried over from 2016-17 (under the *FOI Act 1989*).
- All requests to the Authority under the *FOI Act 2016* which were completed were achieved within the statutory timeframe, which included extensions agreed by the applicant or as permitted for third party consultation.
- At the end of the 2017-18 financial year, six applications were pending decision (two under the *FOI Act 2016*, and five under the *FOI Act 1989*).
- There were no internal reviews or Ombudsman reviews of Authority applications.

Key Information – Authority applicant type

Applicant	Received in 2017-18
MLA	4
Media	1
Legal firm	0
Organisations	0
Constituents	1

- As at 26 October 2018, the current status of outstanding applications is:
 - requests made under the *FOI Act 1989* – 4 outstanding (2 are with the Information Officer for decision; and 2 are currently subject to further document search, noting that a large number of documents have already been provided to the applicant).
 - requests made under the *FOI Act 2016* – 1 outstanding (currently undergoing document assessment).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
Cleared by: Malcolm Snow Ext: 51805
Information Officer name: Genevra Donne Ext: 54277
Contact Officer name: Genevra Donne Ext: 54277

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

Talking points:

- In the year 2017-18, the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) had only one voluntary redundancy offered and accepted, being an executive level 1.3 Director of Communications.
- This redundancy was required to enable the Authority to recruit an executive level 1.3 Director of Design and Place Strategy, to lead the achievement of a critical program outcome expected of the Authority by the Government.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: BULLYING AND FRAUD STATISTICS

Talking points:

- In the year 2017-18, there were no instances of bullying, fraud, corruption or unethical behaviour reported by the City Renewal Authority, to the Authority, or in relation to the Authority.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: STAFFING PROFILE

Talking points:

- All staff of the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) are employed as executives or officers of the ACT Public Service.
- As a new agency established on 1 July 2017, the Authority's initial workforce was drawn from existing or discontinued ACT public sector bodies, including the former Land Development Agency.
- During the 2017-18 reporting period, additional staff were recruited to fill vacant establishment positions in the Authority. The Authority's workforce profile evolved to reflect its forward work program. This included the reallocation of an existing executive level position to create the new position of Director, Design and Place Strategy, reflecting the Authority's emphasis on achieving good design outcomes in the Precinct.
- On 30 June 2018, the Authority had a staff headcount of 24 people, and an FTE of 23.4.

Key Information

- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate provides the Authority with most human resources services, in accordance with a Service Agreement.
- Key statistics from the Authority's 2017-18 Annual Report include:
 - Headcount by Gender – of 24 staff - Female 50%, Male 50%.
 - Headcount by Classification Group and Gender – of 24 staff:
 - Executives – Total 3 - Female 0%, Male 100%;
 - Senior Officers – Total 16 - Female 50%, Male 50%; and
 - Administrative Officers – Total 5 - Female 80%, Male 20%.
 - Staff Separation Rate - 5.6%.
 - Diversity Profile:
 - 50% of staff are female;
 - 12.5% of staff are 55 years or over;
 - No staff identify as having a disability; and
 - 4.2% of staff are from a non-English speaking background.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: SINGLE SELECT PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS – NOTIFIABLE CONTRACTS

Talking points:

- In 2017-18, the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) entered into 25 notifiable contracts as defined in the *Government Procurement Act 2001* Part 3.
- Of these, 5 contracts (20%) were entered into using a process exemption authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.
- Under Section 10 of the *Government Procurement Regulation 2007*, the Chief Executive may provide a written procurement process exemption if the benefit of the exemption outweighs the benefit of compliance with the procurement requirement.

Key Information

- Examples (while not exhaustive) where exemption from process may be authorised by an entity's CEO (*Government Procurement Regulations s10*) -
 1. limited suppliers are available to maintain compatibility with existing equipment, or because of a supplier's specialist knowledge;
 2. there is only one supplier of a good or service;
 3. standardisation is agreed after tenders are called;
 4. compressed timeframe precludes public tender;
 5. social or community benefit is a secondary objective;
 6. use of a common use agreement from another jurisdiction.
- Details of the contracts entered into by the Authority following a CEO-authorised exemption from process are shown below.

Background Information

Contract Title	Contractor Name	Contract Amount (incl GST)	Exemption reason
London Circuit Review	AECOM Australia	\$42,900.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This exemption was sought under Section 10 of the Regulation example 4: compressed timeframe precludes public tenders. The reason given in the procurement exemption minute: “The Board holds concerns with the current course of action, which is being considered in the 2018-19 Budget context. Business Cases are due with Treasury on 14 February 2018; accordingly, any compelling case in support of the alternative option needs to be presented to Government within that timeframe.”
West Row Park – Power Supply	Pyramid Corporation Pty Ltd	44,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption was sought under Section 10 of the regulation on the basis that the contract is engaged to continue the partially completed construction project by Pyramid after <i>In the City Canberra</i> (original organisation who initiated the West Row Park Upgrade) was wrapped up on 31 December 2017. The benefit of continuation with the existing supplier to finish the construction work with no handover and delays outweighs the benefit of compliance of seeking 3 written quotes for the \$44,000 contract.
City Precinct Strategic Renewal Program Assistance	SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd	81,930.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption was sought under Section 10 of the Regulation example 1: because of a supplier’s specialist knowledge. Engaging SGS was considered to bring a superior level of capability and capacity to prepare the Program based on prior involvement of key SGS staff with

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
 Cleared by: Malcolm Snow, CEO CRA
 Information Officer name: Joey Lee
 Contact Officer name: Joey Lee, CFO SLA/CRA

Ext: 51805 **RETURN TO INDEX**
 Ext: 53367

Contract Title	Contractor Name	Contract Amount (incl GST)	Exemption reason
			the framing of the Program and the CRA directions and priorities.
Engagement of UC to provide artwork and research as part of the Enlighten City Precinct 2018	University of Canberra	32,945.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption was sought under Section 10, on the basis that the time within which a particular procurement activity must be completed prevents public tenders being called; and only 1 or a limited number of suppliers is available because of a suppliers' specialist knowledge. University of Canberra was engaged as the single select supplier due to its partnership with the inflatable art installation studios within the Faculty of Arts and Design.
City Renewal Visual Identity Design	Swell Design Group Pty Ltd	57,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemption was sought under Section 10 example 1 on the basis that the implementation of the visual identity was based on the creative visual identity concept developed by Swell Design who is the one supplier with the specialist knowledge.

Contract fell into the single select procurement methodology after variation of contract.

Contract Title	Contractor Name	Contract Amount (incl GST)	Reason for being a single select contract.
Odgers & Verity Lanes Waste Enclosures – Underground Services Investigations & Variation	SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	32,752.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract was engaged under the \$25,000 procurement threshold with one written quotation. It was later varied due to unexpected further consultancy work required after the contractor was engaged which increased the total contract amount to be above \$25,000.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS

Talking points:

- As the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) commenced operations on 1 July 2017, the Authority has no energy usage data for previous years.
- The Authority occupies floor space within the Canberra Nara Centre building. As such, the energy usage data included in the Authority's Annual Report is an estimate, based on a percentage of the total for the Canberra Nara Centre over the 2017-18 reporting period.
- Authority staff used the hybrid and electric vehicles in the shared ACT Government fleet. Usage data for these vehicles for the 2017-18 reporting period is included in the report of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: ATSI EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) currently employs no staff who identify as being an Indigenous Australian.
- The Authority employs only ACT Public Service staff. The Authority's recruitment practices are compliant with ACT Public Service policies and procedures, and overseen by the Environment, Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate. As such, the Authority will work within any ATSI employment strategies implemented by the ACT Public Service and the Directorate.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: WEST BASIN AND WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Talking points:

- The West Basin Stage 2 Waterfront Project was originally expected to commence construction in early 2018, and take two years to complete. Commencement has been delayed as the Territory is yet to finalise negotiations with the Commonwealth concerning the acquisition of the lake bed (which is National Land).
- The 2017-18 Budget (Mid-year Review) provides the City Renewal Authority \$37.738 million over three years from 2018-19 for construction of the second stage (Works Package 2A) of the West Basin waterfront.

Key Information

- Stage 2 includes lake bed reclamation and construction of the remaining 500 metres of new lake wall and boardwalk, and will include the demolition of the ferry wharf and the former boat and bike hire buildings.
- Future stages of any waterfront development are subject to NCA Works Approval and the availability of funding.

Background Information

- Following a public consultation process, Henry Rolland Park was selected as the name for this new open space. Henry Rolland was an architect who was influential in the design and construction of early Canberra.
- The first 150m of boardwalk and the adjoining new park were opened to the public on 28 April 2018. More than 20,000 trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted in this first stage.
- The new park has already become a popular public space which the Authority is activating through festivals such as Contour 556 (Sculpture by the Lake).
- Barrine Drive west of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge now functions as a slow speed shared zone to accommodate increased cyclist and pedestrian use.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
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Information Officer Name: Nicholas Holt
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Lead Directorate: City Renewal Authority

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ISSUE: SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE BUILDINGS REVITALISATION**Talking points:**

- Construction of shared waste enclosures at Verity Lane at the Sydney Building and Odgers Lane at the Melbourne Building are on schedule for completion by the end of October 2018 at a cost of \$435,000 excl GST.
- This initiative will provide the opportunity for laneway activation by reducing the impact of waste and recycling bins. A transition period to put in place waste and recycling collection services will commence in November 2018.
- Upgrading works being managed by TCCS are underway in the public spaces surrounding the Buildings with the construction of verge improvements on their Northbourne Avenue frontages. The verge works are programmed for completion in late December 2018.
- To encourage support for the long-term revitalisation of the buildings, change is needed in ownership and lease arrangements so that owners can more effectively manage their ongoing building maintenance responsibilities, particularly in the colonnades and shopfront presentation.

Key Information

- Construction cost for waste enclosures is \$435,000 excl GST to build four (4) waste enclosures, two (2) in each of Verity and Odgers Lanes.
- Construction for enclosures commenced 16 July 2018.
- Construction for enclosures to be completed end-October 2018.

Background Information

- The Sydney and Melbourne Buildings are privately owned under separate titles for each property. There is currently no overall body corporate.
- No budget provision has been identified for any construction works within the properties, but the CRA proposes to scope these works to identify the magnitude of the work required to redress the maintenance and external presentation of the buildings.


Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE CITY RENEWAL PRECINCT

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) has worked closely with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) in setting the Government’s annual housing targets for public, community and affordable purchase housing.
- Due to previous Government commitments on specific sites within the City Renewal Precinct, in 2017-18 the Authority was not required to allocate sites for public, community, or affordable home purchase in its programmed land releases.
- For 2018-19, the Authority has committed to the inclusion of 50 affordable purchase dwelling units as part of the release of the Macarthur House site in Lyneham.

Key Information

- Two sites were released to market within the City Renewal Precinct in 2017-18. These were the former Braddon and Turner public housing developments and the ABC Flats in Reid.
- Both releases formed part of the ACT Government’s response to the Commonwealth Government’s Asset Recycling Initiative. The valuations and business cases for these sites were complete before the introduction of new ACT Government Housing Targets, hence no targets were applied to their release.
- 
- The Authority is currently researching the existing dwelling and household mix within the Precinct to inform a set of Precinct specific aspirational housing targets. Of particular emphasis will be the integration of public housing into high density private developments and an overall increase in the proportion of affordable rental and purchase properties targeted at low income earners.

Background Information

- The Authority is part of the Cross-Government reference group that sets annual housing targets on an individual site-by-site basis. It will provide advice to the group on the integration of social and affordable housing on the 2019/20 land releases in the Precinct.

- The Authority will also work with EPSDD in helping implement any relevant actions outlined in the ACT Government's Housing Strategy.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: CITY CENTRE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is enlivening the city centre through a program of events and place initiatives supported by place improvements to lift the quality and appeal of the public environment.
- The Authority's seasonal program of events includes Christmas in the City 2018.
- The overall events budget for Christmas 2018 is \$300,000 with contributions from Events ACT (\$114,000), the Authority's City Activation budget (\$100,000) and the remaining \$86,000 from the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy.

Key Information

- Commencing on Friday 14 December 2018 the program leading up to Christmas Eve includes free roving entertainment for all ages in the popular areas of Garema Place, City Walk, Petrie Plaza and Glebe Park.
- A forest of Christmas trees and festoon lighting will be installed in Garema Place.
- City Walk will be dressed in a Summer Christmas theme with a variety of play and fun entertainment for families, including a trackless train from City Walk to the Christmas forest and breakfast with Santa in Glebe Park.
- Petrie Plaza will be the central location for diverse music program on a small stage.
- A long table dinner in Glebe Park on Thursday 13 December is also planned. All proceeds raised from the ticketed event will go to charity.
- A seasonal outdoor movie will screen in Glebe Park on the evening of Friday 14 December. The community will be invited to pack a picnic and come along to the free event.
- On Saturday 15 December, a free day of family fun will be held in Glebe Park, including backyard cricket, cookie decorating, garland making classes, treasure hunts and entertainment for the whole family.

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: MANAGEMENT OF CITY CENTRE MARKETING AND IMPROVEMENTS LEVY

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) took over management and distribution of the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (the Levy) from *In the City Canberra* (ITCC) on 1 January 2018.
- The Levy collects approximately \$1.9 million annually from commercial property owners in Braddon and Civic.
- The Authority has developed a performance and accountability framework for administering the Levy. It identifies objectives and priority funding areas in consultation with levy payers.
- Priority areas for funding are the City Grants program, public place maintenance, events and partnerships, safer community programs and liaison with stakeholders.

Key Information

- In June 2017 Government made the decision to not renew the agreement with ITCC to distribute the Levy.
- Concern had been raised that bringing the distribution of the Levy into Government would result in the Levy being absorbed into base revenue and not properly managed or expended.
- A newsletter is currently being prepared to inform to levy payers about the performance and accountability framework and future opportunities to collaborate with the Authority in setting priorities for Levy spending.
- The first two rounds of City Grants awarded over \$370,000 of funding to 23 projects in 2018, including various visual arts initiatives, temporary art studio and mobile exhibition spaces, dance, literary, design and music events, street parklets, outdoor fitness classes, public place research, street and laneway festivals and a winter fair.
- Round 3 of City Grants for a total of \$200,000 of funding opened in September and will be awarded in November 2018.
- This year's *Christmas in the City* will be partly funded by the Levy and include a Christmas forest and various entertainment attractions.
- Funding is also directed towards establishing a city centre place management team to offer extra maintenance services for the levy area in addition to TCCS's existing city services.

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: HAIG PARK

Talking points:

- On 18 July 2018 the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) released the Haig Park Place Plan to improve the safety and appeal of this important open space.
- Formulation of the Place Plan was driven by ongoing safety concerns and recognition.
- The Authority is expecting to start implementing the Place Plan in early 2019. The first phase will involve small-scale and temporary infrastructure improvements and public activities and events over 6 to 12 months.
- The Authority is finalising the Conservation Management Plan and is hopeful it will be approved by the ACT Heritage Council soon.
- The draft final Place Plan was delivered on 28 June 2018 and a further round of consultation was undertaken in July and August 2018 to ensure the community was supportive of the place plan. This further round of consultation after the close of the 2017-18 financial year resulted in a technical 'not completed' in the Authority's annual report.

Key Information

- The 2017-18 Statement of Intent included a target to complete the Haig Park masterplan (now referred to as the Haig Place Place Plan) by 30 June 2018.
- As noted in the annual report, the final draft of the place plan was prepared by 28 June 2018. However this target is identified as not being met in 2017-18 because it was subject to a further round of community consultation in July and August.
- Delays in obtaining the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) approval by the ACT Heritage Council have contributed to the delay in finalising the Place Plan.
- An updated CMP was submitted to ACT Heritage on 2 July 2018. On 21 September the ACT Heritage Council's CMP Taskforce requested further changes and expert inputs. The Authority is revising the CMP to address their comments.

Background Information

- The Place Plan proposes a range of both short and long-term Park improvements, including better lighting, nature play, fitness facilities and classes, cultural events, an east-west shared path and improvements to existing infrastructure.

- From 18 July to 14 September 2018 the Authority consulted with the community, Braddon businesses and stakeholder groups on the Place Plan and implementation priorities. This was the third phase of consultation to date.
- Through this process 216 online survey responses were received, over 250 people attended drop-in sessions, the Authority visited approximately 100 businesses and held three meetings with stakeholder groups.
- The community was highly supportive of the Place Plan. Improving safety, particularly lighting, was nominated as the highest priority, followed by path improvements, nature play facilities, fitness equipment, cultural events and upgrades to existing infrastructure.

- A separate TCCS project to revitalise the Northbourne Plaza Verges is currently under construction. TCCS have implemented similar initiatives to minimise disruption to businesses in the Sydney and Melbourne buildings. To further minimise disruption to businesses during these works, the Authority has staged its waste enclosure works in Verity and Odgers Lane to maintain “back of house” operations.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: FINANCIAL VARIANCE – 2017-18 SOI VS ACTUAL

Talking points:

- The 2017-18 actual operating surplus was \$1.229 million, which was \$1.256 million higher than the negative \$0.027 million in the 2017-18 budget. This is mainly due to higher than anticipated revenue received from the sale of two city blocks during 2017-18.

Key Information

	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total Revenue	10,516	6,954	3,562
Total Expenses	8,761	6,992	1,769
National Tax Equivalents	526	(11)	537
Operating Surplus	1,229	(27)	1,256

Background Information

- The operating surplus was \$1.256 million higher than the budget as a result of the following variances:
 - Total revenue was \$3.563 million higher than budget primarily due to higher than anticipated revenue received from the sale of city blocks during 2017-18. The budgeted land sales revenue targets was based upon an early estimate of the anticipated revenue to be received from the direct sale of air and subterranean rights for blocks in the City. The actual revenue received was significantly higher than the original estimate and was informed by independent market valuations. The sale of air and subterranean rights includes the right to construct balconies and basement car parking over and under Territory land. In addition the Authority received additional operational funding from the Territory through the mid-year Budget Review.
 - Total expenses was \$1.769 million higher than the budget primarily due to additional operational funding the Authority received through the mid-year Budget Review. This additional funding included higher employee expenses due to the inclusion of five additional staff compared to the original Budget. The additional staff were required to align the Authority's focus with the Government's Statement of Expectations and to provide support to the Governing Board. In addition, the higher supplies and services expenses are associated with additional expenditure which was funded through the mid-year Budget Review and through the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy program which the Authority commenced administering on 1 January 2018.
 - National tax equivalents was \$0.537 million higher than the budget primarily due to the higher than anticipated operating result for 2017-18.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: CITY RENEWAL AUTHORITY DIVIDEND

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority is required to pay a dividend to the Territory of 100 per cent of its net profits after tax for the 2017-18 financial year.
- The 2017-18 actual total return to the Territory was \$1.884 million, which was \$1.754 million higher than the \$0.130 million included in the 2017-18 Budget mainly due to higher than anticipated land sales revenue received from the sale of city blocks.

Key Information

- The Authority has been directed by the Territory through Notifiable Instrument NI2018-396 under section 26 of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* to pay a dividend to the Territory of 100 per cent of its net profit after tax (excluding gifted assets).
- The return to the Territory from the activities of the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) in 2017-18 consist of:
 - The payment of national tax equivalents;
 - The payment of dividends
 - The payment of payroll tax.
- The table below is the detailed comparison of total return to the Territory in 2017-18 with the 2017-18 budget:

	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Budget	Variance
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Dividends Declared	1.229	(0.027)	1.256
National Tax Equivalent Payments	0.526	(0.011)	0.537
Payroll Tax	0.129	0.168	(0.039)
Total Returns to the Territory	1.884	0.130	1.754

- The total return to the Territory of \$1.884m was higher than the budget of \$0.130m due to higher than budgeted operating surplus for 2017-18 which primarily relates to higher than anticipated revenue received from the sale of city blocks during 2017-18.

Background Information

- The Authority made payment of 80 per cent of the estimated net profit after tax (excluding gifted assets) on 31 July 2018, as directed by the Notifiable Instrument NI2018-396 which was issued on 24 July 2018.

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- On 17 October 2018, the Treasurer approved the Authority's request on seeking a reprieve from payment of the final 20 per cent due to cash requirements associated with deferred tax. The deferred tax liability relates to assets and liabilities transferred to the Authority on 1 July 2017 from the LDA. This issue was not envisaged at the establishment of the Authority and as such the transfer of equity from the LDA did not provide the capacity, within cash reserves to pay all future tax liabilities when they fall due.
- The Authority has agreed with the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate that the appropriate mechanism to fund the deferred tax liability is to seek a dividend reprieve of \$3.076 million over the coming years.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: CONSULTANTS, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION COSTS

Talking points:

- Consultants, marketing and communication costs for 2017-18 totalled \$1.876 million, which was \$1.132 million higher than the \$0.744 million in the 2017-18 Budget.
- The variance is mainly due to:
 - \$0.622 million higher for consultants costs on planning and strategic studies for future projects within the City Renewal Precinct funded by the Territory as a result of the 2017-18 Budget Review; and
 - \$0.510 million higher marketing and communications costs due mainly to additional expenditure incurred in relation to the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (CCMIL). The Authority started administering the CCMIL on 1 January 2018.

Key Information

	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Budget	Variance
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Consultants Costs	1,297	675	622
Marketing and Communications Costs	579	69	510
Total	1,876	744	1,132

Background Information

- The breakdown of consultants' costs incurred during 2017-18 is detailed below:
 - Digital Consultants (\$0.043 million);
 - Business Performance and Governance Consultants (\$0.101 million);
 - Preparation of a Strategic Precinct Renewal Program (\$0.094 million);
 - Planning studies (\$0.580 million);
 - Strategy studies (\$0.368 million);
 - Feasibility studies (\$0.045 million); and
 - Consultants associated with the CCMIL (\$0.066 million).
- The actual spend for marketing, advertising and communications costs of \$0.579 million is higher than the original budget by \$0.510 million due to additional expenditure incurred primarily related to the CCMIL which the Authority took over administering on 1 January 2018.

- The marketing, advertising and communications costs consist of expenditure on items such as:
 - City Renewal Authority brand development (\$0.049 million);
 - Consolidation of communication channels (\$0.024 million);
 - Video production and photography (\$0.042 million);
 - Event management (\$0.107 million);
 - Advertising, communications and signage (\$0.009 million); and
 - Communications, engagement activities, partnerships and events associated with the CCMIL (\$0.348 million).

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: WESTSIDE CONTAINER VILLAGE ASSET TRANSFERS

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) transferred assets associated with the former Westside Container Village to other ACT Government entities free of charge during 2017-18.

Background Information

- At establishment, the Authority was transferred, from the former Land Development Agency (LDA), assets associated with the Westside Container Village. The assets transferred to the Authority included one structural roof and ten shipping containers with a total book value of \$135k.
- During the 2017-18 year, the Westside Container Village was decommissioned and the individual assets were transferred to other ACT Government entities.
- An internal ACT Government expression of interest process was undertaken to determine if there were any agencies with a need and an ability to reuse the assets. This expression of interest process found that there were several internal directorates seeking these assets. It was agreed at the time of transfer that there would be no cash consideration for the transfer of assets between internal ACT Government agencies. The assets were transferred as follows:

Transferred to	Amount	Assets transferred
CMTEDD - Venues Canberra	102,636.36	Structural roof & 1 x 20ft shipping container
TCCS	13,363.64	3 x 40ft shipping containers
EPSDD	5,272.73	2 x 20ft shipping containers
SLA	2,636.36	1 x 20ft shipping container
Donation to Uniting Care Kippax	11,545.45	2 x 40ft shipping containers & 1 x 20ft shipping container
Total	135,454.55	

- The assets were transferred at the above book values free of charge during 2017-18, with the assets being disclosed in each individual entities financial statements at 30 June 2018.
- Three shipping containers were donated to Uniting Care Kippax. Through the expression of interest process it was identified that there would be surplus containers remaining after they had been allocated to internal ACT Government agencies and the team running the process determined that the most appropriate method of disposal was to donate the surplus containers to a local charity. Uniting Care Kippax was identified as a local charity that could make use of the surplus containers through their Mower Shed Initiative. The Suburban Land Agency and West Belconnen Joint

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Venture were consulted through this process as they acted as the conduit for locating the Uniting Care initiative that could make use of the three excess shipping containers.

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Ext: 51805 **RETURN TO INDEX**
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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: RECOGNITION OF 2017-18 LAND SALES

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) received land sales revenue of \$2.126 million in the 2017-18 financial year compared with a budget of \$0.432 million. This difference was mainly due to higher than anticipated revenue received from the sale of city blocks.
- The Authority recognised nil cost of land sold expenditure related to these sales as no actual land cost was recognised related to the sale of the city blocks.

Key Information

	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Budget	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land Sales Revenue	2,126	432	1,694
Cost of Land Sold	-	250	250
Gross Profit	2,126	182	1,944
Gross Profit Margin	100%	42%	58%

Background Information

- The Authority received land sales revenue during 2017-18 from direct sales of city blocks. One of the sales transactions completed during 2017-18 was for the sale of air and subterranean rights of blocks in the city. The sale of air and subterranean rights provides the rights of construction of balconies and basement car parking over and under Territory land.
- The recognition of nil cost of land sold in the 2017-18 financial statements is due to the following factors:
 - the budget 2017-18 cost of land sold was based on an early estimated of land cost associated with the sale of air and subterranean rights for blocks in the city;
 - there was no land cost attributable to the sale of air and subterranean rights for blocks in the city; and
 - there were no development costs incurred. The costs attributable to existing Government infrastructure on the blocks were written off.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

**ISSUE: BALANCES TRANSFERRED FROM THE FORMER LAND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Talking points:

- At establishment, the City Renewal Authority (the Authority) was transferred specific assets, rights and liabilities from the former Land Development Agency (LDA).

Key Information

Background Information

- As part of the winding up of the LDA, specific assets, rights and liabilities held by the LDA at 30 June 2017 were transferred to the Authority, the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- The transfer of assets, rights and liabilities to the Authority was effected by a minister's declaration (Notifiable Instrument NI2017-342) under section 107 – 109 of the *Financial Management Act 1996*. Transferred assets, rights and liabilities primarily related to the City Renewal Precinct. However, Asset Recycling Initiative assets, rights and liabilities within the City Renewal Precinct were transferred to the SLA as the Authority was not provided the capacity to manage the significant development activities and costs in its 2017-18 budget when the Authority was established.
- As a result of the transfer, a technical accounting adjustment was required to re-recognise deferred tax liabilities of \$3.076 million. This issue was not envisaged at the establishment of the Authority and as such the transfer of equity from the LDA does not provide the capacity, within cash reserves, to pay all future tax liabilities when they fall due. PricewaterhouseCoopers were engaged to review the transfer of assets, rights and liabilities as part of a machinery of government change. Their advice confirmed the requirement for the technical accounting adjustment. This advice was further confirmed by a private binding ruling issued by the Australian Taxation Office.
- The Authority has consulted with the ACT Audit Office to confirm that the treatment of the deferred tax liability is in line with the accounting standards and has agreed with the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate that the appropriate mechanism to fund the deferred tax liability is to seek a dividend reprieve of \$3.076 million in future years.

ISSUE: CITY ACTIVATION PROGRAM**Talking points:**

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is enlivening the city centre through a coordinated program of events and place initiatives supported by place improvements to lift the quality of the public environment. The initiatives are funded by the Authority's City Activation budget and through the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (the Levy).
- New planter boxes with flowers and high quality timber tables and benches with umbrellas have been installed in high pedestrian traffic areas, such as City Walk, Garema Place, Lonsdale Street, Latin American Plaza and Civic Square to bring activity and amenity to people using the space. Two outdoor ping pong tables with colourful artwork have been placed into Latin American Plaza.
- The Authority's seasonal program of events includes Christmas in the City, autumn activities as part of Enlighten, a winter festival in the city, and Floriade-themed spring events bringing flowers and play into the city, including the recent 'Playful Endeavour' workshop that took place in Civic Square over the spring school holidays.
- The Authority is currently finalising a City Activation Strategy, Braddon Place Plan and Dickson Place Plan that will guide future short and long term initiatives for place curation, cultural programming and capital upgrades for a prosperous and vital City Renewal Precinct.
- The Levy also funds the City Grants program, which supports a range of different business and creative initiatives. Recent grant initiatives include free Zumba classes in Garema Place, an ACTION bus repurposed as a mobile art gallery, city centre art installations as part of the Design Canberra Festival 2018, and a two day wine festival in Tocumwal Lane by the Canberra District Wine Industry Association.

Key Information

- Over the past two years (2016/17-2017/18) the Government has provided \$500,000 annual funding for City Activation. \$400,000 has been allocated in 2018/19.
- The Levy collects approximately \$1.9 million per annum.

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: DESIGN AND PLACE STRATEGIES - GENERAL

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is developing a range of strategies around place making, sustainability and city activation to enable it to meet its legislated obligations on cohesive city renewal.
- Collectively, the intention of these strategies and plans is to drive integrated renewal through targeted projects and tactical initiatives that will create a revitalised, vibrant and high-performing precinct.
- The 2017-18 program of events across the precinct provided multiple opportunities for the community to enjoy our wonderful city.
- It is intended that these strategies and preliminary design work will inform future business cases for capital works funding and other renewal initiatives to achieve the Authority's strategic goals.

Key Information

- Key strategies developed during 2017/18 include:
 - City Place Activation Strategy: includes short, medium and long term actions to enhance vibrancy and activate the city. Completion in November 2018.
 - Urban Arts Strategy: to deliver exciting arts initiatives which will create lively spaces enhancing public amenity. It considers all art forms and is closely aligned with the City Place Activation Strategy. Completion in November 2018.
 - Sustainability Strategy: an evidence based sustainability strategy for delivering social and environmental sustainability. Expected release early November 2018.
 - Northbourne Ave Landscape Strategy: to date to establish the corridor as "Australia's best street" and will inform a business case for the 2019/20 budget.
 - Place Making Plans: The development of place making implementation plans for both Dickson and Braddon are now completed and will be launched shortly. They identify short, medium and long term actions to enhance vibrancy and activate these key destinations. Draft sketch designs will be completed in October 2018.

Background Information

- The Design and Place Strategy work provides guidance on city development and design, setting appropriate design and place-based standards and ensuring the city develops in an integrated and sustainable manner for the benefit of all Canberrans.

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: CIVIC, ARTS AND CULTURAL PRECINCT

Talking points:

- The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is preparing a design and development strategy to guide the renewal of the Civic, Arts and Cultural precinct in the city centre.
- The strategy will ensure the new Government office building is integrated within the Precinct, and that planning for the proposed major new performance theatre and other mixed-use development is cognisant of broader precinct place objectives, heritage considerations, and meet the requirements of the National Capital Plan.

Key Information

- The objectives of the project are to:
 - establish the Civic, Arts and Cultural Precinct, as the premier cultural, arts and administrative place within the Territory;
 - prepare a precinct wide framework that sets clear development principles for the Precinct, and further develop action-oriented strategies to encourage and promote uses consistent with these objectives and principles;
 - develop a staged implementation plan supported by cost estimates, economic modelling, and definition of the broader social and cultural outcomes to be achieved; and
 - review and recommend actions to broker and create art production and creative spaces.

Background Information

- This renewal initiative was identified in the Authority's 2017-18 Statement of Operational Intent.
- The precinct includes the Canberra Theatre Centre, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Civic Square, Civic Library, the Theo Notaras Centre, Craft ACT, the future Government office building, and adjoining future development sites (Section 100).

Cleared as complete and accurate:

26/10/2018

Cleared by:

Malcolm Snow

Ext: 51805

Information Officer Name:

Nicholas Holt

Contact Officer Name:

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Ext: 79646

Lead Directorate:

City Renewal Authority

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Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: **LAND SALES – ASSET RECYCLING INITIATIVE (sites located within the City Renewal Precinct)**

Talking points:

- Land releases as part of the sale of Asset Recycling Initiative sites within the City Renewal Precinct are contributing to the ongoing renewal of the Northbourne Avenue corridor and the city centre. The City Renewal Authority (the Authority) is assisting the Suburban Land Agency with these land sales in accordance with the Asset Recycling Initiative Program requirements.
- For the Turner and Braddon on Northbourne site, the Authority developed design guidelines which were included in the Expression of Interest document.
- The Commonwealth is contributing a 15% bonus on top of asset sales prices for investment in the Capital Metro project.
- The release and settlement of Asset Recycling Initiative sites within the City Renewal Precinct is on schedule.
- All sites within the City Renewal Precinct listed on the Asset Recycling Initiative Program have been released, apart from Macarthur House which is scheduled for release in 2018/19.

Key Information

- Key land releases which have been undertaken to date within the City Renewal Precinct include:
 - The Northbourne East Precinct, known as Dickson on Northbourne;
 - The Northbourne West Precinct, known as Lyneham on Northbourne;
 - The Dickson Motor Registry site;
 - The Dame Pattie Menzies building site;
 - Northbourne Flats Braddon and Turner;
 - Currong Apartments and Allawah Court; and
 - Bega Court.
- As a risk mitigation measure, the Territory is demolishing MacArthur House and Northbourne Flats Braddon and Turner. Work is underway and forecast to be completed early in 2019.

- The Territory has received incentive payments from the Commonwealth in relation to Currong and Allawah Apartments, Dickson Motor Registry and Northbourne East Precinct.

Portfolio: Chief Minister

ISSUE: PRECINCT REVITALISATION CAPITAL WORKS

Talking points:

- The Precinct Revitalisation Program is a rolling program of public realm upgrades to improve urban amenity and safety for pedestrians across the City Renewal Precinct.
- The first projects being undertaken by the CRA were projects identified under the City Action Plan and include works on London Circuit and Akuna Street. Further works are planned for Mort Street and Cooyong Street.
- Public Realm upgrades include replacement of paving, upgrading of street furniture, and planting of new street trees.
- Upgrading the quality of city centre public spaces will attract higher visitation and as a result, improved trading opportunities for businesses.

Key Information

- The Precinct Revitalisation Program is a key component of the City Renewal Authority's Precinct Renewal Program.
- In the 2017-18 Budget Review the Authority was allocated \$7.5m from \$12m of provisioned capital to undertake precinct revitalisation works in the city centre and Braddon.
- Funding was split over three financial years, being \$2.75m in 2017-18 and \$4.75m over 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/10/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	City Renewal Authority	

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**2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal**

**Yvette Berry – Minister for Housing and Suburban Development –
Friday 9 November 2018 – 9:00am – 10:00am (1 hour)**

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A.	ACT Housing Strategy

Performance Analysis		
Public Housing Renewal Taskforce and Affordable Housing		
1.	Housing Targets: Public, Community and Affordable Housing	N/A
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3.	Housing Affordability	Pg. 89
4.	Community Housing, including proposed Land Tax Concessions	Pg. 89
5.	Public Housing Renewal Program	Pg. 91, 94
6.	Public housing - Community Facility-zoned Land	N/A

Other Ministerial briefs for reference	
7.	Indicative Land Release Program 2017-18 to 2020-21 (Minister for Planning and Land Management)

CORPORATE (FOR ALL MINISTERS) Performance Reporting	
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Corp.2.	Output Costing
Legislative and Policy Reporting	
Corp.3.	Freedom of Information
Corp.4.	Restructuring
Corp.5.	Voluntary Redundancies
Corp.6.	Advertising and Communications costs

2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal

Corp.7.	Bullying Statistics
Corp.8.	Staffing Profile
Corp.9.	Workers compensation
Corp.10.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.11.	Directorate Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.12.	ATSI employment strategies
Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: ACT HOUSING STRATEGY

Talking points:

- Following an extensive consultation period, the new ACT Housing Strategy was released on 29 October 2018 – meeting a key Government election commitment and undertaking in the Parliamentary Agreement.
- The Strategy is focused around five goals:
 - providing an equitable, diverse and sustainable supply of housing for the ACT community
 - reducing homelessness
 - strengthening social housing assistance
 - improving affordable rental options, and
 - increasing affordable home ownership.
- The key actions in the Housing Strategy strive to make Canberra a fairer and more sustainable City to live in by:
 - Growing and renewing public housing
 - Allocating 15 percent of government land release for affordable, community and public housing targets; and
 - Releasing land and maintaining a development pipeline to meet demand.
- Key programs and Budget funded commitments include:
 - \$100 million over five years to grow and renew public housing
 - Customer focused, topic based housing and homelessness website
 - Round 2 of the \$1 million Affordable Housing Innovation Fund
 - \$6.54 million over four years to strengthen specialist homelessness sector services
 - \$8.4 million over five years to improve public housing energy efficiency
 - Streamlined digitised rental bond loan scheme; and

- \$4.488 million over two years to develop a second purpose built housing complex for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Key Information

- Despite Canberra being among the most affordable cities in Australia to rent or buy a home, the Government is aware of the difficulties low income families face in accessing affordable housing.
- The new Strategy presents a comprehensive whole of government response to housing, encompassing planning, service delivery, taxation and residential tenancy reform, and intersections with justice, transport, climate change and health.
- The Government has worked closely with the community and industry over the course of 2017 in developing a new Housing Strategy. A key part of consultation was the Housing and Homelessness Summit ‘Our Canberra, Our Home’ on 17 October 2017.
- As part of the ACT Government’s commitment to action under the new strategy, we have already introduced new reforms, programs and funding initiatives targeting those experiencing housing stress.

Background Information

- The new Housing Strategy will replace the ACT Government’s Affordable Housing Action Plan (AHAP) which has been in place since 2007.
- The lessons learned from the three phases of the AHAP over the last 10 years support the need for Government to re-target and re-focus its efforts in the new strategy to address housing market gaps for lower income households.
- The new Strategy therefore has a deliberate focus on strengthening supports for low income households in income quintile one (Q1), earning up to \$55,000 per annum, and in income quintile two (Q2), earning up to \$100,000 per annum. As a cohort, Q2 households are at greatest risk of experiencing housing stress.
- The ACT Government hosted a comprehensive community engagement program to assist in the development of a new strategy. Formal consultation with the public was undertaken until 15 September 2017. This engagement included focus groups and workshops with targeted stakeholder groups, as well as a series of public information stations in Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Canberra City, Cooleman Court, Gungahlin Town Centre and Dickson.
- Details of the engagement were presented and explored at the Housing and Homelessness Summit on 17 October 2017 with almost 200 industry representatives and stakeholders in attendance. A report on the community engagement “*What we heard – Developing a new Housing Strategy for the ACT*” was tabled in the Assembly and released on 20 March 2018.
- The community engagement was guided by input from the Affordable Housing Consultative Group, consisting of selected key industry stakeholders.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: HOUSING TARGETS: PUBLIC, COMMUNITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Talking points:

- In 2017-18 and 2018-19 the Government has set housing targets totalling 203 public housing, 54 community housing and 825 affordable housing dwellings across both infill and greenfield land releases.
- The Housing Strategy introduces a new commitment to dedicate 15 per cent of the Government Land Release Program each year to the housing targets for public, community and affordable housing.
- Public and Community Housing targets are established in consultation with the Commissioner for Housing and the Community Housing sector.
- Affordable home purchase targets are applied to Government land releases on a case by case basis. Affordable dwellings are made available to eligible home purchasers registered on the Government database.

Key Information

- In order to maintain an adequate supply of affordable housing options and improve the geographic spread and diversity of affordable housing, a target of affordable, public and community housing sites will be released annually from within the Government’s infill and Greenfield land release program.
- The targets are a requirement of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* and are published annually alongside the Indicative Land Release Program.

Background Information

- The establishment of a Home Purchase Registration Database enables dedicated affordable housing to be better controlled, with sales of these homes available only to approved registered households. Over 800 people have registered on the database to date (at October 2018). Potential buyers must meet eligibility criteria.
- The ACT Government rebased the affordable housing price thresholds to reflect growth in incomes within the target cohort.

Dwelling size (net living area)	2017-18 Price Thresholds	2018-19 Price Threshold
Up to 80m ²	\$323,000	\$330,000
Between 80m ² and 105m ²	\$374,000	\$381,000
Greater than 105m ²	\$425,000	\$434,000

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 50204
 Information Officer name: Kathy Cusack
 Contact Officer name: Michaela Watts Ext:71831

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Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING INNOVATION FUND

Talking points:

- Three projects have been supported under the first year's funding:
 - an Affordable Rental Real Estate Management Model by Community Housing Canberra (\$230,000);
 - a co-housing project by Smart Urban Villages (\$35,000); and
 - a co-housing project by Environmental Collective Housing Organisation (ECHO) (\$15,000).
- Round 2 funding will support:
 - A Specialist Disability Accommodation Project (\$125,000);
 - affordable housing on underutilised community facility land (\$125,000);
 - accommodation for low income families escaping domestic violence (\$125,000);
 - other innovative approaches to boosting affordable housing supply (\$125,000); and
 - a Home Sharing Model which will match homeowners with spare rooms, with low income tenants seeking affordable rental accommodation (\$220,000).

Key Information

- The Innovation Fund will encourage projects that increase the supply of affordable housing options for the 10,000 households who are in housing stress in the private rental market, are homeless, or are looking to move on from public housing.
- Three categories were advertised for expressions of interest (EOI) in Round 1 in 2018. Ten applications were received across the co-housing and affordable rental real estate categories. No applications were received for the Homesharing category, which will be re-advertised in the year 2 funding round.
- Funding Deeds are currently under development for the Round 1 projects.

Background Information

- The Affordable Rental Real Estate Management Model encourages private landlords to provide their property to be rented out to eligible low income tenants at below market rent through a community housing provider. The project by CHC will pilot the

project in the ACT and investigate incentives for landlords such as rebates and concessions.

- The design led co-housing developments being developed by ECHO and Smart Urban Villages test innovative design and tenure arrangements. Projects often have shared community spaces such as communal gardens. They may also consider different title arrangements such as community or cooperative titles. Projects are required to deliver affordable housing options.
- The specialist disability accommodation project will call for innovative solutions that will not only incorporate high levels of universal design, but will enable better social inclusion particularly for persons who may be currently housed in inappropriate or institutional type accommodation.
- The supported housing projects on underutilised community facility land will seek interest from lessees of underutilised community facility land to access funding to facilitate projects that boost the supply of affordable supported accommodation. This could be further targeted (but not limited) to cohorts in the greatest need including elderly women, families escaping domestic violence, or persons transitioning out of the justice system.
- The project for dedicated accommodation for low income families escaping domestic violence will seek expressions of interest from the private or community sector to come forward with projects that boost the supply of specialist housing for this growing cohort. The project may be on existing privately leased land or may be on a site released under the Government's new affordable or community housing targets from within the annual land release program.
- Other approaches will not be limited to any target cohort or delivery method, but seek expressions of interest for projects or ideas that could potentially boost supply of affordable housing.
- A Home Sharing Model will be rolled into Round 2 of the Innovation Fund. This project will match homeowners with spare rooms in their own property, with low income tenants seeking affordable rental accommodation.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Talking points:

- The 2016 census shows the proportion of households in the ACT in mortgage stress fell from 7.8 to 5.5 per cent over the previous five years, while the proportion in rental stress remained steady at around 8 per cent.
- In the June quarter 2018, the ACT continues to be the most affordable jurisdiction to buy. In terms of rental affordability, the ACT is the second most affordable state to rent, behind Western Australia (Source: REIA Housing Affordability Report, June Quarter 2018, Brief release date 5 Sept. 2018).
- The ACT Government has refocused its efforts on addressing housing market gaps for households in the lowest 40 per cent of incomes, earning up to \$100,000 per annum through the new ACT Housing Strategy.

Key Information

- The ACT does well on many measures of housing affordability, and experiences comparatively low levels of housing stress (generally defined as paying more than 30 per cent of household income on rent or mortgage costs).
- Because of Canberra's low unemployment and comparatively high average wages, the overall prosperity of the ACT can conceal disadvantage at the individual level.
- The 2018 Report on Government Services showed a third of low income (bottom 40% of incomes) rental households in the ACT were in rental stress (8,672 households; 33.8%). The rate was higher for private rental households (7,960 households; 47.8%).

Background Information

- In the September 2018 quarter, the median price of a free standing house settled in the ACT was \$700,000, an increase of 3.3 per cent from the previous 12 months. In the same quarter, the median price of settled units (including townhouses) was \$426,000, a decrease of 4.3 per cent from the previous 12 months.
- In the past five years, unit prices have shown slow growth relative to house prices. It is likely that this trend will continue given the substantial forthcoming supply of multi-unit dwellings in Canberra.
- The ACT's 150,000 households are divided into income quintiles and EPSDD analysis in 2017 showed that for households earning above \$100,000, affordable rents start at \$579 per week and an affordable mortgage enables the purchase of a home starting at \$483,000.
- At these levels there are many homes available on the private market, suggesting that Government focus should be on supporting households with incomes below \$100,000.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: COMMUNITY HOUSING, INCLUDING PROPOSED LAND TAX CONCESSIONS

Talking points:

- Community Housing Canberra has been awarded \$230,000 under the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund to establish “HomeGround Canberra” - a not for profit rental real estate model.
- To encourage private landlords to contribute their properties for rent under this model, a financial incentive to help offset the reduced rental income (on average between \$4,000 to \$5,000 for each property) is being investigated.
- The financial incentive would take the form of a full land tax concession, granted only if the property is being rented at 75% market rate through the ‘HomeGround’ model, and affordable to households earning less than \$100,000 per year.
- The incentive would be capped at 100 properties as a pilot initiative.

Key Information

- The Affordable Rental Real Estate Management Model encourages private landlords to provide their property to either a not-for-profit real estate agency or to another social housing provider to be rented out to eligible low income tenants at below market rent (typically 75%). The model provides a much-needed new way of increasing affordable rental supply for low income households.
- The financial incentive responds to an Assembly Resolution of August 2018, a Private Member’s Bill introduced in September 2018, and is an action under the ACT Housing Strategy.

Background Information

- There is a distinct lack of supply of affordable rental options for those who earn too much to qualify for public housing, but not enough to enter the private rental market. At the 2016 Census, only 665 properties were being rented at affordable rates through a community housing provider. A 2018 Report on Government Services data revealed 7,960 ACT households in the private rental market are paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent.
- Increases in the availability of affordable housing will decrease cost of living pressures for low income families.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: PUBLIC HOUSING RENEWAL PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is undertaking a program to renew 1,288 public housing properties by June 2019 and is improving outcomes for public housing tenants and supporting the renewal of Canberra’s urban areas.
- The replacement housing being delivered caters to the diverse needs of public housing tenants whose needs cannot be met by the private rental market.
- Each public housing tenant relocated through the renewal program has a say in deciding where they would like to live. All tenants are provided with individual support during their relocation.
- Homes have been constructed and purchased through the renewal program in more than 30 different suburbs across Canberra including the inner north and Greenfield estates. The variety of public housing locations offer tenants choice.

Key Information

- The ACT Government has invested \$608 million in the Public Housing Renewal Program, supporting the sale of older properties that are no longer fit for purpose, the construction and purchase of replacement housing and the relocation of tenants.
- Funding allocations in the 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18 budgets for the redevelopment and replacement of Bega Court (Reid), Northbourne Flats (Braddon and Turner), Currong Apartments (Braddon), Stuart Flats (Griffith), Strathgordon Court (Lyons), De Burgh Street—North and South (Lyneham) and Gowrie Court (Narrabundah), provide for the renewal of all public housing sites included in the ACT’s Asset Recycling Initiative (ARI) agreement with the Commonwealth.
- As at 22 October 2018, 851 dwellings have been delivered to Housing ACT, 310 are under construction in suburbs including Throsby, Greenway, Taylor, Monash, the Gungahlin town centre, Mawson and Wright. A further 95 dwellings are being purchased from the private sector. 202 dwellings have been secured in suburbs adjacent to Northbourne Avenue, accounting for 15% of all replacement dwellings.
- The Taskforce rolled over approximately \$79m in capital injection. Delays in accessing land on a number of sites, including those on CF-zoned and in Greenfield estates, has resulted in land payments and construction progress payments being re-forecast in to the current financial year.

Background Information

- Nil

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: x58294
Information Officer name: Bruce Fitzgerald Ext: x58294
Contact Officer name: Jon Barnes Ext: x79402

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Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: PUBLIC HOUSING RENEWAL PROGRAM – COMMUNITY FACILITY ZONED LAND

Talking points:

- The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (Taskforce) commenced community engagement on six Community-Facility zoned sites to develop ‘supportive housing’ in March 2017. These sites are located in Chapman, Holder, Mawson, Monash (x 2) and Wright.
- The Taskforce worked closely with residents and representatives from the community for each Community Facility-zoned site to understand the community’s concerns and to refine the design and layout of the public housing proposal.
- One site (Monash) has been completed and handed over to Housing ACT, construction has commenced or is about to commence on four sites (Chapman, Monash, Wright and Mawson), and one site is subject to ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Appeal (Holder).

Key Information

- The public housing to be developed on these sites meets the definition of ‘supportive housing’ which is allowed under the the Community Facility Development Zone Code and the Territory Plan.
- Changes to the Community Facility Development Zone Code and the Territory Plan have removed a previous restriction which limited supportive housing to the elderly or those with a disability. These took place through Territory Plan Variation 302 in 2011 which was subject to consultation in 2010.
- These changes commenced before the public housing renewal program was established in 2014. There were some clarifications made in 2014 and 2015 by Technical Amendment. These did not change what was permitted under the Community Facility Development Zone Code.
- Housing ACT already has more than 350 dwellings on Community Facility-zoned land, including three developments completed by the Taskforce in Chisholm, Monash and Nicholls.

Background Information

- The Development at part Block 2 Section 21 Holder has been appealed to the ACAT regarding the ACT planning and land authority’s approval of the DA. This is a legal process and no public comment can be made on the proceedings at this time.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: INDICATIVE LAND RELEASE PROGRAM 2017-18 to 2020-21

Talking points:

- The 2017-18 program saw the release of 4,309 residential dwelling sites against a target of 4,120 dwelling sites.
 - The program delivered 432 blocks for detached homes; 233 compact blocks and medium density sites; and 3,644 multi-unit dwelling sites.
 - 1,302 of these dwellings were in greenfield estates (30%), while 3,007 were in infill locations (70%).
- The release of three Asset Recycling Initiative sites in the City Renewal Precinct was a significant part of the outcome. These sites are in Braddon, Turner and Reid and will total 1,243 dwellings.
- The Red Hill public housing renewal site was released in November 2017 with 252 dwellings.
- The land release dwelling target has now been exceeded for the fourth consecutive year.
- The 2018-19 to 2021-22 Indicative Land Release Program provides for 17,000 dwelling sites over four years.

Key Information

Land use	2017-18 target	2017-18 actual results
Residential	4,120 dwellings	4,309 dwellings
Commercial	24,070 m ²	1,860m ²
Mixed Use	77,000 m ²	97,161m ²
Industrial	30,000 m ²	24,538m ²
Community and non-urban	56,200 m ²	139,429m ²

- The Community land release outcome is due to various direct sales, including a non-government school site in Moncrieff and public housing renewal on community land. The Mixed Use outcome exceeded the target mainly due to a larger site release in the Lawson englobo. The Commercial outcome is largely due to three commercial sites totalling 24,070m² that were scheduled for release in 2017-18, but did not proceed for varying reasons. These releases will now occur in future years after further planning work.
- In the year ending March 2018 Canberra's population grew by 8,527 residents to reach 419,200 (growth rate of 2.1%). This growth is expected to continue at least in the short term

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
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generating an underlying demand for around 3,000 new homes each year (or 4,000 per annum in a more conservative scenario).

Background Information

- There are three tenders released in 2017-18 that are being evaluated: Lawson Stage 2 (englobo release of 940 high density dwellings); and the Asset Recycling sites in Braddon and Turner.

2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Ms Yvette Berry MLA – Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal
Friday 9 November 2018 – 11:30am – 12:45pm (1 hour 15 minutes)

Suburban Land Agency

Office of the Chief Executive Officer & Governance

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Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT NO. 8/2018 – ASSEMBLY OF RURAL LAND WEST OF CANBERRA

Talking points:

- The Auditor-General Report (No 8/2018) was released to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on 29 June 2018.
- The audit made nine recommendations across a range of activities. It is important to note that the Auditor-General has not attributed the identified deficiencies and irregularities to the current arrangements.
- Strong governance, robust processes and accountability are priorities for the Suburban Land Agency, the City Renewal Authority and EPSDD. The recommendations in the Report provide an opportunity to review and further strengthen current arrangements where necessary, and this has been addressed as part of the Government Response.
- The Suburban Land Agency Board, through its Audit and Risk Committee, in conjunction with EPSDD continue to monitor the Agency response to the recommendations contained within the Auditor-General's Report, it is anticipated that the recommendations will be fully addressed by the end of June 2019.

Key Information

- The Report has identified issues with some of the activities of the former LDA. The audit focused only on the activities of the former entity, and did not consider the significant improvements made since that time.
- Neither the Report, nor the evidence that the Auditor-General subsequently gave in appearing before the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Public Accounts attributed the identified deficiencies and irregularities to the current arrangements.
- Findings in the report relating to poor documentation of decision making, poor record management practices and a need for improved probity in procurement processes are similar to those identified in previous Auditor-General Reports.
- A range of operational governance improvements have been completed, or are in train to address the findings of this audit. Of the nine findings in the report seven sit solely with the Agency for implementation.
- The Suburban Land Agency Board, through its Audit and Risk Committee, in conjunction with EPSDD, are actively monitoring the implementation of identified improvements. It is anticipated that this body of work will be completed by the end of June 2019.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
Cleared by: Chief Executive Officer Ext: 57346
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Contact Officer name: Anthony Bailey Ext: 59543

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Background Information

- In May 2017, the Auditor-General commenced a Performance Audit on the assembly of rural land to the west of Canberra undertaken by the former Land Development Agency (LDA), covering nine land acquisitions which took place between 14 June 2014 and 30 June 2017.
- The audit addressed the following nine properties:
 - Lands End (Blocks 1591 to 1597 District of Belconnen)
 - Milapuru (Block 19 District of Stromlo)
 - Fairvale (Block 519 District of Stromlo)
 - Huntly (Blocks 412, 413, 426, 487, 489 District of Stromlo)
 - Wintergarden (Blocks 1491, 1492, 1587 District of Belconnen)
 - Winslade (Blocks 435, 439, 440, 441, 456, 476 District of Stromlo)
 - Pine Ridge (Block 1600 District of Belconnen)
 - The Vines (Block 1582 District of Belconnen)
 - Wagtail Park (12 hectares of Block 1601 District of Belconnen)
- The audit considered the reason and mechanism for purchase of these properties by the former LDA under the *Planning and Development (Land Acquisition Policy Framework) Direction 2014 (No 1)*, making nine recommendations in total. Of the nine recommendations, seven specifically apply to the Suburban Land Agency:
 - Recommendation 1 – Instructing and receiving valuations
 - Recommendation 2 – Following Ministerial Directions and Cabinet Decisions
 - Recommendation 3 – Engaging and managing agents and advisors
 - Recommendation 4 – Probity in selecting agents, contractors and consultants
 - Recommendation 5 – Probity awareness
 - Recommendation 7 – Bushfire operations plan obligations
 - Recommendation 8 – Planning and contracting land management

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SLA BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Talking points:

- Since inception the Board has led the Agency through a range of transitional changes. Improved governance, establishing the SLA vision, setting a clear strategic direction and work health safety have been key areas of focus.
- A total of 16 Board Meetings were conducted during 2017-18 financial year. Four of these meetings were extraordinary meetings.
- The Board established two committees to provide additional support and oversight to the Suburban Land Agency.
- The objective of the Board Audit and Risk Committee is to assist the Board to discharge its responsibilities in relation to risk management, financial sustainability of the Agency, reporting of financial information, the adequacy of financial controls and legal and regulatory compliance frameworks and oversight of the SLA Audit Program (both internal and external). The Board Audit and Risk Committee met eight times during 2017-18.
- The Board People and Transition Committee acts as an advisory body to the Board, assisting it to fulfil its oversight responsibilities in relation to significant human resource issues. The Committee assists the Agency address equality, work health and safety and staff capability issues.
- During 2017-18 the People and Transition Committee met four times.

Key Information

- The functions of the Suburban Land Agency Board are set out in s 43 of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* and include:
 - Overseeing the operations and exercise of functions by the Suburban Land Agency.
 - Setting the Suburban Land Agency's policies and strategies,
 - Governing consistently with the Act and other relevant legislation,
 - Ensuring, as far as practicable, that the Suburban Land Agency operates in a proper, effective and efficient way, and
 - Ensuring, as far as practicable, that the Suburban Land Agency complies with applicable governmental policies.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
Cleared by: Chief Executive Officer Ext: 57346
Information Officer name: John Dietz
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- Board Meetings are traditionally held on the final Tuesday of each month. The four extraordinary meetings were conducted to approve the 2018-19 Statement of Intent, the constitution of the Ginninderry Joint Venture and the implications of GST advice resulting from an Australian Tax Office ruling.
- The Board Audit and Risk Committee and the People and Transition Committee meet on a needs basis with meetings traditionally being aligned with key functions of Government (e.g. Budget review, Auditor-General reports, Annual Reporting requirements etc.).

Background Information

- The Suburban Land Agency Board was established as a governing board under section 45 of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*. All members of the Board have knowledge of, or experience in, at least one of the following disciplines and areas of expertise:
 - Urban design and planning
 - Social inclusion and community building
 - Civil engineering and civil works
 - Real estate sales
 - Property development
 - Law, public administration and governance
 - Affordable housing, community housing and public housing
 - Environmentally sustainable development
- Under section 56 of the *Financial Management Act 1996*, the Board is responsible for the efficient and effective financial management of the Suburban Land Agency. Section 77 of the *Financial Management Act 1996* states the functions of a governing board as follows:
 - Setting the authority's policies and strategies
 - Governing the agency consistently with the authority's establishing Act and other relevant legislation
 - Ensuring, as far as practicable, that the authority operates in a proper, effective and efficient way
 - Ensuring, as far as practicable, that the authority complies with applicable governmental policies (if any)
- The Suburban Land Agency Board consists of five members who have all served as members since the Board's establishment.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: MANDATORY TRAINING FOR SLA STAFF

Talking points:

- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) coordinates the training program for Agency staff under the terms of a Service Level Agreement.
- EPSDD has established and implemented a range of training on behalf of the Agency. The ‘Essentials’ training packages have been prepared to address the core competencies for Agency staff. Training provided under this program includes:
 - Respect, Equity, Diversity and Code of Conduct
 - Fraud and Ethics
 - Work Health and Safety
 - Records Management
 - Objective (introduction)
 - Reportable Conduct in EPSDD
 - Understanding your Performance Plan
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness
 - EPSD Directorate Induction
- In response to findings reported by the Auditor General, the SLA conducted mandatory training sessions for staff targeting particular areas raised.
- The three mandatory training courses provided in 2017-18 were Fraud and Corruption Prevention, Records Management and Probity Awareness.
- These training courses will continue to be made available to Agency staff to ensure all employees who have commenced with the Agency or who may have missed the initial roll out of training obtain these core competencies.

Key Information

- The EPSDD People and Capability Team coordinate and provide training to the Agency under the terms of a Service Level Agreement.
- Training courses are scheduled to occur at regular intervals during the course of the year. For urgent needs the Agency can negotiate specific training to be delivered on its behalf.
- During 2017-18 the Agency requested EPSDD to arrange the delivery of training in three key areas identified by the ACT Auditor-General:
 - Fraud and Ethics Prevention – attended by 79% of staff at 30 June 2018
 - Objective: Introduction – attended by 85% of staff at 30 June 2018
 - Probity Awareness – attended by 75% of staff at 30 June 2018
- These courses will continue to be promoted within the Agency with all remaining staff required to attend during the course of 2018-19.

Background Information

- Recent ACT Auditor-General Reports in to the former Land Development Agency, particularly Audit Report No 7/2016 – Certain Land Development Agency Acquisitions, Audit Report No 3/2018 – Tender for the Sale of Block 30 (Formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson and Audit Report No 8/2018 – Assembly of rural land west of Canberra, identified a number of findings in relation to the activities of the entity.
- The Auditor-General’s findings generally fall in to the following themes:
 - Transparency in decision making;
 - Probity;
 - Records Management; and
 - Resourcing.
- With the disbandment of the former LDA, responsibility for addressing these findings transferred to the newly created Suburban Land Agency. In addressing these findings the Agency has identified core functions and skills and established a training program to ensure staff are fully aware of their responsibilities in providing services to the ACT community.
- The training program is a core component of the Agency’s response and has been embedded within the training calendar.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SUBURBAN LAND AGENCY RESTRUCTURE

Talking points:

- The Agency has now been operating for 12 months. During this time the Agency has faced a number of challenges that have necessitated a review of how business is conducted.
- To address this a restructure of the Agency has occurred. The restructure highlights the new expectations the Agency and the Board have of itself and is designed to further enhance open, transparent and robust decision making.
- This will be achieved through greater governance by clearly identifying span of control and responsibility while ensuring that the Agency balances its financial, environmental and social responsibilities.
- The process, along with the evolving work program, has identified the need for a number of new roles to be established over the coming months. These roles, in key areas of sustainability, sales and marketing and affordable living are all required to assist the Agency fulfil its vision of “Creating great places where communities thrive”.
- The restructure has been designed to reflect how the Agency works when it is working well and will be continuously monitored and refined to reflect the existing and forward work program.

Key Information

- The Agency was established with a budgeted Full Time Equivalent staff (FTE) envelope of 77 FTEs.
- During the 2017-18 Financial Year the evolving work program and a review of Agency skills against expectations identified a need to further increase these resources to 92 FTEs.
- The continued evolution of the work program, including a larger release target and a focussed approach to achieving the financial, environmental and social expectations of the Government and broader community has necessitated an evolution of how the Agency conducts its business.
- The SLA Board and Executive continue to monitor the work program and it is anticipated that the FTE count will continue to evolve, increasing to a maximum of 102 by the end of the 2018-19 Financial Year.
- Extra staff will be recruited in to areas where the Agency has an identified a skills gap (e.g. sustainability, rural land management), has significantly increased workload due

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to the release targets (e.g. Sales and Marketing) or where improved Governance and transparency opportunities exist (e.g. Agency Secretary).

Background Information

- The Suburban Land Agency was established as a statutory authority under the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*. The Agency operates in the EPSDD portfolio who provide the Agency with a number of corporate support functions delivered through a Service Level Agreement.
- The Agency operated to the 2017-18 Statement of Intent (SOI) which outlined the statutory objectives, as well as the deliverables expected by the Minister.
- The Agency is responsible for developing and releasing suburban land, encouraging and promoting urban renewal outside of declared urban renewal precincts, contributing to the growth and diversification of the Territory's economy, and social and environmental sustainability.
- In exercising these functions, the Agency must also operate in a way that delivers value for money, in accordance with sound risk management practices.
- In order to deliver against the 2017-18 SOI the Agency identified a number of additional roles over and above the initial establishment FTE that were required to ensure the successful delivery of its work program.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Talking points:

- Work Health and Safety was a priority for the Suburban Land Agency Board and Executive in 2017-18. WHS activities and obligations were managed in accordance with the statutory provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and supported by a range of WhoG WHS and return to work policies and initiatives.
- A Senior WHS Manager was employed to ensure implementation of the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and ongoing development of the Suburban Land Agency WHS Management System.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) People and Capability team provided guidance and support consistent with the terms of the Service Level Agreement with additional support provided by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) Safety Support Team.
- During 2017-18, the Agency was not issued (under Part 10 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*) with any Improvement, Prohibition or Non-Disturbance Notices, or failure to comply with any Enforceable Undertakings under Part 11 or Part 2 (Division 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4) of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Key Information

- In March 2018, the Suburban Land Agency issued a Safety Management Framework, approved by the Board, to set the overarching commitment and expectations to WHS.
- The Framework provides the scope required to develop and deploy a systematic WHS management system which enables business units to meet their legislative requirements and lead sustainable improvement in WHS performance. The Agency received support on all aspects of establishing, developing and maintaining the Framework from CMTEDD Safety Support Team.
- The Safety Management System is being developed to comply with the requirements of the *Australian Standard AS 4801* and the new *International Standard 45001*. It will also meet the requirements of all health and safety aspects in the ACTPS.

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- During 2017-18, the Agency maintained its commitment to WHS by conducting monthly Project WHS meetings to monitor our Principal Contractor safety, in accordance with the ACT Government requirements, through contractual and active assurance processes.
- In May 2018, the Agency led an industry forum within the civil construction sector to engage with industry partners and to reinforce the requirements and benefits of the ACT Government active certification program, which is the Agency's primary site safety assurance method. This forum was facilitated with the assistance of the CMTEDD Safety Support Team and the Infrastructure Finance and Capital Works area who administer the active certification program.

Background Information

- The Suburban Land Agency, as a Territory entity adheres to the *ACT Public Sector Work Health and Safety Policy Statement* and other relevant whole of government and directorate policies and procedures. Work health and safety legislative requirements are set out in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and associated *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*.
- The Agency is responsible for commissioning major construction projects on behalf of the ACT Government. The Agency is committed to ensuring construction projects, activation activities, worksites and workplaces are managed in a safe manner to ensure that Agency staff and those who work on construction projects commissioned by the Agency should expect to return home safely at the end of the day.
- The prioritisation of Workplace Health and Safety is demonstrated through leadership in the workplace and ongoing discussions about safety, risks and hazards at Board and Senior Executive Committee meetings, team meetings and externally through Project Control Group meetings.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: RISK MANAGEMENT

Talking points:

- The ACT Insurance Authority (ACTIA) establishes the risk management framework that applies throughout the ACT public sector. The Suburban Land Agency's (the Agency) approach to risk management conforms to both the ACTIA framework and the *International Standard ISO 31000:2009 - Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines*.
- The SLA Board and the Agency is committed to, and placed a high priority on, effective risk management across all functions. The Agency's processes allowed the early identification and treatment of emerging risks by implementing an enterprise approach to managing strategic and operational risks. This included incorporating appropriate fraud prevention and control processes and practices.
- Following the creation of the Suburban Land Agency on 1 July 2017, the Board Audit and Risk Committee oversaw the development of the Suburban Land Agency Strategic Risk Register and made recommendations to improve the adequacy of treatments and the adoption of additional treatments.
- During the 2017-18 the SLA Board and the Board Audit and Risk Committee actively engaged in managing the risks of the Agency through a number of mechanisms, including:
 - Robust monthly reporting mechanisms;
 - Reviewing and approving the initial risk register and two subsequent updates; and
 - Working with the Agency to further enhance and clarify the Agency's Risk Appetite Statement.
- Risk management and mitigation is a key responsibility of the Board and Agency management.

Key Information

- The SLA Board established a Board Audit and Risk Committee to oversee risk management processes in the Agency. The Board Audit and Risk Committee consists of two SLA Board Members and an independent member.
- During 2017-18 the Board Audit and Risk Committee met eight times.

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- The Agency Risk Register was reviewed by the Board Audit and Risk Committee in detail during three of these meetings, comprising the approval of the initial register and two subsequent updates.
- The Chair of the Board Audit and Risk Committee provided an update on Agency audit and risk activities to each Board Meeting with key information submitted for review and approval.

Background Information

- At its commencement on 1 July 2017 the Suburban Land Agency established and implemented authorising frameworks and processes covering Board operations and both the Board Audit and Risk Committee and People and Transition Committee.
- Business processes were established to develop and implement financial and operational delegations, an investment policy, Risk Framework and risk registers, a Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy, and a WHS Framework.
- The SLA Board and Executive are committed to, and place a high priority on, effective risk management across all business functions. Our processes allow the early identification and treatment of emerging risks by implementing an enterprise approach to managing strategic and operational risks, including the incorporation of appropriate fraud prevention and control processes and practices.
- The BARC oversaw the development of the Strategic Risk Register. To maintain relevance and currency, it conducted regular reviews to improve the adequacy of treatments and the adoption of additional treatments to effectively mitigate risks.
- The Agency Executive regularly seek to raise awareness of risk management principles and encourage a robust risk culture where risk is considered at every level within the organisation.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Talking points:

- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) Information Management Team processes Freedom of Information (FOI) applications for the entire EPSDD Portfolio, including the Suburban Land Agency and the City Renewal Authority.
- The EPSDD Information Management Team coordinated the processing of 10 FOIs lodged under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act) on behalf of the SLA. All FOI's were completed within the statutory timeframe which included extensions agreed by the applicant or as permitted for third party consultation.
- The Agency responded to an additional 6 applications received under the *FOI Act 1989*.
- An error has been identified on page 408 of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate 2017-18 Annual Report. It appears that the input from the Health Directorate was entered onto the incorrect line which now implies that the Agency was subject to a review under section 74 of the Act.
- The Agency had no reviews under section 74 of the Act during the reporting period.

Key Information

- Ombudsman Review
 - On 16 August 2018 the Agency received a notice of Ombudsman Review issued under s75 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.
 - The applicant has sought a review of the SLA's decision of 7 August 2018 in relation to the release of documents regarding a proposal for the redevelopment of the Canberra Casino by AQUIS.
 - The applicant has correctly identified that a number of documents that were partially redacted in the Agency response have been fully published on the Legislative Assembly website.
 - These documents were published subsequent to a Legislative Assembly Committee Hearing and, to the best of our knowledge, were not published at the time of initial assessment by EPSDD.

- The Agency has been working in conjunction with the EPSDD Information Management Team to conduct a complete review of all published information
- It is anticipated that a further release of information will occur and be provided to the applicant.

Background Information

- The *Freedom of Information Act 2016* commenced on 1 January 2018, replacing the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.
- The new Act establishes mandatory response times with failure to meet these times requiring the relevant Minister to make a statement to the Legislative Assembly explaining the reasons why the response was not in accordance with the Act.
- The EPSDD Information Management Team receive, assess, process and manage FOIs received by the Agency under the terms of a Service Level Agreement. Under this Agreement Agency staff are responsible for conducting all document searches and providing all relevant records to the Directorate.
- An Information Officer in the Agency is responsible for approving the release of all records under advice and guidance from the EPSDD. It should be noted that the Information Officer bears all responsibility for the release of information and can elect to reject the provided advice.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SUBURBAN LAND AGENCY SUSTAINABILITY

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency is focused on delivering environmentally and socially sustainable outcomes.
- Some of the practical ways in which the Suburban Land Agency has recently delivered sustainability outcomes include:
 - contributing to the construction of predator proof fencing near the Gorooyaroo Nature Reserve and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve in Throsby;
 - refurbishing Stromlo Cottage in Coombs as a community facility, including recycling 'Old Canberra Bricks' as a Work for the Dole project;
 - constructing a series of billabongs in Taylor to treat water quality;
 - including fitness equipment in Moncrieff and Taylor, and providing the next stage of the shared path network on the eastern shores of Tuggeranong Pond; and
 - continuing to manage environmental offsets for the Campbell 5 development.
- The Mingle Program has also delivered positive sustainability outcomes through community events and activities, which increase awareness and build stronger, more connected communities. Mingle Program activities included tree planting events, establishing a Garden Club, holding playgroups, resident meetings and events for Clean Up Australia Day.
- The Ginninderry Joint Venture, which achieved the ACT's first 6 star Green Star – Communities rating, has a wide range of initiatives which support sustainable outcomes. For example, more than one third of the land has been set aside as a conservation corridor, and the Spark Program offers training and employment to provide people with the skills they need to participate in society.

Key Information

- The Suburban Land Agency has been working with other agencies, including the City Renewal Authority and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), to ensure alignment with Whole of Government policies such as the updated climate change strategy and planning strategy. The Suburban Land

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Agency recognises it will play a key role helping the Territory achieve a city of net zero emissions by 2045. A strategic approach to delivery of environmental and social sustainability is currently being developed.

- The Suburban Land Agency works closely with EPSDD and Housing ACT to deliver sites for affordable, public and community housing in accordance with targets.

Background Information

- The Suburban Land Agency is responsible for delivering a suburban and urban development program that meets the objects of the Agency as set out in Section 30 of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*. The Agency is to encourage and promote inclusive communities, through the delivery of people-focused neighbourhoods, and suburban development that supports:
 - affordable living;
 - a safe and healthy population;
 - social inclusion;
 - housing choice; and
 - environmental sustainability.
- The Agency also has responsibility to encourage and promote:
 - urban renewal outside declared urban renewal precincts;
 - growth and diversification of the Territory's economy; and
 - social and environmental sustainability.
- The Agency must also ensure a mix of public and private housing in new suburbs, increase the supply of affordable and community housing, support statutory greenhouse gas emissions targets and follow and support Whole of Government strategies.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SALES AGENTS PANEL

Talking points:

- The Territory maintains a panel of Commercial and Residential Agents which is utilised consistent with procurement guidelines, to provide expert skills to the Suburban Land Agency.
- The Panel consists of seven firms – one of which specialises in small residential sales, one of which specialises in all residential sales, two of which specialise in commercial sales and three of which can manage all sales types.
- To ensure the Territory receives best value for money, requests for proposals are sought from appropriately qualified firms on the Panel when undertaking land releases.

Key Information

- The firms on the panel and their areas of speciality are in the table below:

Areas of speciality	Firm(s)
Small residential sales	Laurie Scheele Real Estate
All residential sales	Luton Properties
Commercial sales	JLL, Knight Frank
All sales types	Civium, Colliers, Independent Property Group

- The Panel is used to ensure that appropriately qualified and experienced property professionals facilitate land sales on behalf of the Territory. This includes promotions, distribution and discussion of sales information, provision of market advice both for the Territory and potential buyers and facilitation of questions and responses to ensure all parties receive the same information.
- The total value of the Panel for the proposed term of up to five years (initial three year term plus two possible one year extensions) is \$25 million. This was calculated based on 1% (GST incl) of the 2016-17 to 2019-20 SOI total sales forecast revenue.
- The Panel deeds contain maximum rates that are able to be charged by each firm for their services. This covers staff costs but does not include costs related to marketing or advertising.

Background Information

- Services are procured via competitive processes to ensure value for money. The process is managed by Suburban Land Agency staff to ensure compliance with legislative and Agency requirements.

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- As a result of the competitive nature of the market a range of value-adds are often covered by the agents including:
 - listing on online sites such as allhomes.com.au, realcommercial.com.au and realestate.com.au;
 - national roadshows;
 - market reports and supporting data showcasing the site's opportunities;
 - Ansarada, or similar online drop box; and
 - Venue and equipment hire.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: MINGLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DELIVERY

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency continues to implement its community development program called Mingle, which is designed to build vibrant local communities within new Greenfield estates.
- The program aims to achieve a number of social objectives based around the notion of encouraging new residents to feel part of the community and become involved in community life and activities.
- Mingle ultimately assists residents to create networks, groups and programs that will become self-sustaining.
- The program is tailored for each suburb to suit demographics, resident feedback and proximity to surrounding services.
- The Suburban Land Agency continues to work closely with other ACT Government Directorates to help meet program objectives and to deliver events.
- It is designed for Greenfield developments only at this stage.
- The Suburban Land Agency Mingle Team delivered a total of **76 activities** as part of the Mingle program in 2017-18 covering the suburbs of Wright, Coombs, Throsby and Moncrieff.
- In future years the Mingle program will focus on working with new residents in North Wright and North Coombs and extend to Taylor and Whitlam.

Key Information

- In 2017-18, Mingle continued in the Molonglo Valley (Wright and Coombs) and Moncrieff. It also commenced in Throsby.
- Partnership opportunities were explored with the University of Canberra and Canberra Institute of Technology to co-deliver a version of the program in Lawson. A sustainability pre-build workshop was also delivered to land purchasers in Taylor.
- During 2017-18, various ACT Government agency messages were communicated through Mingle communication channels, including email, Facebook, newsletters and community information nights. Messages included information on issues such as Better Suburbs, Taylor School Naming consultation, Transport Canberra Bus network consultation and ACT Parks and Conservation engagements. Updates on the progress

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of development activities were also provided to the community in areas near Suburban Land Agency estates.

- Community involvement included an increased focus on resident-led activities and the ability for the Mingle team to provide mentoring to local residents on event logistics.
- A Mingle grants initiative continued in Wright and Coombs and included the following opportunities and partnerships with residents:
 - Molonglo Valley Community Markets
 - Communal Composting trial in Stromlo Terrace apartment living
 - Neighbourhood Book Box in Wright
 - Molonglo Valley Christmas Carols
- Some outcomes in 2017-18 included:
 - Events and activities – the Suburban Land Agency Mingle Team delivered a total of **76 activities** as part of the Mingle program in 2017-18. These were delivered in the suburbs of Wright/Coombs, Moncrieff and Throsby.

Suburb	Number of activities	Approximate total number of attendees	Activity Summary	No. of newsletters	Costs inc GST (events, marketing, consultants)
Wright / Coombs	58	2,260	Tree planting event at Molonglo River, the resident-built community book box in Wright, resident led markets, 'Play in the Park' and the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, resident newsletter delivery group, regular ACT Government Community Information nights using Facebook live streaming.	5	\$175,000

Moncrieff	15	1,136	Opening of the award-winning Community Recreation Park, Explore and Snap photography adventure, 'Play in the Park', Yoga in the Park and Neighbourhood Safety Workshops, establishment of Moncrieff residents group.	3	\$75,000
Throsby	3	140	Actsmart Pre-Build Workshop, Brekkie in the Park, and the Throsby Treasure Trek.	2	\$6,000
TOTAL	76			10	

NOTE: It is important to note that events are not targeted at achieving the highest numbers of attendees, but instead focussing on forming connections and relationships within new communities.

- Industry relationships and partnerships – ACT Playgroups, Northside Community Services, Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, Local Ngunnawal elders, Conservation Council, Molonglo Catchment Group, Canberra Environment Centre, Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch, local sporting groups, local community organisations, local education providers.
- Engagement – consultation with students from Charles Weston School on the Coombs 3A play space; partnership with local Ngunnawal elders for the opening of Wagi Bridge in Moncrieff, including education on the historical and cultural significance of the local water ways.
- Sustainability – partnership with the ACT Government's Actsmart program to deliver a series of free sustainable workshops to purchasers; communal composting trial in a Wright apartment complex; establishment of garden club at Stromlo Cottage.
- Heritage – partnership with the ACT Property Group to refurbish the Stromlo Cottage property for community activities.

Background Information

- Mingle was first established by the former Land Development Agency in Franklin in 2009. The program has since evolved and is being rolled out across a range of new estates including Wright, Coombs, Moncrieff, Throsby and Lawson.
- As residents commence construction in future suburbs it will continue to extend it into new estates including Taylor and Whitlam.
- The Mingle program adds value to communities by providing opportunities for social interaction and connection which leads to safer and happier communities.

- It is important that Mingle generates a positive legacy for the community. This is a proactive and positive initiative, focussed on encouraging, developing and fostering a sense of community and facilitating bonds between neighbours that strengthen community, promote safety, sense of identity and quality of life.
- Key attributes of Mingle are education, celebration, information and empowerment.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency is finalising its Stakeholder Engagement Strategy which will support a holistic approach to engaging internal and external stakeholders.
- The Strategy aims to improve the effectiveness of its stakeholder engagement, to build strategic relationships and to develop trust with its partners and the community.
- The Strategy provides tools to identify and prioritise stakeholders, define key messages and engagement tactics, which achieve the Agency's umbrella strategic objectives.
- This approach will provide guidance in developing effective stakeholder engagement programs to build stronger relationships between the organisation, community and partners, and foster more responsible and sustainable business practices.

Key Information

- The Suburban Land Agency engages with a diverse range of Stakeholders from the community, industry and Government. It is essential its messaging is consistent and the results of its engagement are measured to assess success.
- Subject to the agreement by the Board, it is proposed that the Strategy will be rolled out over the next 12 months. The first engagement report is proposed to be provided to the Board in early 2019. The Agency will produce regular reports on individual stakeholder engagement campaigns and its boarder stakeholder engagement strategy.

Background Information

- To measure success in stakeholder engagement, the Suburban Land Agency will undertake a market research project to establish baseline data. The project will seek data such as: how the Agency is perceived; what channels people prefer to receive and access information; who our market is and who our clients are (where they come from, household composition, age, etc); what products is the market looking for and how is the need changing; areas in our business where we are doing well and where we need to improve.
- The Strategy will work to better leverage relationships, to achieve the expectations of the Statement of Intent and the Indicative Land Release Program.
- The Strategy compliments work done by CMTEDD communications engagement, but recognises that the Agency operates in a competitive industry.

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Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: INDUSTRY SPONSORSHIPS

Talking points:

- From time to time the Suburban Land Agency is approached to provide sponsorship to support private sector activities. Alternatively, the Agency may seek sponsorship opportunities in support of ACT Government activities.
- The Agency does not administer a formal sponsorship program. When a request is received by the Agency a formal assessment is conducted against a range of set criteria including: budget, risk, alignment with the values of the government, competency and value for money.
- For 2017-18 one sponsorship was approved which provided \$5,000 to the Salvation Army to support the Christmas Carols at Tuggeranong Town Park.
- No industry sponsorships were made in 2017-18.

Key Information

- For the 2017-18 Financial Year one sponsorship was approved with the Agency, providing the Salvation Army with \$5,000 in support of Christmas Carols at Tuggeranong Town Park.

Background Information

- Subject to Board agreement, the Agency's policy on sponsorships will include an assessment against the ten sponsorship principles contained in the New South Wales Government's Independent Commission Against Corruption's "*Sponsorship in the public sector – a guide to developing policies and procedures for both receiving and granting sponsorship*".
- In 2015-16 and 2016-17 the former Land Development Agency reported the provision of \$31,620 sponsorship funding to **industry groups** consisting of:

2016-17 – Former Land Development Agency		
Master Builders Association	Sponsorship of the Civil Contractors Federation Earth Awards 2016	\$1,200
2015-16 – Former Land Development Agency		
Construction Industry Training Council (CITC)	Silver sponsor of the CITC Training Excellence Awards 2015	\$2,750
Australian Property Institute (API)	Sponsorship of the Excellence in Property Awards	\$4,400
Real Estate Institute of the ACT	Sponsorship of the 2016 Home Buyers Expo	\$5,500
Community Housing Canberra (CHC)	Sponsorship of the CHC Micro-Unit Exhibition	\$10,000
Australian Property Institute (API)	Sponsorship of the API ACT Industry Forum 2016	\$3,520

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Master Builders Association	Sponsorship of the Civil Contractors Federation Earth Awards 2016	\$3,800
Construction Industry Training Council (CITC)	Silver sponsor of the CITC Training Excellence Awards 2016	\$1,650

- A revised policy for managing sponsorship applications is planned for consideration by the SLA Board at its December 2018 meeting.
- The revised policy and associated procedure establishes the process for receiving, assessing and approving opportunities for the provision of sponsorships by the Agency. The policy also seeks to provide further transparency in the decision making process, including establishing delegations for the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer to approve sponsorship arrangements.
- The Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) has established guiding principles for managing sponsorships. These are articulated through the CMTEDD Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy.
- Under existing arrangements the Chief Executive Officer can approve the expenditure for sponsorship purposes.
- Since 2015-16 the former Land Development Agency and Suburban Land Agency have provided \$185,420 funding for sponsorship purposes.
 - \$31,620 of this funding has been to industry groups (as identified above) with the remainder being to support charity events or events being conducted in ACT Government Developments.
- The largest sponsorship since 2015-16 was \$110,000 to Molonglo Group Cultural Program in support of the 'Art, Not Apart' Festival in 2016 which aligned with the Government's major project in West Basin.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: DISCLOSED RESERVE PRICE AUCTIONS IN TAYLOR

Talking points:

- A disclosed reserve auction of 175 single residential blocks in Taylor is to be held over two days on 21 and 22 November 2018.
- To mitigate the risk of builders purchasing a large number of the blocks at the public auction, a disclosed reserve packaged auction for 97 blocks in 34 packages ranging from 2 to 5 blocks will to be held on 14 November 2018 preceding the public auction.
- Ballots were held for releases in three suburbs in 2017-18 by the Suburban Land Agency. These were: November 2017 for Taylor and May 2018 for North Wright and North Coombs.

Key Information

- The Suburban Land Agency recognises that a ballot is not the mechanism that everyone likes to purchase land. That is why the Agency has investigated alternative sales mechanisms for the next Taylor release.
- A reserve price auction is a fair, transparent sales mechanism which allows all purchasers to know what they are able to realistically afford before auction day.
- Block sizes range between 315m² to 938m² with reserves starting at \$285,000.
- The average price of the blocks is \$400,126; the average size is 530m² and the average price per m² is \$765. These figures make the Taylor auction some of the most competitively priced land on the market.
- Ballots were held in 2017-18, one for 142 blocks in Taylor and one for 194 blocks in North Wright and North Coombs. The ballots were oversubscribed with in excess of 2,000 registrations received for each event, however attendance and sales rates did not reflect this level of interest.
- Two smaller auctions have been held in Taylor in the last 15 months, one of 20 park front blocks in 2017 and one of 13 adjacent to open space in 2018. The clearance rate under the hammer for these auctions was less than 50%, giving an indication that the market has a clear understanding of the value of land in Taylor and prices are unlikely to be inflated by an auction release. (The remaining blocks all sold after the auction event at the reserve price).

Background Information

- Sessions for the public auction have been designed to group blocks of similar size and price point to ensure prices paid are a genuine reflection of market value not "panic buying" as potential purchasers will be aware of both the volume of the offering and the demand prior to bidding.

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- 20 single residential blocks likely to be valued at a price point making them suitable for Land Rent have been identified. They have been held back from the November 2018 public and packaged auctions to allow a targeted Land Rent ballot, potentially including blocks from Whitlam, to be held in May 2019.
 - As the release of these will require potential purchasers to prequalify for the event a single release incorporating all suitable blocks is proposed to be held. The event will be programmed to occur as soon as the Whitlam blocks are available for inclusion (following planning approval processes).

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: GUNGAHLIN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency (the Agency) is currently undertaking land development activities in Moncrieff, Throsby, Gungahlin Town Centre East, Taylor and Jacka 2.
- The Suburban Land Agency is to progress development in Gungahlin in accordance with the Government’s Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP). During 2017-18 the Agency released 616 dwellings (including 163 affordable) against the target of 605.
- The Suburban Land Agency revenue target for 2017-18 was \$305 million, revenue received was \$243 million. The majority of the revenue shortfall can be accounted for from the slower than expected sales in Throsby.
- The ACT Government Population Projections 2017 to 2020 estimates the population in Gungahlin will increase from 73,133 in 2017 to 83,167 in 2020, an increase of over 10,000, with current developments likely to accommodate such an increase.
- The Suburban Land Agency’s Budget Statement identifies the receipt of approximately \$880 million (excl GST) revenue in 2018-19 to 2021-22 for estate development in Gungahlin.

4 Year Budget Statement Forecast		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Moncrieff	\$ 14.8m	\$ 11.6m	\$ 3.2m	-	-
Taylor	\$558.3m	\$124.9m	\$157.8m	\$200.7m	\$74.9m
Throsby	\$ 84.8m	\$ 34.0m	\$ 15.3m	\$ 13.8m	\$ 21.7m
GTC	\$ 46.1m	\$ 6.1m	\$ 20.1m	\$ 9.6m	\$ 10.3m
Jacka	\$176.2m	-	-	\$125.9m	\$50.3m
Total	\$ 880.2m	\$ 176.6m	\$ 196.4m	\$ 350.0m	\$ 157.2m

Key Information

- Affordable dwellings sites are identified annually by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to inform the ILRP.
- Between 2018-19 and 2021-22 the ILRP identifies the release of:
 - 4,473 dwellings;
 - 674 dwellings are scheduled for release in 2018-19. Of these, approximately 177 dwellings will be released as affordable, public and community housing;

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- community facility sites including 22,514m² in Gungahlin Town Centre, 10,100m² in Moncrieff, 6,837m² in Taylor and 51,400m² in Throsby;
- A 440m² community facility site will be released in Amaroo in 2018-19;
- 59,586m² of mixed-use land in Gungahlin Town Centre, 5,740 m² will be released in 2018-19; and
- 33,067m² of commercial floor area will be released in Gungahlin Town Centre between 2019 and 2021. 5118m² will be released in Taylor in 2020-21.
- The Agency has completed civil infrastructure works in Throsby and Taylor Stage 1, allowing settlement of blocks secured under sale and forward stock of land available for sale. Home construction activity is underway.
- The Suburban Land Agency is currently undertaking:
 - civil and landscape infrastructure works in Taylor Stage 2 (1497 dwellings);
 - civil construction works in Gungahlin Town Centre East to provide 24 blocks with a mix of CZ1, CZ2, CZ5 and CFZ zones (approximately 1,286 dwellings);
 - planning and design for the estate development of Jacka 2 (approximately 700 dwellings);
 - sales activity in Moncrieff, Throsby, Gungahlin Town Centre East and Taylor; and
 - the Mingle Program in Moncrieff and Throsby.

Background Information

Moncrieff

- Moncrieff is a residential estate of 2,188 dwellings on 185 hectares. It includes blocks for single residential and medium density multi-unit development, a non-government school site, a one hectare community facility site, a group centre (1.5 hectare site for commercial and retail use), several mixed-use development sites and a Community Recreation Park.
- A Community Recreation Park (CRP) has been constructed in Moncrieff in close proximity to the proposed Group Centre and the non-government school site. The approximate construction cost for the playground was \$6.5 million. Play equipment, soft fall and shade sails accounted for approximately \$1.5 million of this cost.
- Approximately \$318 million in revenue has been received to date. Blocks sold for an average of \$516 per square metre.
- Construction costs to date are approximately \$92 million.
- The ILRP identifies the release of a group centre, a mixed-use development site and a community facility site in the period 2018-19 to 2021-22. \$14.8 million in revenue is expected over this period.

Throsby

- Throsby is a residential estate of 1,101 dwellings on 106 hectares. It is comprised of single residential and medium density multi-unit housing, a community facility site of

five hectares and a small mixed use precinct that allows 1,000m² of commercial and retail space.

- The Education Directorate is yet to determine the need and timing for a school in East Gungahlin. In the interim the community facility site is reserved for this purpose.
- All civil construction is complete and settlements and building activity have commenced with the first residents moving into the suburb in mid-2018.
- Approximately \$245 million in revenue has been received to date. Sales have been slower in Throsby as the suburb is perceived as a premium residential estate, located proximate to key employment centres (Majura Park, Brindabella Park, Gungahlin Town Centre and Civic) and commands a higher price than many other estates. It caters for buyers upgrading from their first or second home. Blocks sell for an average of \$870 per square metre.
- Construction costs to date are approximately \$57 million.
- The ILRP identifies the release of 151 dwellings and a 51,400m² community facility site in the period 2018-19 to 2021-22. \$84.8 million in revenue is expected over this period. Approximately 100 blocks remain for sale over the counter from earlier releases. An additional 151 dwellings are scheduled to be released between 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Gungahlin Town Centre

- Gungahlin Town Centre comprises sites for commercial, mixed-use and community facilities as well as various open space areas including a linear park. This will be developed and sold over approximately 20 years.
- Civil construction has commenced with a contract price of approximately \$11 million. Construction is due to be completed by November 2018.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is currently undertaking a 'Planning Refresh' for the Gungahlin Town Centre exploring changes to building height and character, place-making, active travel and road transport. At this time, the Directorate is exploring a number of scenarios including buildings of up to 16 storeys in height. This work is expected to be completed in early 2019. Dependent on the outcome of this work it may inform changes to the Territory Plan, which could include changes to land use zones and building height.
- Detailed Design on the linear park will commence following the outcome of the Planning Refresh. The timing of the delivery will be determined by land releases which will be influenced by the growth of the Town Centre, operation and success of the light rail and the outcomes of the Gungahlin Town Centre planning refresh. The design will take into consideration the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, including issues such as healthy living, city resilience, tree lined pathways and living infrastructure, within the framework of broader government policy and as funding allows.

- The ILRP identifies the release of 1,286 dwellings, 59,586m² of mixed-use site area, 33,067m² of commercial site area and 22,514m² of community facility land in the period 2018-19 to 2021-2022. Revenue of \$46.1 million is anticipated in this period.
- 64 Public housing dwellings were delivered in 2017-18. Ten affordable dwellings are scheduled for release in 2018/19.

Taylor

- Taylor is a residential estate of approximately 2,874 dwellings on 317 hectares. It will comprise single residential and medium density multi-unit housing, and a 8.1 hectare community facility site for a government P-10 school, as well as a one hectare community facility site associated with a local centre and district playing fields.
- 99 affordable dwellings were delivered in 2017-18. 139 affordable and 28 public housing dwellings will be delivered in 2018-19. These dwellings will be located in Taylor 1 and 2, on the flatter land where compact blocks and multi-unit housing are more efficient to develop.
- Approximately \$134.3 million in revenue has been received to date. Blocks are selling for an average of \$782 per square metre.
- Taylor 2 (1,499 dwellings) is currently under construction, with Taylor 1 (842 dwellings) complete. Construction costs to date are approximately \$74.5 million.
- The Indicative Land Release Program 2018-19 to 2021-22 identifies the release of 1,900 dwellings, 5118m² of commercial land for the local centre and 6837m² of community facility land in the period 2018-19 to 2021-22. Revenue of \$558.3 million is anticipated in this period.

Jacka 2

- Jacka 2 is a residential estate of approximately 700 dwellings. It will comprise single residential and medium density multi-unit housing. There will be a community facility site located within the heritage listed Horse Park Homestead. A site has also been identified for future district playing fields.
- Suburban Land Agency is currently undertaking the Estate Development Plan design for Jacka 2. The Development Application for Jacka 2 is programed to be submitted early in 2019. Development Approval is anticipated in mid-2019.
- The civil engineering construction will be tendered in March 2019 with the first stage of construction to commence following Development Approval in July 2019.
- Significant work will be undertaken to ensure the heritage and ecological values of Jacka 2 are maintained.
- Affordable housing targets are allocated annually, the affordable targets for Jacka 2 have not been determined by EPSDD for the 2019-20 release.
- The Indicative Land Release Program 2018-19 to 2021-22 identifies the release of 700 dwellings in the period 2018-19 to 2021-22. Revenue of \$176.2 million is anticipated in this period.

Mingle Program

- The Suburban Land Agency's Mingle Program is an initiative which aims to build a vibrant community through social inclusion activities. It provides a social forum through activities such as family events, workshops and fundraising opportunities. Mingle is currently active in Moncrieff and Throsby. Mingle programs will commence in Taylor in early-2019.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: MOLONGLO DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Talking points:

- The Molonglo Valley is a major development front in the ACT with a population of around 5,000 residents (4,600 residents according to the 2016 Census). This figure is expected to grow to around 24,000 residents over the next ten years with developments of Denman Prospect, Whitlam and suburbs in Molonglo 2 and 3. Ultimately in 20+ years the expected district population is estimated to be around 45,000 residents in approximately 20,000 dwellings.
- The Suburban Land Agency (Agency) is to progress development in the Molonglo Valley, in accordance with the Government's Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP). During 2017-18, the Agency released 604 (including 69 affordable) dwelling sites, against the target of 555 and 15,770 m² of mixed-use sites.
- The Agency is currently undertaking land servicing and sales activities of North Coombs and North Wright, estate planning activities of Whitlam and post-delivery/ post occupancy activities, which includes the Mingle program, landscaping works and administration of sites sold under agreements for the delivery of set initiatives in Wright and Coombs.

Key Information

- **Revenue:** The 2017-18 revenue target was \$71.8 million. Revenue received was \$10.25 million by 30 of June 2018 and a delayed settlement of Denman Prospect (Stage 2) of \$62.85 million on 2 July 2018.
- **Community Land Options:** The Government has been delivering community facilities, such as schools, parks, play spaces, and allocating and releasing community land in the Molonglo.
- Currently, one public school is operating and an additional 8,800m² of land has been released in Coombs for community facilities, this has resulted in a child care centre, pharmacy, gym and a veterinarian being in operation. A medical and health care services centre is scheduled to open by the end of October 2018.
- There are two more community land sites scheduled for release during 2018-19 in Coombs and Wright with a total area over 16,000m². The North Wright development allows a five hectare site for a non-government school, a 0.5 hectare community facility site and plenty of open park land (approximately 7.5 hectare). In Whitlam and Denman Prospect, 5.6 hectare and 11.5 hectare sites are allocated for public schools respectively.

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- **Commercial Land Options:** Based on the current development of the Denman Prospect Local Centre (1,000m²), Coombs Local Centre (1,000m²) and potentially Koko Molonglo Block 1 Section 38 Wright (1,500m²), these will collectively provide 3,500m² of retail space. The current supply of commercial land released and being developed is consistent with the national average for a supermarket space of 332m² per 1,000 residents. Additionally, the service station development proposed on the Cotter Road, will provide retail and fast food services.
- The Government has released four commercial zoned sites in Coombs and one in Wright with a total area of about 40,000 m². There are an additional three sites in Coombs and one in Wright with a total area of about 38,000 m² scheduled to release over the next four years. In Whitlam, a 2.1 hectare local centre site is allocated for retail and 1 hectare of retail is programmed for release in 2021-22.
- The first release of land for the Molonglo Commercial Centre is scheduled in 2020-21 with an area of 15,000m². This will be the major retail and commercial destination for Molonglo.

Background Information

- Molonglo Valley is divided into three stages:
 - Molonglo Stage 1 (suburbs of Wright, Coombs and North Weston);
 - Molonglo Stage 2 (suburb of Denman Prospect and Molonglo Commercial Centre); and
 - Molonglo Stage 3 (suburbs of Whitlam and the remaining land north of the Molonglo River).

Molonglo 1

- The estates of Wright and Coombs, with the total dwelling yield of approximately 4,850, were the first suburbs developed in the Molonglo Valley and are largely complete, with the exception of an area known as North Wright and North Coombs, which is under construction and Coombs Peninsula undertaking planning works.
- Both North Wright and North Coombs developments offer a range of housing choices, such as small, medium and large land parcels, that cater for the growing demand for homebuyers who want to build their own home.
- The total dwelling yield of North Wright is 425 (with 212 single residential), and North Coombs is 427 (with 71 single residential). The civil works in these developments are well underway.
- The Suburban Land Agency's Mingle program is active in Coombs and Wright and delivers a total of 58 activities and events during 2017-18, such as seniors groups, cultural celebrations, book clubs and garden clubs, which support community building.

Molonglo 2

- Denman Prospect Stage 1 and 2 were sold to Capital Estate Development Pty Ltd (CED). Stage 1 was sold in 2015-16 for \$241.3 million for approximately 1,000 single residential dwellings and up to 1,500 multi-unit dwellings. The sale of Stage 2 was finalised in June 2017 for a total price of \$135.85 million with a yield of 1,210 dwellings. The final stage of Denman Prospect, Stage 3 is currently identified for release in the ILRP in 2020-21.

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- The first instalment settlement payment (\$62.85 million) of Stage 2 was made on 2 July 2018. There are two remaining instalments as below:
 - Instalment 2, before 30 June 2019, \$36.5 million; and
 - Instalment 3, before 30 June 2020, \$36.5 million.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is undertaking Concept Planning for the Molonglo Commercial Centre and surrounding area with the aim to have the Concept Plan finalised by end of 2018. Uses being considered include retail, bulky goods, commercial, community, education, emergency services, recreational, trades and residential.
- The ILRP forecasts 15,000m² of commercial land to be released in 2020-21. Timing for a staged release will consider local population growth, market demand for larger scale operations balanced around local shopping opportunities.

Molonglo 3

- The planning outline for Molonglo 3 was described in the 2010 Molonglo and North Weston Structure Plan. Molonglo 3 is planned to accommodate approximately 12,000 dwellings in multiple suburbs including local centres, group centres and community uses including government and independent schools.
- The first suburb of Molonglo 3 is Whitlam which is being developed by the Suburban Land Agency. Whitlam comprises approximately 2,100 single residential and medium density dwellings, a community facility site, commercial zones and a local centre. The Suburban Land Agency is undertaking the planning and design works for Whitlam to enable releases identified in the ILRP in 2018-19.
- The Estate Development Plan for Whitlam Stage 1 (619 dwelling sites, 542 single residential and nine multi-unit sites accommodating a total of 77 dwellings) was lodged with the Planning Authority in September 2018 for the statutory development assessment. Following a development approval, construction will likely commence in 2019.
- The bridge on John Gorton Drive is a key piece of infrastructure for the Molonglo 3 development. This is currently in the preliminary design stage and the construction is planned to be completed in 2024, subject to the annual budget process.

Abutting community facilities

- Wright and Coombs is located in close proximity to world-class recreational sporting facilities at Stromlo Forest Park. It includes a 1.2km road cycling circuit, 2.5km grass cross country running track, extensive mountain bike trails and equestrian trails. The Government has also committed \$36 million to a 50 metre pool, splash park and gym in the area.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: GINNINDERRY JOINT VENTURE

Talking points:

- The West Belconnen Joint Venture, known as Ginninderry, stretches from the north western suburbs of Canberra (Holt and Macgregor) across the ACT/NSW border into part of the Yass Valley. It is bounded on two sides by the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek. The first two suburbs of Ginninderry will be Strathnairn and Macnamara.
- The site is being developed by a Joint Venture between the Territory and Riverview Projects.
- Based on the development potential of land being contributed to the joint venture, the respective interests of the parties are 60% for the Territory and 40% for Riverview. Project costs and risks will be shared in those proportions.
- Stage 1 of the project comprising 356 blocks is under construction, with the first settlements to occur in April 2019. The first residents are expected to move in early 2020.
- Stage 2 comprising a further 800 blocks will commence construction in approximately April 2019 depending on planning approvals.
- Recent initiatives of the project include the establishment of an Environmental Management Trust for the river corridor; and the implementation of an energy strategy in the first stage, including the area being the ACT's first gas free suburb.
- Major project considerations currently being addressed are the removal of environmental clearance zones; including the West Belconnen Landfill and the zone around the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre.
- The process to re-zone the NSW land has commenced through the Yass Valley Council and the NSW Government. The NSW Department of Planning issued its revised Gateway Determination for the rezoning of the NSW land on 28 August 2018. A decision on the planning proposal is anticipated in mid to late 2020

Key Information

- The total area of land covered by the development proposal is over 1600 hectares. Of this around 800 hectares are protected in the open space network including the river corridor/ conservation area.

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- The new community will become home to up to 30,000 residents on completion.
- There will be approximately 11,500 dwellings of which some 6,500 will be in the ACT and 5,000 in NSW (subject to rezoning approval).
- It will provide a diverse range of housing and lot sizes to suit a wide range of budgets, buyers and lifestyles.
- It will be the first cross-border development for the ACT and NSW, with three suburbs in the ACT and one border adjacent community in NSW (subject to rezoning approval).
- It will take 30-40 years for the development to be complete

Background Information

- In May 2013, the Government entered into an agreement with the Riverview Group to develop land in West Belconnen and adjacent land in NSW. On 15 December 2015, the Government agreed to the Territory entering into a land development joint venture with the Riverview Group. The area to be developed is approximately 1,600 hectares: 670 in the ACT and 330 in NSW. The balance of 600 hectares is for buffers to meet requirements of the National Capital Plan and protection for the ecology of the Murrumbidgee River corridor.
- The total urban release will comprise around 11,500 dwellings with 5,000 dwellings in NSW and 6,500 in West Belconnen. The development is expected to supply Greenfield land for new dwellings for up to 40 years, with NSW development commencing circa 2032.
- The project has been conceived and developed to date with high environmental and sustainability values. Project initiatives include:
 - a memorandum of understanding with the adjacent Strathnairn Community Arts facility to provide additional resources and facilities for Strathnairn and minimise the impacts of the development on the community;
 - the formation of a Trust to actively manage the river corridor, to protect the environmental values of the corridor whilst allowing community access;
 - a training and employment initiative in partnership with stakeholders across community services, vocational training and industry to deliver engagement training and employment opportunities for the Ginninderry community; and
 - implementation of a “Greenstar” sustainability rating system to ensure environmental efficiencies in the development. In order to attain a Greenstar rating, the development is assessed against Governance, Design, Economic Prosperity, Liveability, Environment and Innovation. Ginninderry has attained a six star rating, the highest possible under the scheme.
- Existing land will need to be managed to ensure Ginninderry can be successfully transformed into a quality urban area.

- Processes are currently underway to manage the following:
 - the 750m exclusion zone caused by Pace Egg Farm operations in Parkwood;
 - interfaces with the ACT Government project that will deliver the second point of power supply to the Territory by TransGrid;
 - appropriate buffer zones for the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre; and
 - the current uses of the West Belconnen Resource Recovery Centre, including the management of green waste, and plans for the decommissioning the site scheduled for 2020.
- The Variation to the Territory Plan No.351 allowing the development was approved in June 2016. Amendment 86 to the National Capital Plan was formalised on 23 November 2016.
- Approval under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* was received in September 2017.
- The Joint Venture commenced after the disallowance period for Amendment 86 to the National Capital Plan expired on 23 November 2016.
- Marketing of Stage 1 commenced in April 2017 with first resident occupation expected by early 2020.
- The ILRP 2018-19 to 2021-22 targets the release of 300 residential dwellings per year.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: INDUSTRIAL LAND SUPPLY

Talking points:

- A long term land release strategy has been developed to ensure a 20 year supply of industrial land to support economic growth and diversification of the ACT economy. The strategy is consistent with the ACT Planning Strategy 2012 and the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment.
- The Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP) allows for industrial land releases in Hume and three greenfield industrial estates in Symonston, Fyshwick and Majura Valley (Pialligo) over the next four years.
- The Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment (EBSA) is considering the foreseeable impacts to matters of national environmental significance to areas of land on the eastern edge of the ACT. This involves the preparation of a Strategic Assessment under the Commonwealth's *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, as well as ACT processes for consideration under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, and an amendment and variation to both the Territory and National Capital Plans.
- The Strategic Assessment impacts on land in Fyshwick, Symonston and Majura, precluding releases until finalised.
- 20,000m² of industrial land will be released in Hume in 2018-19 and a further 20,000m² in 2019-20.

Key Information

- The ILRP for 2018-19 provides for industrial land releases in Hume (20,000m²) and a further 20,000m² in Hume in 2019-20. This will exhaust land supply in Hume.
- The ILRP then forecasts a release in Symonston of 30,000m² in 2020-21 and releases in Fyshwick (20,000m²), Symonston (10,000m²) and Pialligo (10,000m²) in 2021-22. Current constraints on Symonston, Fyshwick and Pialligo as a result of Commonwealth consideration of the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment are anticipated to be resolved in time to allow for these releases to occur.

Background Information

- Four blocks in Hume from previous releases have exchanged contracts in the last 2 months, leaving another 2 available over the counter. This indicates that there is demand for industrial land, exemplifying the need to keep a supply in the market.

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Portfolio: Urban Renewal

ISSUE: KINGSTON ARTS PRECINCT

Talking points:

- The Kingston Arts Precinct forms part of Stage 5 of the Kingston Foreshore Estate.
- The site was released in accordance with the Indicative Land Release Program for 2015-16.
- Stage 5 of the Kingston Foreshore represents a site of approximately five hectares within Section 49 Kingston. The site was released to the market as a single parcel of land with a unique opportunity for cohesive urban development and innovative design responses between private, community and arts uses.
- This fully integrated precinct is planned to contain arts facilities, an outdoor events space, public areas, commercial, residential, car parking and be complimentary to the Kingston Foreshore hospitality and tourism attractors.
- The sale **does not** include the heritage-listed former Transport Depot (home to the Old Bus Depot Markets and Megalo Print Studio + Gallery), Fitters Workshop, or Powerhouse (home to the Canberra Glassworks).
- Geocon Group Pty Limited was announced as the preferred tenderer after a two stage land sale process took place, which included assets to be returned to the Territory.
- On 17 September 2018, Government agreed to enter into negotiations with the Preferred Tenderer to finalise the delivery agreements by March 2019.

Key Information


- The delivery of the Kingston Arts Precinct (part of Section 49, Kingston) is subject to a land sale tender managed by the Suburban Land Agency. The tender included the ACT Government strategic priority to deliver a vibrant, functioning visual arts precinct, events space and public car parking for the Territory.

Background Information

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- Ernst & Young prepared a Business Case consistent with the format under the Capital Framework for delivery of: future artsACT assets; a public car park which will support functions of the Kingston Arts Precinct; and needs of the surrounding Kingston Foreshore developments.
- The development of Section 49 is part of the broader Kingston Foreshore estate and includes heritage sites activated by artsACT into a local and tourist destination. The site is bounded by Wentworth Avenue, Giles Street and Eastlake Parade.
- A number of studies and strategies were developed over the last decade to inform the ultimate outcome, namely:
 - *Arts Facilities Strategy* released in 2003, outlining planning framework for future art precinct including collocation of art facilities within Kingston Foreshore;
 - *The Kingston Arts Precinct Strategy* released by the Minister for the Arts in 2011 (provides a framework to guide the development of an arts hub and focuses on the three major historic heritage buildings).
 - *The Kingston Section 49 Master Plan* was released by the Minister for Economic Development in May 2014 (developed in consultation with the community and key stakeholders through a series of workshops, information sessions and meetings).
 - The Kingston Arts Precinct [Report for Feasibility, Management Models and Design Options](#) was released on 20 June 2015 by the Minister for Arts. Stewart Architects were engaged, along with a specialist consultant team to undertake further planning considerations built on the work of the Kingston Section 49 Master Plan.
 - In early 2016, the Functional Briefs for the new arts facilities and the outdoor events space was developed by the artsACT and in coordination with arts organisations proposed to collocate within the new Precinct.
- An amendment to the Territory Plan to permit hotels and child care facilities as future uses at Kingston Arts Precinct (Section 49) was approved in November 2016. Tender submissions were received by the former LDA in July 2016 and this amendment is not reflected in the submitted tenders.
- artsACT has been working closely with local arts groups identified for relocation to the Kingston Arts Precinct and will engage with them further as the design development for their facilities commences.

Portfolio: Urban Renewal

ISSUE: CANBERRA BRICKWORKS PRECINCT – LAND SALE & TENANCIES

Talking points:

- The sale of the Canberra Brickworks Precinct will allow for the make-safe, refurbishment, adaptive reuse, preservation of historic buildings and residential development to a maximum of 380 dwellings.
- The two stage sales process for the Canberra Brickworks Precinct commenced with a Request for Proposal (RFP) release to the market on 2 April 2016, followed by release of the Request for Tender (RFT) on 11 November 2016.
- The RFT closed on 19 January 2017 and a tender evaluation process followed. Doma Group was announced as the preferred tenderer on 11 April 2017.
- Since April 2017 the Suburban Land Agency has been working with the ACT Government Solicitor to prepare Contract documentation to facilitate the sale of the site to ensure that the final development meets the expectations of the Request for Tender, Tender Response and Precinct Objectives prepared by the Community Panel. These documents have been subject to a probity audit as well an independent review by an external law firm.
- Contracts with Doma Group are being finalised and are expected to conclude shortly. The development is expected to be finished in the second half of 2023 with the new heritage precinct being completed in the first stage of development works.
- Community stakeholder groups were invited to form part of a Community Panel and have been part of a collaborative engagement process since October 2015. Community engagement is ongoing with Doma Group hosting the last meeting with the Community Panel in mid-August 2017.
- Thor’s Hammer, a locally based timber and furniture business, tenants some of the site. It has sought an extension until 16 December 2018 to relocate to a new facility recently leased.
- The Government has facilitated an extension until 1 January 2019 subject to Thor’s Hammer permitting on site investigations by the Preferred Tenderer, Doma Group. Doma Group intend to commence

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intrusive investigations on the site, including on the premises of Thor's Hammer, immediately after exchange.

- The ACT Government provided \$8 million in the 2017-18 Budget to construct a new access road to the Canberra Brickworks Precinct including upgrades to Dudley Street in Yarralumla.

Key Information

- Blocks 1, 7 and 20 Section 102 Yarralumla forms the Canberra Brickworks Precinct land. The negotiations for the land sale are currently progressing with the preferred tenderer Doma Group. The exchange on the Contract for Sale is likely to occur before Christmas 2018.
- On 14 August 2018 the Suburban Land Agency and Transport Canberra and City Services presented to the Yarralumla Residents Group regarding the current status of the sale and the future road upgrade.
- The Yarralumla Residents Group were informed the Brickworks tender remains open and commercial in confidence until contracts have exchanged.

Background Information

- In late August 2015, the Chief Minister announced the release of the Canberra Brickworks Precinct and set a maximum dwelling yield of 380 residential dwellings.
- The Community Panel for the Canberra Brickworks Precinct land sale project worked with the former LDA to establish a series of objectives to inform the preferred outcomes for the Canberra Brickworks Precinct. These were included as the Precinct Objectives in both the RFP and RFT documents as response criteria weighted 50%.
- The Community Panel was also invited to advise the LDA's Evaluation Team on proponents' responses to Precinct Objectives during both the RFP and RFT evaluation periods.
- With the conclusion of the LDA operations as of 30 June 2017, the Suburban Land Agency has continued to manage the project and ongoing community engagement.
- The Suburban Land Agency is currently working with the ACT Government Solicitor (ACTGS) on agreeing to a Concept Delivery Deed (CDD) and Contract for Sale of the Land with the preferred tenderer. The Suburban Land Agency and Government Solicitor's Office are working with Doma Group to finalise tender obligations.
- The CDD requires Doma Group to continue collaborative engagement with the Community Panel and achieve Estate Development Plan Development Application approval in order to complete the Contract of Sale for the Land.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: GREENWAY SOUTHQUAY

Talking points:

- The Southquay estate consists of 12 mixed-use sites, delivering approximately 1,100 infill dwellings in medium to high density developments and responds to key government objectives to increase density in existing areas.
- On the western side of Tuggeranong Pond (Anketell Street) all eight sites were sold between 2014 and 2016 for a total of \$30.2 million and will deliver approximately 880 dwellings.
- On the eastern side of Tuggeranong Pond (Drakeford Drive) the civil construction works for Southquay East have been completed. The development sites permit 150-212 dwellings in buildings up to 13 metres (3 storeys in height).
- Three of four sites within Greenway Southquay East were released to the market for sale by auction on 18 April 2018. The sites did not sell at auction, however, all three sites have been subsequently sold for a total of \$12.55 million.
- Delivery of 15 affordable dwellings (5 per site) is included in the conditions of sale in accordance with the 2017/18 affordable housing targets.

Key Information

- The lake foreshore cycle and foot paths are complete and open to the public. The central park known as Nina Farrer Park, including the playground was officially opened by Minister Gentlemen on 14 January 2018.
- Design is underway for a shared use bridge over Tuggeranong Pond connecting the two stages of the Southquay development. Additional shared paths and landscaping will compliment the new bridge.

Background Information

- The Southquay site is a 24 hectare site located in the southern reaches of Tuggeranong Pond, on both sides of the lake. The site is bound by major roads, including Drakeford Drive, Soward Way, and Anketell Street.
- The Southquay Greenway Estate was designed based on a set of planning principles including elements such as design that focuses activity towards Tuggeranong Pond, to encourage a lively waterfront for the Town Centre.

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- Development on the western side is designated for 6-8 storey development, with the potential for three towers of a maximum 12 storeys. Development will step down to 1-4 storeys at the lake's edge in order to preserve views and scale.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: GREENWAY SECTION 28

Talking points:

- The Greenway Section 28 estate consists of three multi-unit sites (Blocks 3, 4 and 5), delivering approximately 313 infill dwellings in medium density developments and responds to key government objectives to increase density in existing areas.
- Blocks 3 and 4 were sold at auction on 28 February 2018 for \$22.6 million to private developers.
- The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce (PHRT) has commenced construction on Block 5 for 25 dwellings.
- Delivery of 25 affordable dwellings is included in the conditions of sale for Block 3 (5 dwellings) and Block 4 (20 dwellings).

Key Information

- Civil engineering construction works commenced in late December 2017.
- The Suburban Land Agency has approval from Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) and Icon Water to stage the Operational Acceptance to allow the settlement of Block 3 which contains a gravity feed sewer. This has allowed the settlement to be called on this site for 14 September 2018.
- The completion of Block 4 has been delayed due to works associated with the specialised Sewer Pumping Station.
- Completion is expected by early November 2018.
- The delay to the sewer pumping station put at risk the settlement of Block 4 due to works completion date extending beyond the sale contract date. The Suburban Land Agency has negotiated an extended settlement to May 2019.

Background Information

- The site of approximately 4.2 hectares was re-zoned from urban open space to Residential Zone 4 (RZ4) in August 2015.
- The site is positioned between Drakeford Drive to the east and Mortimer Lewis Drive to the west and south. There are existing medium density (townhouse) developments to the north.
- In November 2015 the former Land Development Agency together with the PHRT commenced consultation with local residents and the Tuggeranong Community Council regarding the Section 28 development. Local residents are receiving regular updates on the status of construction works.

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- The development has received general support from the local community, particularly when the PHRT demonstrated that they had listened to the community's concerns about the location of public housing by moving their development site to the southern end of the estate.
- Some concerns regarding traffic management of Drakeford Drive, parking facilities at the Dog Park and safety issues with the new learn to ride cycle facility are being managed by Transport Canberra and City Services.
- The development includes the construction of a sewer pump station which will be handed to Icon Water at completion.
- The approvals and construction of the sewer pumping station and rising main present critical risk to the settlement of Block 4. Some built conditions within the pumping station installed by the sub-contractor had not been approved by Icon Water and required remediation. Additional works on the sewer pump station are expected to be finished in early November 2018 to allow for Operational Acceptance and settlement of Block 4 Section 28.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SLA LAND ACQUISITIONS 2017-18

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency undertook 3 land acquisitions that settled in the last financial year.
- The acquisitions were:
 - Block 1600 Belconnen for the purposes of future urban development and for an easement for the Second Power Supply Project for the ACT;
 - Part Block 1601 Belconnen, for a substation site and easements associated with the Second Power Supply Project for the ACT; and
 - Block 1582 Belconnen for uses associated with the Ginninderry Project and for an easement for the Second Power Supply Project for the ACT.
- All acquisitions were reported to the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*. They are referenced at Page 183 of the SLA Annual Report.
- The acquisitions were assessed against the *Planning and Development (Land Acquisition Policy Framework) Direction 2014* and approved in line with this direction. A new Disallowable Instrument, being the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Suburban Land Agency Land Acquisition) Direction 2017* has now come into effect, however this new direction does not apply to acquisitions of land previously approved under the *Planning and Development (Land Acquisition Policy Framework) Direction 2014*.
- The former LDA Board considered the acquisitions in June 2016 whereby agreement was provided to continue with the necessary processes for acquiring the required land, and in March 2017 the Board approved the acquisitions.
- The Minister for Housing and Community Services, Yvette Berry MLA, was briefed on the acquisitions in June 2017.

Key Information

District (Property)	Block and Section	Acquisition Cost	Date of Settlement
Belconnen (Pine Ridge)	Block 1600	\$4,600,000.00	31 July 2017
Belconnen (Wagtail Park)	Block 1601 (Part)	\$1,698,795.31	1 June 2018
Belconnen (The Vines)	Block 1582	\$2,200,000.00	27 June 2018

Background Information

- The ACT Second Electricity Supply Project is an essential project to ensure continuity of electrical supply for the ACT. The project is designed to achieve the security of electricity supply by providing a geographically separate electricity supply to the Territory within certain capacity requirements. The project is being delivered by TransGrid, and sees a supply of electrical infrastructure provided through the West Belconnen area.
- Government agreed in 2014 to change the proposed location of the substation and alignment of the high voltage lines associated with the project in order to minimise impact on the future Ginninderry urban area. Government agreed to the former Land Development Agency facilitating the land acquisition and to the Joint Venture meeting any extra over cost.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: GOLD CREEK HOMESTEAD

Talking points:

- Block 109 Section 23 Ngunnawal is zoned CFZ Community Facilities and is home to the Gold Creek Homestead.
- The homestead is not heritage-listed, however, the community has expressed a desire that the site's heritage values are retained during future redevelopment of the site.
- Consistent with the Indicative Land Release Program, the site was released for sale by a Request for Tender in March 2018 for Aged Care along with other land uses consistent with the CFZ Community Facilities zoning.
- During the Marketing Campaign the community expressed a concern about the loss of on-site heritage values under the terms of the sale of the land.
- Following careful consideration, the site was withdrawn from the market in June 2018 to allow the Suburban Land Agency more time to work towards a better balance of social and financial benefits from the site for the ACT community.
- It is anticipated that the site will be re-released to the market in 2019-20 by a Request for Tender that includes community related objectives that all new tenders will be evaluated against.

Key Information

- The homestead had been considered for heritage listing on several occasions but the Heritage Council has decided that the place, while having some heritage values, did not warrant inclusion in the Register.
- During the sales campaign the Suburban Land Agency was contacted by numerous parties (including descendants of the original owners) and the National Trust who would like to see the homestead maintained.
- On 1 June 2018 the site was withdrawn from the market.
- ACT Heritage have advised that a nomination for consideration was received on 12 June 2018. The nomination was dismissed at the Heritage Council meeting of 26 July 2018.

Background Information

- Block 106 Section 23 Ngunnawal is located adjacent to an existing Aged Care facility that is operated by Lend Lease, who had applied for a direct sale of this block in 2016. As the block can be separately serviced the Direct Sale application was rejected and an instruction given to release the site to the open market.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: FORMER BELCONNEN WATER POLICE STATION

Talking points:

- The former Belconnen Water Police Station site is located within the ‘foreshore precinct’ outlined in the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan, which is envisaged to become a key destination for entertainment and dining within the Town Centre. Redevelopment of the Water Police site is expected to contribute to achieving this vision for the foreshore precinct.
- The site was released for sale by auction in May 2018 in accordance with the Indicative Land Release Program.
- During the sales period it was considered that the outcome for the sale of the site by auction was unlikely to meet the Suburban Land Agency and the community’s design and development vision for the site. Following careful consideration the former Belconnen Water Police Station site was then withdrawn from the market in June 2018.
- The Suburban Land Agency now intends to re-release the site by a tender process that will include a number of non-financial objectives to be fulfilled, ensuring that the final development outcome on the site is in accordance with the community’s expectations outlined in the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan.
- It is anticipated that the release of the site will occur in the 2019-20 financial year, subject to the approval of Territory Plan Variation no. 342.

Key Information

- The former water police facility (Section 149, Belconnen) was scheduled for release in the 2017-18 financial year but was withdrawn from the market in June 2018 prior to auction.
- An Expression of Interest process was previously held for the site in 2016 but received no conforming submissions.
- The site is subject to changes in setback, pedestrian access and parking controls proposed under Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No. 342 (TPV), which was given interim effect on 4 May 2018.
- The release of the site will await the approval of Territory Plan Variation No. 342, it is anticipated that this will occur in mid-2019.

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Background Information

- Block 29 Section 149, Belconnen is approximately 1,169m² and is located in the Belconnen Town Centre on the Lake Ginninderra foreshore. The site was formerly the Belconnen Water Police Station.
- The site is zoned CZ6 Leisure and Accommodation with a two-storey height limit.
- The site sits within the ‘foreshore precinct’ outlined in the Belconnen Town Centre Master Plan released in September 2016. The Master Plan envisages the foreshore precinct becoming “a key destination for entertainment and dining” incorporating a diverse mixture of uses such as quality outdoor dining, leisure activities, and cultural and community events.
- There are a number of constraints that limit its development potential, including flooding, uncontrolled fill, overland flow, a permanent groundwater table, service and pedestrian access easements areas.

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Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SIGNING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS – SLA AS CUSTODIAN

Talking points:

- As land custodian the Suburban Land Agency (the Agency) may elect to sign Development Application (DA) Forms for proponents (developers) who have purchased land from the Agency and wish to lodge a DA usually for multi-unit developments with the Planning and Land Authority prior to settlement.
- The Agency may also, as land custodian, on occasion provide a letter to accompany a DA for single residential dwellings for more traditional purchasers wishing to lodge planning documentation with the Planning and Land Authority.
- The signing of the DA form is undertaken to assist the block developer in commencing the development approval process, for example pre-application meetings for the sites to bring the site to the market in a shorter timeframe (6-12 months) than it would typically take if they were to wait until settlement of the land occurred and the developer became custodian.
- In signing the Development Application and/or letter as land custodian the SLA confirms that the block developer is the purchaser or purchaser's representative for the site.
- The consent simply allows a proponent to commence a process with the Planning and Land Authority. The consent form clearly states that it does not constitute an approval in-principle or otherwise by the land custodian in relation to the proposed development

Key Information

- The Development Application form is known as Form 4 – Letter of Authorisation, issued by the ACT Government Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.
- In signing Form 4 – Letter of Authorisations it clearly states that:
 - I/we declare that I am/we are the land custodian(s) of the public land or unleased land as described above;
 - I/we authorise the applicant to obtain information in relation to this site through the pre-application process and make an application for development approval.

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- Some sites may also contain a Project Delivery Agreement or other contractual arrangement that does require the Agency to review plans or designs prior to lodgement. This a separate process.

Background Information

- Nil

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SINGLE SELECT PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS – NOTIFIABLE CONTRACTS

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency undertakes a number of single select procurements each year. These procurements are undertaken in accordance with the ACT Government Procurement Regulations (2007).
- Section 10 of the ACT Government Procurement Regulation allows for the responsible Chief Executive Officer to grant exemption to a procurement process if “only a single or limited number of suppliers are available because of the need to purchase equipment that is compatible with existing equipment or because of a supplier’s specialist knowledge”.
- A high proportion of these procurements are for Electrical Reticulation (Evoenergy – formally ActewAGL) and Telecommunications (NBN) in these instances there is a single or limited number of suppliers that are available to undertake the services.
- Gungahlin Design and Construction GTC East Flemington Road – GPR10 Process Exemption with John Holland Pty Ltd and CPB Contractors Pty Ltd (Capital Metro) was for Capital Metro. An element of Gungahlin Town Centre East servicing works by the Suburban Land Agency was along Flemington Road. This portion of the site was in the possession of Capital Metro undertaking the Light Rail construction.
- TM1 User Licence – GPR10 Process Exemption with Excelerated Consulting for licencing of computer software for use in the Suburban Land Agency. In this instance there is a single (unique) supplier that is available to undertake the services.

Key Information

- Evoenergy. Evoenergy is responsible for the installation of infrastructure for electricity connection to the standard as determined by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission’s (ICRC) Electricity Network Capital Contribution Code August 2007. Evoenergy is the only supplier of electrical reticulation infrastructure within the ACT.
- NBN Co. NBN Co are undertaking the roll out of telecommunication infrastructure across Australia. NBN Co. offer full access to retail service providers for Broadband telecommunication services in Greenfield residential estates. Independent advice

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was sought from a specialist consultant (Robin Eckermann and Associates) in February 2017 which recommended the NBN Co for greenfield development in order to minimise the risk of long term failure and to maximise the choice for retail service providers for the benefit of residents.

- Gungahlin Town Centre. The works included civil works to service the Suburban Land Agency blocks within the Gungahlin Town Centre East Estate (Section 230) along the northern verge of Flemington Road between Kate Crace Street and Manning Clarke Crescent. The works also included a pedestrian crossing midway along Flemington Road to the estate blocks on the southern side of Flemington Road
- TM1 User Licence. The works was for licencing for computer software.

Background Information

- Nil

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) presently owns and manages 13 rural properties.
- The SLA has not purchased any rural land since *The Vines* (Block 1582 Belconnen) in June 2018.
- Nine of these rural properties require Land Management Agreements (LMAs), these properties are currently sub-leased.
- The SLA is working closely with ACT Parks and Conservation Services (EPSDD) to complete LMAs for all leased rural properties.
- All LMAs make reference to the Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP) covering rural sites under the custodianship of the SLA.
- The SLA is working closely with the ACT Government Solicitor to put in place formal permanent agreements for all rural properties.

Key Information

- Three LMAs are currently in force, six are in progress and four properties do not require LMAs, but are being managed in accordance with SLA's Bushfire Management Plan.
- Five properties have current sub-leases in place, four processes are underway to formalise sub-leases, three properties have current grazing licenses, and one property is being managed in accordance with the BOP.
- Four of the current sub-leases have a "peppercorn" arrangement in place.

Background Information

- Sub-leases with "peppercorn" arrangements have been set up on advice of land agronomists, with a focus on the costs of managing the land versus the cost of potential rental income, to achieve specified improvements to the properties such as pastoral weed management or eradication.
- Or the terms of "peppercorn" leases may require vacant possession to be given quickly, or to facilitate access for due diligence programs or investigations.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: ASSET RECYCLING INITIATIVE SALES

Talking points:

- During 2017-18 sites for 1,495 dwellings and 50,691m² of mixed-use development were released as part of the Asset Recycling Initiative.
- This was comprised of:
 - The former Bega Flats site in Reid, this sold at auction for \$38.5 million;
 - The former Red Hill Flats site (Red Hill Precinct), this sold by tender for \$50.13 million; and
 - Braddon and Turner, the former Northbourne Flats, (on Northbourne), this site was released by tender in June 2018.

Key Information

- Bega Court was sold by auction on 9 August 2017 to NG Landholdings No 15 Pty Ltd (GEOCON) for \$38.5 million, this settled in May 2018.
- The Red Hill Precinct was sold by tender to Stockland Development Pty Limited and Doma Red Hill Pty Ltd for \$50.13 million, this settled in September 2018. The precinct was sold with a requirement to develop in accordance with the approved Estate Development Plan.
- Settlement of the former Dickson Flats and Karuah Gardens sites, sold by tender in 2016-17 to Art Projects Nominees Pty Ltd for \$26.666 million, occurred in September 2017 and June 2018 respectively.
- Settlement of Dame Pattie Menzies House in Dickson, sold by tender for \$15.03 million to Merrylin Linland Pty Ltd, occurred in October 2017; and
- Settlement of the former Motor Vehicle Registry site in Dickson (future Dickson Government Office site), sold by tender for \$37.375 million to Doma Dickson (Residential) Pty Ltd, occurred in May 2018.

Background Information

- The ACT Government signed the National Partnership Agreement on Asset Recycling with the Australian Government in February 2015. Under this program, 18 land based assets are to be sold before the end of 2018-19.
- The Urban Renewal division in EPSDD is responsible for the implementation of this agreement, with the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) supporting the sale of these assets through assistance with due diligence, demolition of buildings, sales and marketing and other works. The sale proceeds from these assets were delivered through the SLA as a special dividend payment to government.

- Where ARI sites are within the City Precinct both the SLA and the City Renewal Authority (CRA) are involved in the sale. The SLA will manage the sale processes and enter into the legal documents. The CRA is the referral agency for any development application in respect of the Land and will be involved in evaluation of tenders in the sale and consultation with the preferred tenderer for the sale on design intent.
- The sites contained under the ARI are public housing and ACT Government commercial buildings, which offer urban renewal opportunities, in the City, and particularly in Dickson and Lyneham, and along the light rail network.
- Community engagement was integral in the evolution of the Red Hill EDP with a series of workshops to give community members (including local commercial operators) an opportunity to contribute to the Red Hill Precinct design. As a result, the community has indicated its general support for the approved EDP. The Red Hill Precinct Code was amended prior to settlement of the site to reflect the agreed outcomes of this consultation.
- The table below indicates the releases currently scheduled under the Initiative for 2018-19.

Known as	Suburb	Block and Section	Dwellings	Advertising commences	Release method
Stuart Flats	Griffith	B's 22, 23 & 24 S 39	452	December 2018	Auction
Gowrie Court	Narrabundah	B3 S62	177	December 2018	Auction
Strathgordon	Lyons	B9 S53	492	Early 2019	Auction
Macarthur House	Lyneham	B12 S50	530	Early 2019	TBC

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING- HOUSING TARGETS

Talking points:

- Notifiable Instrument NI2018-75 *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency (Housing Target) Determination 2018 (No 1)* sets targets for affordable, community and public housing. This includes 353 affordable dwellings, 34 community housing dwellings and 143 public housing dwellings in 2017-18.
- As at 30 June 2018 releases achieved were: 288 affordable dwellings, 20 community housing dwellings and 113 public housing dwellings.
- The remaining deliverables against the Housing Targets have been carried over to 2018-19 and consist of 30 public housing dwellings in Greenway East (subject to price negotiations with CSD), 65 affordable and 14 community housing dwellings in Strathnairn due to delays to the project as a result of the ACAT appeal.
- As at 26 October 2018 releases had been achieved of: 64 affordable dwellings against the 2018-19 target of 472.

Key Information

- Notifiable Instrument NI2018-508 sets targets for affordable, community and public housing of: 472 affordable dwellings, 20 community housing dwellings and 60 public housing dwellings in 2018-19.
- The 472 sites in the 2018-19 program for affordable home purchase are composed of 60 dwellings in Strathnairn, 120 dwellings in Asset Recycling Initiative sites, 98 dwellings in Multi Unit sites in both infill and Greenfield sites and 194 separate title blocks across Taylor, Whitlam and Wright. The 194 separate title blocks include both compact block (250m² and under) and terrace product.
- Sites in Taylor for 28 and Whitlam for 32 public housing dwellings have been identified, with the community housing to be delivered in Scullin and Giralang as part of the ACT Housing Strategy.
- To ensure the dedicated affordable homes under the targets are purchased by people who need them most, the Government has introduced clear eligibility criteria, aligned with the Government's decision to focus its efforts to assist those households on low to moderate incomes.
- Purchasers will be required to register on a database maintained by the Environment Planning Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and show they meet household income thresholds that place them in the lowest two income quintiles, as

well as showing they do not own any property currently, or in the last two years, and that they intend to live in the home for at least 12 months.

Background Information

- An additional 106 dwellings were released to the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce on community-use zoned sites that did not form part of NI2018-75 and therefore cannot be reported against the housing targets. However, in real terms, delivery was over achieved in the public housing segment.
- Previously Land Rent blocks were included in public ballots for an estate. To better target eligible purchasers it is proposed to identify blocks that would be suitable for Land Rent and hold a Land Rent ballot with entry restricted to eligible applicants. The first of these is programmed for mid-2019.
- Restricted Ballots were held by the former LDA to target moderate to low income earners and while resource intensive, allow the messaging and information provided to be tailored for a less experienced market. The contractual terms contain an obligation on the purchaser to provide confirmation of their eligibility prior to settlement as well as a requirement to seek independent legal and financial advice.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SLA RETURN TO GOVERNMENT

Talking points:

- The 2017-18 total return to Government was \$79.8 million lower than the 2017-18 Budget as a result of lower than budgeted land sales; partially offset by higher capital distributions for Asset Recycling Initiative (ARI) land.
- The lower than budgeted land sales reflects the movement of some settlements from the 2017-18 financial year into the 2018-19 financial year.

Key Information

- The reduced return to Government compared to Budget was driven by the decreased operating result in 2017-18. The reduced operating result was due to settlements that were budgeted to occur in 2017-18 being delayed to 2018-19 for the following:
 - [REDACTED] – Red Hill Precinct ARI site settlement deferral to 2018-19;
 - [REDACTED] – Lower than projected sales in Throsby due to lower than expected demand in that market; and
 - [REDACTED] – The first of three Denman Prospect Stage 2 settlements being deferred to 2018-19 due to the purchaser not being ready to settle on the contracted date. The purchaser was charged interest for the period of the delay in line with Suburban Land Agency policy.
- The reduced operating result impacted on the level of dividend and income tax equivalents.
- The cost of ARI land is recognised as a capital distribution back to Government when the site is transferred to the Suburban Land Agency. Capital distributions recognised in 2017-18 were higher than budget due to delayed transfer of sites which were scheduled to transfer in 2016-17.

Table 1: Comparison of the 2017-18 actual and 2017-18 Budget.

	2017 -18 Actual \$'m	2017-18 Budget \$'m	Variance to Budget \$'m
Dividends declared	161.3	242.6	-81.3
National tax equivalent payments	69.1	104.0	-34.9
Payments for land acquisitions	16.0	15.6	0.4
Payroll tax	0.6	0.7	-0.1

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Stamp duty equivalents / Land holding cost equivalents	1.7	1.1	0.6
Capital Distribution	75.0	39.5	35.5
Total Returns to the Territory	323.7	403.5	-79.8

Background Information

Items that are included in the Suburban Land Agency's return to Government:

- Land payments to Government – payment to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate for the purchase of unleased Territory land;
- Income tax equivalents – paid to the ACT Revenue Office rather than income tax to the Australian Taxation Office under the National Tax Equivalent Regime;
- Dividends – operating result after tax which is returned to Government;
- Payroll tax – paid to Government as a percentage of salaries and wages expenses incurred by the Agency;
- Stamp Duty and Interest equivalents – paid on settlement as a percentage of land payments to Government; and
- Capital distributions – as part of the ARI program, the value of the land that is transferred to the Suburban Land Agency (book value) is recognised as a capital distribution.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SLA SELLING, ADVERTISING AND MARKETING COSTS

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency incurs selling, advertising and marketing expenses as part of its business activities to deliver the Government's Indicative Land Release Program and meet financial targets.
- The 2017-18 selling, advertising and marketing costs totalled \$3.9 million, which was \$9.7 million or 71% lower than the 2017-18 Budget of \$13.6 million.

Key Information

- Selling, advertising and marketing expenses include sales commissions, legal conveyancing, marketing and promotional activities for land releases and undertaking the Mingle community engagement program.
- The lower than budgeted 2017-18 expenses were due to the following:
 1. \$1.4 million relating to selling expenses for Throsby as settlements achieved are lower than budget. This is the result of lower market demand for premium priced land;
 2. \$1.7 million relating to selling expenses for Lawson 2 as this site has been released as an englobo parcel rather than being developed by the Suburban Land Agency; and
 3. \$4.3 million relating to Taylor as the marketing campaign for Taylor 1 was completed in 2016-17 with lower agent commissions than budgeted.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: SLA FINANCIAL VARIANCES – TAX/ REVENUE/ DIVIDEND

Talking points:

- The operating result for 2017-18 was \$81.3 million lower than the budget as a result of revenue being below the budgeted estimate.
- Total revenue for 2017-18 was \$198.6 million lower than budget due to settlements for a number of high value sites being deferred to 2018-19 and softening of demand for premium land.
- The revenue budget represents the best estimate of expected land sales settlements and prices at a point in time (when developing the Budget).
- There are numerous factors that affect the timing of settlements and the prices achieved which in turn have an impact on revenue achieved (e.g. planning approvals, civil works development, the release of land, market behaviour, economic and financial conditions, Commonwealth policies, weather conditions, and the settlement of sales by purchasers).

Key Information

2017-18 actual compared to 2017-18 Budget:

	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Budget	Variance
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Total Revenue	397.9	596.5	-198.6
Total Expenses	167.4	249.9	-82.5
National Tax Equivalentents	69.1	104.0	-34.8
Operating Surplus	161.3	242.6	-81.3

- Total revenue was \$198.6 million lower than the budget primarily due to delayed settlement for the following:
 - [REDACTED] – Red Hill Precinct ARI site settlement deferral to 2018-19;
 - [REDACTED] – lower than projected sales in Throsby due to lower than expected market demand for premium land; and
 - [REDACTED] – the first of three Denman Prospect Stage 2 settlements being deferred to 2018-19 due to the purchaser not being ready to settle on the contracted date. The purchaser was charged interest for the period of the delay in line with Suburban Land Agency’s policy.
- Total expenses was \$82.5 million lower than the budget primarily due to lower than budgeted cost of land sold reflecting lower land sales revenue and the impact of cost revisions for project wide expenses.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
 Cleared by: Chief Executive Officer Ext: 57346
 Information Officer name: John Dietz
 Contact Officer name: Joey Lee Ext: 53367

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- National tax equivalents was \$34.8 million lower than the budget due to the lower operating result.
- The operating surplus was \$81.3 million lower than the budget as a result of the above variances.


Background Information

- On 20 October 2018, the Canberra Times published an article about the Suburban Land Agency's 2017-18 missing the Government's revenue target by almost \$200 million.
- In response to questions from the journalist prior to the article being published, the Agency clarified that the Government did not set 'targets' for the Suburban Land Agency. The Suburban Land Agency's revenue estimates and budgets are set by the Suburban Land Agency in consultation with Government. This forms part of the process of developing the Agency's annual Statement of Intent. The Agency Board, the responsible Minister and the Treasurer agreed to the Statement of Intent and the included budgets and revenue estimates.
- The Suburban Land Agency's budget estimates reflect the timing of a diverse range of factors including planning approvals, civil works development, the release of land, market behaviour, economic and financial conditions, Commonwealth policies, weather conditions, and the settlement of sales by purchasers. There is always some risk that those budget estimates will differ from the outcome due to changing circumstances. This is not uncommon in the land development market. The Suburban Land Agency's 2017-18 budget estimates were based on the best available information at the time of settling the 2017-18 Budget.

Outlook for 2018-19

- The Suburban Land Agency has a land revenue budget of \$700.6 million in 2018-19, break-down provided below:



- The Suburban Land Agency is undertaking a review of all project revenues on a monthly basis to ensure close monitoring of potential risks to meeting its revenue budget.
- Current risks include:
 - **ARI sites** – the Agency works closely with other relevant ACT Government agencies and seeks their input to identify any factors that will have negative impacts on the settlement of remaining ARI sites within 2018-19. The Agency will address these issues in conjunction with other relevant ACT Government agencies.
 - **Throsby** – softening market demand for premium priced land. Further investment is occurring on targeted and innovative marketing and sales campaigns to attract purchasers.
 - 
 - **North Coombs and North Wright** – some land remains unsold after the ballot held in May 2018 . A reinvigorated marketing and sales campaign is currently underway.

- 

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: TREATMENT OF LDA TRANSFERS (INCL. DEFERRED TAX LIABILITY)

Talking points:

- When the former Land Development Agency (LDA) ceased operating as a separate entity on 30 June 2017, the majority of assets and liabilities were transferred to the Suburban Land Agency (the Agency) as per the *Financial Management (Land Development Agency Transfer to Suburban Land Agency) Declaration 2017*, Notifiable Instrument NI2017-343.
- The Agency assumed the former LDA's tax attributes and therefore was required to recognise the corresponding deferred tax liability. The deferred tax liability was recognised through the equity account based on advice from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and subsequently confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Key Information

- The assets and liabilities transferred to the Suburban Land Agency at the date of transfer were as follows:

Assets	\$'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	182,496
Receivables	71,525
Inventories	241,654
Fixed Assets and other	41,654
Total Assets	537,329
Liabilities	
Payables	129,579
Employee Benefits	4,277
Other Provisions	139,757
National Tax Equivalents Payable	48,104
Other Liabilities	113,287
Total Liabilities	435,004
Net Assets	102,325
Equity	
Contributed Equity	102,325
Total Equity	102,325

- Deferred tax liabilities of \$34,215 million existed with the former LDA, however based on advice from PwC (and subsequently confirmed by the ATO), the LDA was required to de-recognise this future liability as it did not meet the definition of a liability as per the accounting standards because the LDA was being discontinued as an entity.
- The \$34,215 million of deferred tax liability was re-recognised on the balance sheet of the Suburban Land Agency through the equity account.

Background Information

- Deferred tax liabilities are the amounts of National Tax Equivalentts payable in future periods relating to taxable temporary differences between the carrying amount of an asset or liability in the balance sheet and its tax base (i.e. the liability arises due to the tax deductions already being claimed through the ATO prior to their recognition as an expense as per the accounting standards).

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

Talking points:

- There was one voluntary redundancy within SLA during the reporting period.
- A Senior Officer Grade B position within the Finance Team.

Key Information

- The redundancy occurred following a functional review of the positions and a review of the required staffing structure of the respective line area.
- The position has been abolished from the SLA staffing establishment.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: BULLYING STATISTICS

Talking points:

- The SLA did not have any formal reports of bullying/ harassment during the reporting period.
- The SLA did not have any code of conduct investigations during the reporting period.

Key Information

- Respect Equity & Diversity (RED) training is a training program within the all staff 'core requirements' as well as being included in the induction program.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: STAFFING PROFILE

- SLA's FTE as at 30 June 2018 was 77.5.
- SLA's head count at 30 June 2018 was 80.
- SLA employed 4 external contractors to undertake business functions during the reporting period.
- The Diversity Profile was comprised of the following:
 - 1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person - currently our portfolio is tracking against our ATSI target (22 people).
 - 16 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse People - no specific target.
 - 4 People with Disability - currently our portfolio is tracking against our disability target (21 people).
- Further profile reporting:
 - FTE and Headcount by Gender
 - Female: 39 Headcount (48.75%)
 - Male: 41 Headcount (51.25%)

Headcount by Age Group and Gender			
	Female	Male	Total
Under 25	2	0	2
25-34	14	4	18
35-44	8	19	27
45-54	13	8	21
55 and over	2	10	12

Key Information

- The diversity profile is based on information captured on the Whole of Government reporting system and provided to directorates. It is noted that disclosure is not compulsory and as some employees choose not to disclose their diversity status, they are not considered in the figures above.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: **WORKERS COMPENSATION**

Talking points:

- 1 compensation claim was submitted and supported during the reporting period.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: DIVERSITY STRATEGIES

Talking points:

- The Suburban Land Agency (the Agency) is committed to enhancing diversity within the organisation to ensure decision making and delivery is informed by, and reflective of our diverse Canberra community.
- The Agency has adopted the whole of government approach to diversity and inclusion, including a Diversity Objectives Action Plan with short, medium and long-term targets. This includes increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Disability, LGBTIQ, gender equality and ex-detainee employment opportunities across the ACT Public Service.
- Some of these actions include: celebrating days significance, all staff training, participation in whole of government networks, ensuring recruitment panels have a 50% gender balance, providing more professional development opportunities for women, including specific internship/ graduate positions within the Agency and leadership conference and training placements, and consistent communication from the Senior Leadership Team on the importance of inclusion.
- The People and Transition Committee (the Committee) was established to assist the Suburban Land Agency Board to fulfil its oversight responsibilities in relation to significant HR issues.
- The Agency's Diversity Objectives Action Plan was endorsed by the Committee, with the Agency responsible for monitoring implementation and reporting back to the Committee annually on progress.

Key Information

Suburban Land Agency Diversity Profile – As at 30 June 2018

Table 1. SLA Diversity Profile

	Headcount	% of Total Staff	Government Target
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1	1.3%	
Culturally & Linguistically Diverse	16	20.0%	
People with disability	4	5.0%	
LGBTIQ	-	-	Nil
Ex-detainee's	-	-	10 x 2020

Cleared as complete and accurate: 29/10/2018
 Cleared by: Chief Executive Officer Ext: 57346
 Information Officer name: John Dietz
 Contact Officer name: Anthony Bailey Ext: 59543

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Disclosure is not compulsory and some employees choose not to disclose. Any such employees would therefore not be considered in the figures above.

Table 2. FTE x gender

Gender	Male	Female
FTE	41	39

Table 3. Gender by Employment Category

Employment Category	Female	Male	Total
Casual	0	0	0
Permanent Full-time	30	35	65
Permanent Part-time	5	0	5
Temporary Full-time	4	6	10
Temporary Part-time	0	0	0
TOTAL	39	41	80

Table 4. Gender by age group

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
Under 25	2	0	2
25-34	14	4	18
35-44	8	19	27
45-54	13	8	21
55 and over	2	10	12

Table 5. Gender by classification

Classification Group	Female	Male	Total
Administrative Officers	13	4	17
Executive Officers	0	5	5
Professional Officers	2	0	2
Senior Officers	24	32	56
TOTAL	39	41	80

**2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism**

**Gordon Ramsay – Minister for Building Quality Improvement
Wednesday 07 November 2018 – 9:30am – 11:00am (1 hour 30 minutes)**

Current Issues	
A.	Improving the ACT Building Regulatory System reforms (with Attachment)
B.	Home Swimming Pools Safety
C.	Building cladding review
D.	Energy Efficiency Disclosure and Rental Efficiency Improvement Projects

CORPORATE (FOR ALL EPSDD MINISTERS) Performance Reporting	
Corp.1.	Financial Report
Corp.2.	Output Costing
Legislative and Policy Reporting	
Corp.3.	Freedom of Information
Corp.4.	Restructuring
Corp.5.	Voluntary Redundancies
Corp.6.	Advertising and Communications costs
Corp.7.	Bullying Statistics
Corp.8.	Staffing Profile
Corp.9.	Workers compensation
Corp.10.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.11.	Directorate Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.12.	ATSI employment strategies
Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

Portfolio: Building Quality Improvement

ISSUE: IMPROVING THE ACT BUILDING REGULATORY SYSTEM REFORMS

Talking points:

- As we have previously announced, the immediate priorities are to expand the licence examinations for new applicants to B and A class licensees, develop codes of practice for builders and building certifiers and finalise minimum documentation guidelines for building approval applications.
- A training course for building surveyors is also in development. The course will also include a module on the ACT's building approval and certification system suitable for all practitioners who design or construct buildings in the ACT.
- The EPSDD annual report includes a new performance measure for the reforms. There is no data for this year as it is a new measure but there are 15 reforms scheduled for completion in the current financial year, including those above. This year's work has been setting up for completion of these 15 integrated and detailed reforms.
- We have heard suggestions for further reforms to be added to the program. While we are open to considering additional measures, the current reforms have been chosen because we believe they will be most effective in increasing compliance and resolving defects. We are focused on completing the existing program.

Key Information

- As well as the reform program, the Standing Committee for Economic Development and Tourism is conducting an inquiry into building quality issues. Many submissions include suggestions for further reforms.
- The Building Ministers' Forum is also considering responses to a report it commissioned on compliance with the National Construction Code, and a report on security of payments commissioned by the Australian Government.

Background Information

- In June 2016, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA, announced the reform package including 43 reforms.
- The current reform program complements previous administrative, policy and legislative reforms, which improved licensing and compliance powers, offences and penalties for failing to comply with a rectification order and building standards, and information for consumers.

Forward work plan

Some reforms relating to payments and dispute resolution (all or part of reforms 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 37, 38, 40, 41, and 43) are dependent on reviewing the findings of the [national security of payments review](#) commissioned by the Australian Government.

This work plan includes remaining reforms other than those that relate to the national review, which will be updated later in 2018 after further discussions between jurisdictions on the response the review.

2018-19

Immediate priorities

- New licence examinations for new class A, B and C builder licences applications
- Minimum documentation requirements for new building approval applications
- Codes of practice for builders and building certifiers
- Continuing work on the new auditing system for building approvals and building work
- Training for building surveyors and other people in the building industry

Reform program

Design and documentation

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Develop guidelines for minimum design documentation for building approval applications |
| 2 | Including advice on high risk building elements in pre-Development Approval advice |

Stage inspection and supervision

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | New code of practice guidelines for builders covering supervision and critical hold points |
| 4 | New code of practice for building certifiers covering stage inspection requirements (remaining part of reform 4) |
| 5 | New regulation for lodgement of stage inspection information after the inspection is complete |
| 30 | Develop, pilot and start first audits under the risk-based auditing and inspection system for regulated building certification and building work (auditing will include assessment against new codes and documents requirements outlined above) |

Licensing

- | | |
|----|--|
| 9 | Expand written assessments (exams) to all building classifications |
| 13 | Require additional information in relation to the nominee and their understanding of their role and eligibility for appointment at the time of application |
| 14 | Expand licence renewal assessments to include rechecking of eligibility and compliance history |
| 15 | Create an online course for building surveyors operating or intending to operate under the ACT's building regulatory system |

16	Introduce a pre-application assessment for building surveyors licence applicants and for licensees who have transferred from other jurisdictions
35	Further consultation on design practitioner licensing, contracting and licence categories (includes scopes of engineering work related to building and construction and developers contracting for sale of new residential buildings)
36	Consult of the findings of the review in relation to insurance and practitioner accountability

Contracts for residential buildings and building work

21	Enact a regulation to delineate agency agreements from a building contract for certain residential building work contracts
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Alternative dispute resolution - residential buildings

29	Consider adoption of new standards and tolerances for building-related disputes and complaints, including contractual disputes
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2019-20

Stage inspection and supervision

30	Complete full deployment of risk-based auditing and inspection system for regulated building certification and building work
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Licensing

31	Consider introduction of non-written forms of assessment after review of six months operation of the written pre-licence assessment for building licence applicants
32	Implement mandatory qualifications for corporate and partnership licences, potentially including financial assessment
33	Expand mandatory qualifications for new building surveyor licence categories to include completion of the online training course.

Contracts for residential buildings and building work

39	Consult on the findings of the review of the ACT building regulatory system in relation to building contracts and the residential building insurance system
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Other

42	Consider issues raised by stakeholders during the consultation where supported by the findings of the review of the ACT building regulatory system
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Status of Reforms

Status updates in **green** for priority reforms

Status update in **blue** for reforms scheduled for completion in 2018-19

Status updates in **purple** for reforms schedule for completion in 2019-20

Status updates in **orange** for reforms pending further national work on security of payments

Greyed columns are completed reforms

No.	Category	Reform	Status	Notes
1	Design and documentation	Develop guidelines for minimum design documentation for building approval applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commencing with initial design documentation, with a view to expanding to maintenance documentation at a later stage, • expanding to all classifications of buildings over time, • starting with voluntary compliance with a transition period for moving to mandatory within 6 months of release of the guidelines. 	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov-Jan – Targeted consultation • February 2019 – Release of guideline (start of transition period) • Feb-June 2019 Series of information and education sessions with designers and building certifiers • 1 July 2019 – transition ends. All new applications must comply with the guide.
2	Design and documentation	Consider including some aspects of advice on high-risk building elements (e.g. balconies over habitable spaces) in the existing pre-DA process to alert people to high-risk features and things that may be incompatible with building laws, with a view to expand the range of issues as resources and skills increase.	In progress	Advice to be aligned with new minimum documentation requirements for building approval applications (Item 1) and incorporated into new planning administrative system.
3	Stage Inspection and Supervision	Develop guidelines for builders for supervision and critical hold points with the intention they will be adopted as codes of practice under the Building Act.	In progress	Guidelines in development – expected release for consultation early in 2019.
4	Stage Inspection and Supervision	Develop new provisions in the Building Act outlining the functions of the certifier and the purpose and scope of stage inspections, and supporting codes of practice.	Partially complete	New provisions complete, see particularly new section 17A Certifier—functions, Building Act. Code of practice in progress – links to documentation guidelines and new audit program. Expected release for consultation first quarter 2019 following release of documentation guidelines.

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No.	Category	Reform	Status	Notes
5	Stage Inspection and Supervision	Enact regulations to require stage inspection information shortly after the inspection is complete.	Pending release of new electronic lodgement system.	The replacement system for eDevelopment will have improved functionality for lodgement of information throughout a building project.
6	Licensing	Remove architectural and engineering qualifications from the mandatory qualifications schedule, with a transition period for applicants who have made an application prior to the commencement.	Complete	
7	Licensing	Implement a conditioning system for applicants with insufficient experience on residential buildings and revise mandatory qualifications in relation to evidence, critical stages and stages external verification of experience.	Complete	New mandatory qualifications instrument outlines types of building works experience required by applicants. Applicant licenses are tailored to relevant experience administratively.
8	Licensing	Revise mandatory qualifications to specifically give the Registrar discretion not to consider references from builders with a poor compliance history or in relation to defective work.	Complete	
9	Licensing	Expand the written assessment prepared for the pilot for class c licensees to incorporate additional subjects, and include random result validation, and create assessments for A and B class licensees.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class B trial complete. • Class A trial 7 November. • Anticipated start of applications post 1 December.
10	Licensing	Consider interviews conducted by the regulator for applicants that either do not meet the mandatory qualifications or have marginal results in assessments only.	Complete	In operation under Regulation 14 of the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Regulation.
11	Licensing	Amend existing provisions for corporations, partnership and nominees eligibility in the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act and Regulation to clarify their roles and obligations.	Complete	Revisions made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016.
12	Licensing	Expand the scope of the existing power to declare mandatory qualifications to include qualifications for all entities that may apply for a licence i.e. corporations and partnerships.	Complete	Amendment made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment 2016.
13	Licensing	Require additional information in relation to the nominee and their understanding of their role and eligibility for appointment at the time of application.	In progress	Scheduled for completion end of 2018-19

No.	Category	Reform	Status	Notes
14	Licensing	Revise operational policies and educational materials to reflect the intention of the law in relation to the corporation/partnership's responsibility to supervise their nominees and the work under its licence.	In progress	New materials will also align with the new code of practice for supervision when completed.
15	Licensing	Develop and implement a pre-application assessment for building surveyors licence applicants and for licensees who have transferred from other jurisdictions.	In progress	Assessment will incorporate obligations under new codes of practice and include completion of online course.
16	Licensing	Develop and make available an online course for building surveyors operating or intending to operate under the ACT's building regulatory system.	In progress	New modules will align with the new codes of practice and will be finalised when the codes are complete. Materials for first module will be finalised by December 2018 – for provision to contractor.
17	Licensing	Provide a new ground for occupational discipline that the licensee is, or has become, ineligible to hold a licence.	Complete	Amendment made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment 2016.
18	Licensing	Amend provisions for automatic suspensions on loss of eligibility so that they do not end after 3 months but continue as long as the ground for the suspension exists, if the licensee has not reported the circumstances to the Registrar.	Complete	Amendment made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment 2016.
19	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	Expand the existing statutory warranties to all private residential buildings or parts of buildings, including those above three storeys.	Complete	Amendment made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016. New warranties in effect from 19 August 2017.
20	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	Amend the Building Act to allow regulations to prescribe requirements for contracts for residential building work.	Complete	Amendment made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016.
21	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	Enact a regulation to delineate agency agreements from a building contract for certain residential building work contracts.	In progress	Powers to regulate certain aspects of contracts included in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016.

No.	Category	Reform	Status	Notes
22	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	Develop and consult on standard terms, and standard information for a building contract including explanations on common variation clauses and their meaning.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Powers to regulate certain aspects of contracts included in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016. Review of security of payments considered application of security of payments system to contracts with residential owners.
23	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	Consult further in relation to specific regulations for a progress payment model for certain residential building contracts based on payment only for work completed.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Review of security of payments considered application of security of payments system to disputes with residential owners.
24	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	24. To further assist to reduce phoenixing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the capacity for the Registrar to consider an applicant or licensee's history, including the history of directors, partners and nominees, under other licences. • Introduce the ability for the Registrar and ACAT to consider whether a breach is relevant to multiple associated licences and take appropriate action in relation to those licences as well. • Increase reporting requirements for automatic suspension grounds. 	Complete	Legislative revisions made in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016
25	Project Funding - Payment - Claims and Retentions	Increase reporting requirements for licensees in relation to insolvency.	Complete	Increased reporting requirements introduced in the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2016.
26	Project Funding - Payment - Claims and Retentions	Review the response to the recent federal inquiry on insolvency and results of other trials of various models in other jurisdictions and continue targeted consultation, with a view to either conducting an ACT trial to fill in any knowledge gaps if required, or implementing changes in the ACT if Commonwealth legislation is not supported or has insufficient coverage.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Currently considering the findings of the national review
27	Project Funding - Payment - Claims and Retentions	Review the effectiveness of ACT procurement arrangements for security of retentions held by contractors and progress payments on government projects.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Currently considering the findings of the national review

No.	Category	Reform	Status	Notes
28	Alternative Dispute Resolution - Residential Buildings	Refine the proposed alternative dispute resolution model based on consultation feedback and conduct a second round of consultation.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Review of security of payments considered application of security of payments system to disputes with residential owners.
29	Alternative Dispute Resolution - Residential Buildings	Consider adoption of new standards and tolerances for building-related disputes and complaints, including contractual disputes.	In progress	For completion 2018-19
30	Stage Inspection and Supervision	Complete implementation of the risk-based auditing and inspection system for regulated building certification and building work.	In progress	Auditing system will also include compliance with new codes and documentation requirements. Piloting of individual modules commenced.
31	Licensing	Consider introduction of non-written forms of assessment after review of <u>6 months</u> of operation of the written pre-licence assessment for building licence applicants.	Incomplete	Pending completion of Item 9
32	Licensing	Implement mandatory qualifications for corporate and partnership licences, potentially including financial assessment.	Incomplete	Pending completion of Item 35
33	Licensing	Expand mandatory qualifications for new building surveyor licence categories to include completion of the online training course.	Incomplete	Pending completion of Item 16
34	Licensing	Expand licence renewal assessments for all licensees to include rechecking of eligibility and compliance history.	In progress	For completion 2018-19
35	Licensing	Consult on the findings of the review in relation to licensing, licensing categories and 'contracting' as a scope of work.	In progress	Includes consultation on licensing for design practitioners, including people undertaking engineering of buildings and building services, and people contracting for supply of new residential buildings. Consultation following release of documentation guidelines
36	Licensing	Consult on the findings of the review of the ACT building regulatory system in relation to insurance and practitioner accountability.	Incomplete	For completion 2018-19

No.	Category	Reform	Status	Notes
37	Contracts for Residential Buildings and Building Work	Consider expansion of rectification and other relevant powers to allow orders to be issued to people closely associated with an insolvent or 'disappeared' corporate licence.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Currently considering the findings of the national review
38	Project Funding - Payment - Claims and Retentions	Review federal inquiry funding's on insolvencies in the construction industry and associated response, with a view to fill in any gaps in the system if required.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Currently considering the findings of the national review
39	Contracts for residential buildings and building work	Consult on the findings of the review of the ACT building regulatory system in relation to building contracts and the residential building insurance system.	Incomplete	For completion 2019-20
40	Project Funding - Payment - Claims and Retentions	Conduct trial of project/retention account model (if agreed and required).	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Currently considering the findings of the national review
41	Project Funding - Payment - Claims and Retentions	Review the Security of Payments system in the ACT.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	National review included considering ACT legislation within the terms of reference for the review.
42	Other	Consider issues raised by stakeholders during the consultation where supported by the findings of the review of the ACT building regulatory system.	Incomplete	For completion 2019-20
43	Alternative Dispute Resolution - Residential Buildings	Complete implementation of alternative dispute resolution model.	Pending outcomes of national review of security of payments	Review of security of payments considered application of security of payments system to disputes with residential owners.

ISSUE: HOME SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Talking points:

- In March 2018, Minister Gentleman announced the Government will begin to take steps over the coming years to ensure every backyard pool in the territory meets modern safety standards.
- The first step was to talk to industry about how a pool safety inspection regime might work and how long installers would need to bring every pool up to modern standards. EPSDD did this in June 2018.
- Our next step is consultation with pool owners and the community on fair transition times, potential concessions for properties where there are physical constraints to installing a fully compliant barrier, and the possibility of extensions to comply in particular circumstances - for example, if a pool owner is in financial hardship but needs a new pool barrier or substantial upgrade to the existing barrier.
- Consultation will start shortly and run throughout the summer. This is a great time for people to check if their pool has a barrier that meets current safety standards and then have their say on pool reforms. We will also be running the Backyard Lifeguard campaign again this summer.
- Some pools already have barriers isolating the pool that may need only minor upgrades. Many backyards have some structures that may be able to form part of a barrier already in place. Any swimming pools or spa pools built since mid-2010 have to comply with the safety standard currently in place. So for many people there may be no or low costs to have a compliant pool barrier.

Key Information

- Most other states and territories also require existing pools to be maintained and upgraded at defined times.
- The swimming pool reforms and Backyard Lifeguard campaign are not budget funded initiatives. This is why there are no performance indicators for the project.

Background Information

- In December 2009, the then ACT Minister for Planning, Andrew Barr MLA announced the ACT's intention to develop new laws for pool fences. In March 2011, the then ACT Planning and Land Authority consulted on options for improving safety in backyard pools in the ACT including a range of regulatory options.
- In 2017, in response to the Coronial Inquiry on the drowning death of toddler River Parry in an ACT swimming pool, the ACT Government agreed in principle to the ACT legislative framework requiring all existing home swimming pools to comply with the latest version of the Building Code. It noted the government was considering potential schemes for improving the safety of existing swimming pools.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/10/2018

Cleared by: Erin Brady

Information Officer name:

Contact Officer name:

Deputy Director-General

Vanessa Morris

Ext: 54522

Ext: 59462

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Portfolio: Building Quality Improvement

ISSUE: BUILDING CLADDING REVIEW

Talking points:

- The ACT Government formed the Inter-agency Building Cladding Review Group to determine whether combustible cladding materials have been used in Territory buildings in a way that doesn't comply with ACT building standards, or poses an unacceptable risk to building occupants.
- The Review Group is currently working with ACT Government Directorates to identify any government-owned and operated buildings that may be at risk from incorrect use of cladding materials.
- The Review Group is also preparing to extend work to privately owned buildings in the ACT.
- Building Ministers have worked together on measures to address problems with non-conforming building products. Ministers agreed to a labelling scheme for certain cladding materials, and to use their available laws and powers to prevent the inappropriate use of polyethylene core panels on buildings until the labelling scheme is in place. This is why there are a variety of different approaches to restricting the use of some types of combustible cladding across Australia.
- Some jurisdictions have introduced new processes to require a review of any use of ACP or other types of combustible cladding or restricted its use on some buildings. In the ACT, we did not need to do this because we already have processes that other jurisdictions did not or do not have. We will continue to use these processes to assess the use of potentially combustible cladding on buildings in the Territory.

Key Information

- EPSDD chairs the Inter-agency Building Cladding Review Group, which includes members from EPSDD, the Emergency Services Agency and Access Canberra.
- The review will initially include all buildings with National Construction Code classifications of Class 2-9 buildings in the Territory covered by the ACT *Building Act 2014*, with priority for buildings including classes 2, 3, 4 and 9 classifications of two storeys and higher (multi-residential buildings and public/entertainment buildings).

Background Information

- There have been building fires in high rise buildings with combustible cladding. Of these the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017 has caused the greatest loss of life. When investigators report, we will review and consider any findings that are relevant to ACT building standards.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/10/2018

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Portfolio: Building Quality Improvement

ISSUE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY DISCLOSURE REVIEW AND RENTAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Talking points:

Energy Efficiency Disclosure System

- The ACT Government is undertaking a review of the ACT's disclosure system for energy efficiency ratings (EER) on sale and lease of properties to make sure it continues to be appropriate, and continues to provide useful information to homeowners and renters.
- There are a range of factors property renters and/or purchasers take into account when making their decisions – the EER is one of the features people consider, but not the only consideration.
- The review covers regulatory, administrative and technical aspects of the scheme, including what should be included in an energy assessment and how best to present information to help people reduce their energy use.
- The Government will be undertaking community consultation on the future directions of the scheme in early 2019.
- As requested by the Assembly, I will be providing a report on the progress of the review by the last sitting week in 2018.

Key Information

- The Parliamentary Agreement Item 5.3 is *Conduct a review of the effectiveness of the Energy Efficiency Ratings Scheme*. The review EPSDD is undertaking goes further than this and also includes other issues, such as the need to transition from the existing assessment and rating system and other administrative and legal issues.
- There is funding in the 2018-19 Budget for work associated with the Review.

Background Information

- On 1 August 2018, the Assembly passed a motion that, amongst other things, requires the Government to provide a report on the progress of the review by the last sitting day in 2018.

Talking points:

Rental Energy Efficiency Improvement Project

- There is a wide variety of properties available to renters – ranging in efficiency from less efficient to highly efficient. Just like owner-occupiers, renters also have a wide variety of circumstances and considerations when choosing a property.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared by:

Information Officer name:

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- The Government is investigating regulatory and non-regulatory ways to improve the energy efficiency of rental properties with lower efficiency and will be engaging with the community on the benefits and costs of different policy options. While this includes the potential for minimum requirements, it is not exclusively considering minimum energy ratings.
- This work will be influenced by the findings of the energy efficiency disclosure review, which is why consultation on this project will follow consultation on the energy efficiency disclosure scheme.
- As we continue this work we will be looking at options that can work in practice, the likely effects on people renting and people who own rental properties, and the interaction with building laws and other schemes.
- As well as standards, there is also a range of Government programs to help people improve the efficiency of their homes and appliances, including the ACTSmart programs and the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme.

Key Information

- Parliamentary Agreement Item 6.7 is *Undertake a regulatory impact statement into setting minimum Energy Efficiency Ratings standards for rental properties by the end of 2017, with a view to implementing measures to improve energy efficiency of rental properties.*
- There is funding in the 2018-19 Budget for work associated with completing the rental.

Background Information

- Better Renting has recently released a report arguing that any property below a 5 star rating is 'energy deficient' and using energy load bands used in the software to calculate the additional costs for renters with lower star rated housing. It called for minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties.
- While lower efficiency houses will need heating and cooling for longer periods to keep the temperature inside within the range assumed in the software, the energy loads are not predictive or exact as they don't take into account the type and efficiency of appliances in the house or the occupants own actions or comfort levels.
- An earlier report took a small subset of data from properties advertised early in 2018 and concluded that most rented properties were 0 star and most owner-occupied properties had medium-high ratings. This is not necessarily the case. The energy efficiency disclosure review includes analysis of the relative efficiencies of different property and occupancy types.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

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2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Shane Rattenbury – Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability–
Tuesday 13 November 2018 – 11:15am – 12:30pm (1 hour 15 minutes)

Current Issues	
A.	Energy Emergency Management

Performance analysis		
Climate Change and Sustainability		
1.	ACT Climate Strategy to a Net Zero Emissions Territory	Pg. 73
2.	Progress towards 100% renewable electricity generation by 2020	Pg. 75
3.	Zero Emission Vehicle summit (UK) and Global Climate Action Summit (USA)	N/A
4.	Next Generation Energy Storage Program	Pgs. 75, 165
5.	ACT Climate Change Adaption Strategy	Pg. 73
6.	ACT's Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-21	Pg. 73
7.	Carbon Neutral Government	Pg. 76
8.	ACT Climate Change Council	Pg. 77
9.	Community Zero Emissions Grants Program	Pg. 31
10.	Community Gardens Grants	N/A
11.	2016-17 ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory	Pg. 73
12.	No-gas trial in Stages One and Two of the Gininderry Development	N/A
13.	Actsmart programs – households	Pg. 67
14.	Actsmart programs – business	Pg. 69
15.	Actsmart programs – community partners funding	Pg. 71
16.	Actsmart programs – schools	Pg. 72
17.	Renewables Industry Development	N/A
18.	COAG Energy Council	Pg. 108

2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Annexed Reports		
19.	Report on the operation and administration of the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012 for 2017-18 – Topic	Pg. 265

CORPORATE (FOR ALL EPSDD MINISTERS) Performance Reporting	
Corp.1.	Financial Report
Corp.2.	Output Costing
Legislative and Policy Reporting	
Corp.3.	Freedom of Information
Corp.4.	Restructuring
Corp.5.	Voluntary Redundancies
Corp.6.	Advertising and Communications costs
Corp.7.	Bullying Statistics
Corp.8.	Staffing Profile
Corp.9.	Workers compensation
Corp.10.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.11.	Directorate Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.12.	ATSI employment strategies
Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ENERGY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Talking points:

- The ACT enjoys some of the most reliable electricity and gas supplies in Australia. Interruptions to these supplies are rare and are usually of a short duration, usually associated with maintenance of network infrastructure.
- Significant unplanned interruptions to supply, while exceedingly rare, can result from unanticipated or unpredictable events. They can be local or national in scale.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is the lead agency in the ACT in relation to energy emergencies, and advises the ACT Government on potential or actual interruptions and the need for restrictions. If an interruption is linked to the national energy market, EPSDD advises the Government by coordinating with other jurisdictions and national energy market bodies to minimise disruptions.

Key Information

- The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) operates the National Electricity Market and coordinates national gas network infrastructure. One of AEMO's responsibilities is to ensure our power system is reliable and secure. During a major power system emergency, AEMO provides leadership and makes decisions that ensure industry participants are cooperating and coordinating with other jurisdictions.
- In the event of an energy emergency, EPSDD would seek advice from AEMO and advise the ACT Government on an appropriate response to the situation.
- In the event of a gas supply emergency, EPSDD would coordinate with AEMO and gas utilities to manage adverse impacts.

Background Information

- EPSDD advises on the ACT Government's participation on the National Electricity Market Emergency Management Forum (NEMEMF), the National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC) and the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee (NOSEC).
- Evoenergy, the ACT electricity and gas distribution network operator, is responsible for the day to operation and management of ACT energy infrastructure. Evoenergy coordinates responses to localised, small-scale energy supply outages, such as those caused by storms and fallen trees.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ACT CLIMATE STRATEGY TO A NET ZERO EMISSIONS TERRITORY

Talking points:

- The ACT Climate Strategy will place the ACT on the pathway to net zero emissions by 2045, with particular focus on actions to 2025.
- The ACT Climate Strategy development process has involved considerable community and stakeholder engagement.
- The ACT Climate Strategy is being developed taking into consideration input received from extensive community consultation and stakeholder engagement, together with analysis of available options to reduce emissions.
- The Climate Strategy is being coordinated with other key government strategic approaches, including the transport strategy and the planning refresh.
 - This is critical given that many of the opportunities and challenges in reducing greenhouse gas emissions involve citizens of Canberra changing how they move around the city.
- From 2020, when electricity will be 100% renewable, our biggest emissions sources are transport (61%) and natural gas use (22%).
 - This presents challenges as these sectors require a wider range of approaches and need active community engagement for success.
- The Climate Strategy will canvass measures to reduce emissions in the near-term, control emissions growth, and prepare for measures required in the long term.
- We plan to release the Climate Strategy in early 2019.

Background Information

- In December 2017, the ACT Government released the *ACT's Climate Strategy to a Net Zero Emissions Territory* discussion paper. Over 2000 individual suggestions were received during the consultation period. These suggestions were developed into the Register of Ideas, which contains over 900 distinct ideas. The Register of Ideas and a community engagement report were released through the ACT Government's Yoursay webpage.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: PROGRESS TO 100 PER CENT RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2020

Talking points:

- All contracts are in place and Canberra is on track to reach its world leading 100 per cent by 2020 renewable electricity target.

Key Information

- The Crookwell 2 wind farm commenced ACT-supported operation in September 2018. It will generate over 300,000 megawatt-hours per year of renewable electricity, enough to power around 42,000 Canberra homes. The wind farm was built by Global Power Generation Australia who, as part of delivering investment benefits to Canberra, employed 77 locals during construction.
- Stage two of the Hornsdale Wind Farm in South Australia will commence ACT-supported operation in December 2018, and stage three in October 2019.
- Around 75 per cent of the ACT's 100 per cent target will be achieved through the large-scale wind and solar projects shown in the below table. The remaining 25 per cent will be delivered through GreenPower purchases, rooftop solar generation and the ACT's share of the national Renewable Energy Target (RET).

	<i>Location</i>	<i>% of 2020 demand</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>FIT (\$/MWh)</i>	<i>FIT start</i>
Solar Auction					
Royalla solar farm	ACT	1.2%	20	\$186.00	18-Aug-14
Maoneng solar farm	ACT	0.7%	13	\$178.00	18-Nov-16
Williamsdale solar farm	ACT	0.5%	7	\$186.00	3-Feb-17
First Wind Auction					
Ararat wind farm	Ararat, VIC	8.9%	80.5	\$87.00	14-Apr-17
Coonooer Bridge wind farm	Bendigo, VIC	2.7%	19.4	\$81.50	28-Feb-16
Hornsdale 1 wind farm	Port Augusta, SA	13.6%	100	\$92.00	16-Feb-17
Second Wind Auction					
Hornsdale 2 wind farm	Port Augusta, SA	13.2%	100	\$77.00	01-Dec-18
Sapphire 1 wind farm	Glenn Innes, NSW	11.5%	100	\$89.10	1-May-18
Next Gen Auction					
Hornsdale 3 wind farm	Port Augusta, SA	13.6%	109	\$73.00 (\$78.00*)	01-Oct-19
Crookwell 2 wind farm	Capital Region	10.0%	91	\$86.60 (\$90.40*)	17-Sep-18

- ACT climate change policies are expected to contribute around \$164 to the typical annual electricity bill of a two person household in the ACT in 2018-19. Costs are offset by average annual savings of \$293 for nearly 70,000 households, and \$2,900 for the 2,300 businesses that have participated in the Government's Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE SUMMIT (UK) AND GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT (USA)

Talking points:

- Between 5 September and 17 September 2018, I travelled to the UK and the USA to participate in the Zero Emission Vehicle Summit (ZEV Summit) and the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS).
- The ZEV Summit was the world’s first summit to focus on zero emissions vehicles and brought together Ministers, city leaders, policy makers, industry leaders and financial and academic institutions.
 - I signed the Birmingham Declaration on behalf of the ACT, which expresses a shared commitment to transitioning to zero emissions vehicles by supporting the development of zero emissions technology and collaborating internationally.
- The GCAS was a major event attended by more than 4,500 leaders from state and local governments, business, and community groups. It allowed for sharing of climate action experience and considering joint action, recognising the key role of sub-national governments.
 - I participated in a panel session on clean energy systems and moving towards a 100% renewables future, and was invited to speak about the Powering Past Coal Alliance, which the ACT officially joined at the Summit.
 - The ACT co-hosted a ‘Carbon Zero Cities’ affiliate event in partnership with the City of Sacramento, California. The event was an investment and a commitment by the ACT to work with other mid-sized cities and jurisdictions internationally to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century.
 - A bi-lateral declaration was signed by the ACT and Sacramento, committing to work together by exchanging knowledge and actively pursuing policies to become carbon zero cities.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: NEXT GENERATION ENERGY STORAGE PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage Grants program is supporting the roll out of up to 36 megawatts of (or 5,000) solar battery storage systems by 2020 in Canberra homes and businesses.
- Over 960 systems have been supported under the program to date, with the rate of installation expected to increase throughout 2019.
- Each system installed is required to meet specific 'smart' requirements and collect critical data to inform industry research and development.
- The virtual power plant recently trialled by Reposit Power and Evoenergy is a good example of how the smart requirements of the program are stimulating innovation in the local renewable energy industry.
- This project rewards participating households for exporting their stored electricity that has been generated from a rooftop solar system.
- It also coordinates batteries distributed across the city and can help manage peak electricity demand and improve grid security.

Key Information

- The program's current subsidy is \$825 per kilowatt of sustained peak output. For the average residential battery system, this equates to around a \$4000 rebate, bringing the total installed cost of a typical solar PV and battery system to around \$12,000 to \$16,000. The cost and rebate varies significantly between systems.
- The subsidies are provided by eight installers selected through a competitive process. This ensures the best value for money for the Territory, and that batteries are only installed by skilled and accredited tradespeople. The process also favoured installers who committed to contributing to the local renewable energy industry.

Background Information

- The program has been operating since April 2016 and is funded from \$25 million in industry funding secured through the 200 megawatt Next Generation renewables auction (from the Crookwell 2 and Hornsdale Stage 3 wind farms).

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ACT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION STRATEGY

Talking points:

- The ACT's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was released in 2016. Two-thirds of the 27 Adaptation Strategy actions have been fully or substantially completed, with remaining actions to be completed by 2020.
- Adaptation priorities and actions are being incorporated into the new climate strategy from 2020.
- CSIRO Land and Water's [study](#) of areas of high urban heat (and cold) and most vulnerable people was publicly released in February 2018, along with the [Living Infrastructure Information Paper](#).
- The first longitudinal Benchmarking Resilience survey of the ACT community by the University of Canberra attracted more than 2700 participants. Early results showed almost all Canberrans want continued government action on climate change.
 - 90% of respondents want more regulation to make new buildings more energy efficient and climate-wise
 - More than 80% support the Government's goal of net-zero emissions
 - Over half of the people surveyed believe climate change is the most important issue for Government today.

Key Information

- The actions in the [ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy: Living With a Warmer Climate 2016](#), are focussed on what the government can do in the short term (to 2020) to start the transition to become less vulnerable and more resilient to impacts.
- The Adaptation Strategy actions are in sectors that reflect different government services such as emergencies and disasters, health and wellbeing, settlements and infrastructure, nature conservation and water.

Background Information

- The ACT is already 1 degree Celsius hotter than the long-term average. Further global warming is already 'locked-in'.
- The risks from climate impacts are from extremes like hotter, longer heatwaves; more frequent droughts; more severe bushfires; more intense storms and consequent flash flooding.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

**ISSUE: ACT'S TRANSITION TO ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLES ACTION PLAN
2018-21**

Talking points:

- By 2020, as we reach our goal of 100% renewable electricity, transport will be our largest greenhouse gas emitting sector, at 60% of remaining emissions.
- Earlier this year, Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services Megan Fitzharris and I launched the Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan, which outlines a number of initiatives which will help to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles.
- Implementation of the Action Plan is already underway. A key action is the progressive transition of passenger vehicles in the government fleet, as their lease ends, to electric vehicles.

Key Information

- In 2014 the ACT was the first jurisdiction to introduce a stamp duty exemption for zero emissions vehicles registered for the first time with an ongoing annual vehicle registration discount of 20%. This includes plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- The ACT is undertaking a trial of two battery electric buses and one hybrid diesel-electric bus, with consideration of future zero emission public transport underway.
- The ACT will soon take delivery of a fleet of 20 Hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles and continues to investigate the potential for Hydrogen fuelled mobility, including Hydrogen fuelled buses.

Background Information

- The Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan includes, among other things, a commitment to:
 - transition the ACT Government passenger vehicle fleet (where fit for purpose) to zero emission vehicles. 50% of all new lease vehicles will be ZEVs in 2019-20 and from 2020-21 onwards all new lease vehicles will be ZEVs.
 - requiring new developments to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - allowing zero emission vehicles to drive in transit lanes; and
 - facilitating the installation of charge stations on major routes to and from Canberra including routes to Sydney and coastal areas.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: CARBON NEUTRAL GOVERNMENT

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is leading by example in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Carbon Neutral Government (CNG) program coordinates a whole-of-government approach to achieving carbon neutrality in government operations in a cost-effective manner by 2020.
- ACT Government emissions currently account for around 4% of the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions profile.
- Emissions from government operations have fallen by an estimated 27% since 2012-13 when the program began, while service delivery has increased. This has been achieved through mitigation actions like large-scale energy efficiency upgrades and the ACT's transition to 100% renewable electricity.

Key Information

- To become net carbon neutral means that any residual emissions in 2020 will need to be fully offset by the generation or purchase of carbon credits/offsets, at a cost to Government of approximately \$1 – 2 million per year.
- The 2018-19 ACT Government budget provided resources to strengthen the CNG Framework and ensure continued implementation of the CNG program. In 2018-19 the CNG Program will focus on opportunities in agencies to improve energy efficiency, transition from gas to electric heating options and minimise emissions associated with the transport sector.

CNG Fund

- To support agencies to reduce emissions the government established a CNG Fund which provides interest-free loans for energy efficiency and emission reduction projects.
- 29 ACT Government projects have been supported under the CNG Fund since 2010, to a value of approximately \$14.9 million. A diverse range of projects have been supported including; lighting upgrades, heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) upgrades, smart building management systems, and an off grid solar photovoltaic system connected to battery storage. These CNG Fund projects make ongoing annual cost and energy savings. Project savings are currently estimated to be more than \$2 million per year.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

Talking points:

- ACT's Climate Change Council's role is to advise the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as building resilience and adapting to climate change.
- On 19 October 2017, the Council submitted advice on the importance of setting interim greenhouse gas emission targets for the ACT, and to recommend particular targets for the years 2025, 2030 and 2040.
- The Council also proposed that the ACT should achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 or earlier, and that the Territory not rely on purchased emissions offsets to achieve emission targets.
- Legislation was introduced in September 2018 to adopt both the net zero and interim targets.

Key Information

- The Council met four times in 2017-18 and progressed work through sub-committees, meetings with government Ministers and other advisory groups.
- Minister Rattenbury participated at Council meetings on three occasions during the 2017-18 financial year.
- As part of its ongoing work, the Council engages with representatives from business and the community to consult on a range of climate change matters. Of note the Council hosted a business leaders event and building industry workshop in June 2018.
- The Council released a report titled 'Net Zero Precincts' in June 2018, which explores the benefits of implementing carbon neutrality at a precinct level, be it a shopping centre, suburb or community hub.

Background Information

- The Council is constituted under *the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*. It is comprised of recognised experts in the areas of climate change science, planning, economics, community engagement and business.
- There are currently seven members on the Council. Four of the current members will have served two full terms by 30 June 2019 and will not be reappointed. In the coming months, expressions of interest will be sought from the community to join the Council.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: COMMUNITY ZERO EMISSIONS GRANTS PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The ACT Government launched the Community Zero Emissions Grants in 2017 which will provide \$550,000 of funding over four years.
- Funding is available to eligible community groups and sponsored individuals to lead initiatives which support the ACT's transition to net zero emissions by 2045.
- Round One of the program targeted innovative projects across the energy, transport, building, land use and waste sectors with a focus on improved sustainability outcomes and effective community engagement.
- Six projects received \$140,000 of funding in Round One, including an interactive smartphone app and a solar powered community composter.

Key Information

- Up to \$25,000 is available to eligible individual applicants and up to \$50,000 for joint applications.
- Round One recipients were Australian Dance Party, Canberra Environment Centre, SEE Change, The Neighbourhood Effect, Oz Harvest and Woden Community Service.
- Round Two recipients were Mental Health Foundation, Better Renting, Australian PV Institute, Uniting Care Kippax, Canberra Environment Centre, Woden SEE Change and Brindabella Christian College.
- One of the recipients (Woden Community Service) was not able to complete the program with funding returned and redirected to Round Two.
- Unions ACT initially successful in Round one withdrew from the process prior to receiving funding.

Background Information

- Round One announced on 25 May 2017 by Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Shane Rattenbury.
- Round One recipients were announced by Minister Rattenbury on 1 November 2017
- Round Two was launched by Minister Rattenbury on 23 April 2018, with applications closing on 17 June 2018.
- Round two recipients were announced by Minister Rattenbury on 27 August 2018.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: COMMUNITY GARDENS GRANTS

Talking points:

- The ACT Government launched the third round of the Actsmart Community Gardens Grants in August 2017, with \$40,000 of funding available.
- Program eligibility was expanded in 2017/18 to include owners corporations of multi-unit developments to cater for the growing numbers of Canberrans living in units and townhouses.
- Nine projects were successful, including the establishment of community gardens within two apartment complexes.
- Successful recipients of Round Three were the Canberra Environment Centre, Hamilton Park Body Corporate, Sentinel Residents Owners' Corporation, Canberra Organic Growers Society, Salvation Army Housing, Northside Community Services, Manning Clark House, Kingston Organic Community Garden and O'Connor Community Orchard.

Key Information

- Funding of up to \$10,000 per grant is available.
- The Community Gardens Grants provide funding to support the development and expansion of community gardens across Canberra, meeting one or more of the following priorities:
 - benefit to the wider community, for example, supply of food to disadvantaged people or promoting social cohesion and community health;
 - encourage broad participation including from a diverse cross section of the community; and
 - have a high level of community support, including volunteers and sponsorship.

Background Information

- The Community Gardens Grants were first launched in 2015.
- A fourth round was announced in July 2018, with 20 applications received. Nine projects were successful, sharing in \$40,000 of funding.
- Across the four rounds, 31 projects have been supported.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: 2016-17 ACT GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

- Total emissions are 3916.2 kt CO₂-e (kilo tonnes CO₂ equivalent), with a decrease of 3% on 2015-16 levels.
- Per capita emissions reduced from 10.14 to 9.64 t CO₂-e, with population growth of 1.7%.
- We are on track for 40% reductions on 1990 levels by 2020, with the bulk of clean energy having come online from 2016-17.
- Emissions for 2016-17 are 23% above 1990 levels.

Key Information

- Compared to 2015-16 figures, electricity emissions fell 9.8 % while electricity demand increased by 1.4%.
- Transport emissions increased by 22 kt CO₂-e or by 2 % from 2015-16. This is half the increase of previous years. Fuel sales data show a continued increase in diesel sales. Transport accounts for 29 % of the ACT's emission profile.
- Waste emissions decreased by 17 kt CO₂-e or 16 %. This is due to a decrease in waste to landfill, and an increase in landfill gas capture. Waste emissions continue to account for less than 2 % of the ACT's emission profile.
- The 2016-17 inventory has Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) revised from -7.85 kt CO₂-e to a small source of emissions at 26.3 kt CO₂-e. This is less than half a percentage point of the inventory.

Background Information

- The *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the Act) establishes greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for the ACT and provides for monitoring and reporting in relation to the targets. Section 12 of the Act requires that the Minister ask an independent entity to prepare a report about the ACT's GHG emissions for each financial year.
- In December 2016, the ACT GGI for 2015-16 was tabled out of session to the Assembly. A minor technical amendment correcting a decimal figure was made in February 2017.
- The 2017-18 report is being prepared and due out early 2019.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: NO-GAS TRIAL IN STAGES ONE AND TWO OF THE GINNINDERRY DEVELOPMENT

Talking points:

- The ACT will be powered by 100% renewable electricity by 2020, therefore electricity will provide a zero emissions alternative to gas.
- The new suburb of Ginninderry at West Belconnen has been named Canberra's first six-star Green Star community. As such it is committed to reducing the amount of non-renewable energy used by its households by offering efficient electric household appliances (particularly for hot water, space heating and cooking) and solar panels for all homes.
- The ACT Government has agreed to test the impact of gas deregulation in a pilot project by removing the mandatory requirement to install gas infrastructure in Stages 1 and 2 of the Ginninderry development (around 1165 homes).
- As the decision only removes the mandatory requirement for the installation of gas infrastructure, the developer may still negotiate the installation of gas infrastructure with utilities providers.

Key Information

- The Government originally agreed to remove the mandatory requirement to install gas infrastructure in the first 350 houses in Stage 1 of the Ginninderry estate, and to evaluate the outcomes of the pilot prior to any consideration of wider deregulation.
- The Ginninderry Stage 1 development was delayed. As Stage 2 of the development was due to be released in September 2018, well before a full year of data from Stage 1 will be available, the Government agreed in August 2018 to extend the gas deregulation project to Stage 2 of the development. This will ensure consistent utilities across Neighbourhood 1 of the development (consisting of Stages 1 and 2).
- The ACT is the only jurisdiction in Australia that imposes a mandatory requirement for the installation of gas infrastructure.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ACTSMART PROGRAMS - HOUSEHOLD

Talking points:

- Over 3,500 Canberra households were supported in 2017/18 through Actsmart Household Programs.
- The Actsmart Programs delivered workshops to 664 individuals from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds including:
 - Chinese, Italian, Spanish and Arabic language groups, and a series of workshops through the Adult Migrant Education Program.
- The Wood Heater Replacement Program is advertised through the Actsmart website and social media pages, Canberra Weekly, CityNews, and AM radio.
- Over the life of the program (since 2004), 1162 wood heaters have been removed through the Wood Heater Replacement Program.

Key Information

- The Solar for Low Income program was introduced in December 2017.
- Actsmart Low Income Household Program was externally evaluated in 17-18. 84% of respondents rated their overall satisfaction with the program between 6-10 out of 10.
- Wood Heater Replacement Program's 17-18 budget of \$42,000 covered advertising administration costs and rebates. Rebates available were:
 - \$100 – wood heater removal
 - \$600 – wood heater removal and install of reverse cycle split system or upgrade of an existing reverse cycle split system to a minimum 3 star system
 - \$1100 – wood heater removal and install of electric ducted reverse cycle system

Background Information

- Background information on all Actsmart Household programs including 2017/18 outputs is as follows:

Actsmart Household Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
Low Income Home Energy Efficiency Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist low income households in the ACT to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, reduce their energy and water consumption, reduce their energy and water bills, and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,496 low income households assisted. 573 in home energy assessments and draught proofing. 923 people assisted through workshops/education sessions. 65 No Interest Loan Scheme subsidies to 57 applicants (some received more than one subsidy). <p>Savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy: 343 MWh annual savings. Greenhouse gas emissions: 139 t CO₂ – e annual savings (not including savings from behaviour change following householder education). <p><i>*Figures are based on a combination of electricity and gas savings which have different emission factors.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 251 low income households assisted. 156 in home energy assessments and draught proofing. 95 people assisted through workshops/education sessions. 12 No Interest Loan Scheme subsidies to 10 applicants (some received more than one subsidy).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
 Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
 Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

Actsmart Household Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
Low Income Split Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The split system program is delivered by a contractor to low income households to enable them to switch to more energy efficient split systems. Energy Efficient Split systems (80 units in 2016/17) are provided to eligible residents after St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) has conducted a home assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 101 split systems installed. Savings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy: 820 MWh annual savings. Greenhouse gas emissions: 274 t CO₂ –e annual savings. <i>*Figures are based on a combination of electricity and gas savings which have different emission factors.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 split systems installed.
Curtain Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current curtain program is being delivered through St Vincent de Paul's volunteer program. Eligible households receive up to two sets of curtains in the main living area to reduce heat loss through windows, and improve privacy and comfort. ACT Government support is through purchasing the material while St Vincent de Paul sources volunteers to make and install the curtains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curtains have been installed in 158 households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curtains have been installed in 44 households.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
 Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
 Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

Actsmart Household Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
Solar for Low Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of \$2 million over four years was appropriated in the 2016/17 budget. • Provides financial assistance for low income households to install solar panels to maintain equity as energy prices increase and to remove barriers for low income households to benefit from household solar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 221 Rooftop Solar Systems Installed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 119 Partial subsidies - 22 Full subsidies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rooftop Solar Systems installed: 25 • Referred for scoping: 151
Wood Heater Replacement Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces winter air pollution from wood smoke by offering a financial incentive for replacing an old wood heater with new mains supplied natural gas heating. • Program has run since 2004 with gas subsidy offered by ActewAGL. • The option of installation of high efficiency electric heating was funded by EEIS Tier 2 funds (as a trial) in November 2015. • Option for a \$100 rebate to support households with the cost of removal of wood heater without replacement has been added to the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 applications received. • 25 rebates have been paid this financial year. Eight of these were from applications received in 16/17 FY. • 5 rebates for wood heater removal. • 12 rebates for space split system. • 7 rebates for ducted split system. • 1 rebate for gas. • Gas heating systems ineligible for rebate as of 30 June, 2017, with a grace period to the end of December 2017 to claim. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 applications received • 7 rebates paid (3 wood heater removal only, 2 electric reverse cycle and 2 electric ducted)

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
 Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
 Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

Actsmart Household Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
Actsmart Sustainable Home Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A free service providing independent expert energy efficiency advice to Canberra households via an email service, telephone and face to face at public events and workshop delivery. • The service helps residents be more comfortable in their homes while saving energy, money and helping the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 272 phone/email enquiries (136 simple, 136 complex). • 82 in-home assessments conducted. • 45 events/workshops held including topics such as 'Understanding Solar', 'Draught Proofing', 'Efficient Heating' and representations at sustainability events. • 1,513 people engaged through workshops and events. <p>Workshops presented to culturally and linguistically diverse groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian Senior Carers Group – 16 people • Spanish Language Group – 16 people • Asian friendship Group – 25 people • Arabic and Dari – 25 people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 403 total engagements so far with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83 email or phone enquiries • 279 people through workshops or events • 41 in home visits
Actsmart Carbon Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in 2015, the Carbon Challenge is an online tool to get Canberrans involved in becoming more sustainable at home. • Individuals can self nominate in challenges over 6 focus areas including energy, waste, water, transport, food and community. • Emission savings/badges earned for completed challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,217 registered users for the Carbon Challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,319 registered users for the Carbon Challenge. • The Carbon Challenge Secondary Schools Competition ran from 1-29 July 2018 with 12 secondary schools and 143 student households participating.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
 Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
 Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ACTSMART PROGRAMS - BUSINESS

Talking points:

- Straws Suck campaign launched in June 2018, with 31 businesses participating.
- Through a cross border agreement the Business Recycling program will be offered to businesses in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region.
- A business participating in the Energy and Water program saves on average \$2,500 on electricity bills per annum.

Key Information

- The Straws Suck campaign encourages Canberra businesses and patrons to rethink their use of single-use plastic straws. The campaign is funded within Actsmart funding.
- The Community Co-Chair of the Disability Reference Group and Office for Disability were consulted in the Straws Suck campaign communications.
- The agreement with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) includes businesses in Bungendore, Braidwood and Captains Flat at a cost of \$66,000.
- The Business Energy and Water program offers complementary services to those provided under the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS).
- The Business Recycling program, Public Event program and Business Energy and Water program were externally evaluated in 2017-18. Interactions with Actsmart staff across programs scored very high (over 8.5 out of 10) especially in relation to knowledge, communication and support to clients.

Background Information

- The Actsmart Business Recycling program was launched in 2009 and provides assistance and accreditation to businesses to encourage and support the adoption of efficient waste management and recycling.
- The Actsmart Public Event program assists event organisers to implement recycling facilities within a public event. The program has been extended to include advice and support on energy, water and transport opportunities available to event holders.
- The Actsmart Business Energy and Water program was launched in 2012 and provides support to small businesses, community organisations and owners corporations to reduce energy and water consumption and utility bills.
- Background information on all Actsmart business programs including 2017/18 outputs is as follows:

Actsmart Business Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
Actsmart Business Recycling program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides advice, and support via education, stickers, signage and accreditation to the business and office sector to assist in implementing waste reduction and increase recycling aimed at reducing waste to landfill and CO₂ emissions. Program is delivered on a cost recovery basis via a cross border agreement with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. 	<p>ACT statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,004 sites signed to the program. 563 accredited sites. <p>Queanbeyan statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66 sites signed up 40 sites accredited <p>Savings from accredited sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17,242m³ of mixed recyclables diverted from landfill. 22,216m³ of paper, secure paper and cardboard diverted from landfill. 1,999 m³ of organic material diverted from landfill. <p>Emission savings: 8,041 t CO₂-e (based on above figures).</p>	<p>ACT statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 972 sites signed to the program. 597 accredited sites. <p>Queanbeyan statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 sites signed up 39 sites accredited <p>Savings from accredited sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,310m³ of mixed recyclables diverted from landfill. 5,554m³ of paper, secure paper and cardboard diverted from landfill. 499m³ of organic material diverted from landfill. <p>Emission savings: 2,010t CO₂-e (based on above figures).</p>
Actsmart Public Event program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides advice to Public Event holders to assist in implementing recycling at their public event. Program was expanded in 2015 to include advice and guides for event holders in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 201 events held from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 with over 1.5 million visitors. Events included Floriade, National Multicultural Festival, fetes and festivals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 events held from 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018 with over 60,000 visitors. Events included TedX Canberra, Canberra Moon Festival, fetes and markets.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/01/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
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 Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

Actsmart Business Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
	broader sustainability including energy, water and transport options.	Savings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78,974 kg of mixed recycling collected. • 2,367 kg organic waste diverted from landfill. • Emission savings: 104 t CO₂-e 	Savings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,525 kg of mixed recycling collected. • 1,461 kg organic waste diverted from landfill • Emission savings: 6.85t CO₂-e.
Actsmart Business Energy and Water program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides advice and financial assistance for efficiency upgrades to small businesses in the ACT to assist in reducing energy and water consumption. • Offers onsite energy and water assessment and tailored energy and water action plan, with recommendations for efficiency upgrades. • A \$5,000 rebate is available on a 50/50 cost sharing basis to assist businesses with costs of efficiency upgrades. • 808 businesses have participated to the EoFY 2017/18, with 433 claiming the rebate. • Estimated lifetime energy savings from the upgrades installed since program commencement to EoFY 2017/18 are 46,620MWh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 businesses received an assessment, with 78 sites receiving a rebate. Annual Savings (estimates for 78 sites who completed retrofits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy savings: 653 MWh. • Business energy bills savings: \$147,900. • Total emission saving: 294 t CO₂ –e. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 businesses received an assessment, with 15 sites receiving a rebate. Annual Savings (estimates for 15 sites who completed retrofits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy savings: 157 MWh. • Business energy bills savings: \$35,370. • Total emission saving: 33 t CO₂ –e.

Actsmart Business Programs			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs	2018/19 Outputs (as at 30 September 2018)
Actsmart Medium Business Lighting Efficiency Webtool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides businesses with a fast, easy to use self help method for determining what LED lights can be used to replace existing inefficient lighting. • This tool was developed to support medium business but is suitable for use by all businesses. • The Webtool provides estimated capital costs and anticipated dollar savings based on ACT data from LED light upgrades, giving a simple payback period (in years) from the upgrades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Webtool was launched on 1 September 2016. • The Webtool has 9 categories of lights with 22 different lighting types in total. • Interest has been received by other states in acquiring this tool for use in their states. • 74 businesses used the Webtool to evaluate lighting upgrade opportunities in the financial year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 businesses used the Webtool to evaluate lighting upgrade opportunities with several businesses using the tool multiple times.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/01/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
 Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
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Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ACTSMART PROGRAMS - COMMUNITY PARTNERS FUNDING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government provides funding to three community organisations: SEE-Change Society, Canberra Environment Centre and Conservation Council ACT Region.
- The funding supports the organisations to help residents become more sustainable and environmentally aware through the delivery of events, workshops and other community engagement activities.
- The organisations' activities complement the Government's climate change, sustainability and environmental priorities, policies and programs. The organisations also promote and distribute information on current sustainability initiatives of the Government.

Key Information

- The three organisations received a share of the available funding in 2017-2018.
 - Canberra Environment Centre - \$109,675
 - SEE Change - \$104,550
 - Conservation Council ACT Region - \$145,550
- Budget Forward Estimates indicate the ACT Government's commitment to support community partners up to 2021/22 with indexation of 2.5% applied each year. Indexation was previously removed in 2012-13 as part of budget savings initiatives.

Background Information

- The Conservation Council and Canberra Environment Centre have received funding support from the ACT Government for over 30 years.
- In 2009, SEE-Change was successful in requests to the Government for funding, with the total available sum divided between the three organisations.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: ACTSMART PROGRAMS - SCHOOLS

Talking points:

- 100% of schools in the ACT (public, private and independent) are signed up to the Actsmart Schools program.
- 19 schools achieved accreditation in all five key areas (waste, water, energy, biodiversity and curriculum) in 2017-2018.
 - For some schools, this represents a commitment of more than eight years of action.
- Schools accredited under the program use approximately 21% less energy and send 20% less waste to landfill per student.
- Two Eco-Bus tours were run in 2017-2018.
- Professional teacher learning workshops were held on the following topics: energy and water, supporting sustainable schools coordinators, engaging students through food gardens.

Key Information

- Actsmart Schools program commenced in 2009.
- Actsmart Schools is working in closely with the Environment and Sustainability Officers from Education Directorate's Infrastructure and Capital Works branch to provide advice and support to schools on energy efficiency measures.

Background Information

- The Actsmart Schools program is a long-term behaviour change, action driven program that has been operating for over 10 years. It has previously been know as the AuSSI (the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative).
- Background information including 2017/18 outputs is as follows:

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

[Return to index](#)

Actsmart Schools Program			
Program	Purpose	2017/18 Outputs (as at 30 June 2018)	2018/19 Outputs as at 30 September 2018
Actsmart Schools Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of ACT schools are signed to the program. • Assist schools to address sustainability through behaviour change approach. • Provide assistance and advice in five focus areas: water, waste and recycling; energy, biodiversity and school grounds and curriculum. • Offer ACT Teacher Quality Institute accredited professional learning activities • Collect and record data and school visits on a database for monitoring and reporting progress. • Accredite schools that meet best practice in 5 focus areas. • Assist the delivery of Education Directorate's - ACT Education Energy Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 new accreditations including 3 '5 star' accreditations. • Horticulturalist visited 28 schools. • 8 workshops held (6 ACT Teacher Quality Institute accredited) • 41 schools visited for waste and recycling support. • 36 schools borrowed interactive waste display and 15 schools borrowed the compost/worm farm display. • 23 student energy kits delivered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 new accreditations including two '5 star' accreditations. • Horticulturalist visited 4 schools • 12 in school consults • 2 waste audits • 2 Energy kit deliveries • 11 schools borrowed interactive waste resources.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 54752
 Information Officer name: Gene McGlynn
 Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: RENEWABLES INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Talking points:

- Canberra is a world leader in renewable energy support, a nation-leading hub for renewable energy research and development, and is at the forefront of an energy consumer transformation.

Key Information

- As an outcome of the ACT's renewables reverse auctions, around two gigawatts of renewable energy is now managed from Canberra's renewable energy precinct, which includes leading renewable energy companies such as Neoen, Global Power Generation, CWP Renewables and Windlab.
 - This figure is estimated to grow to around eight gigawatts by 2020.
- This is supported by the ANU's Masters Course in Wind Energy, delivered in conjunction with Windlab, and CIT's Renewable Energy Skills Centre of Excellence, which is offering one of Australia's first Global Wind Organisation accredited wind safety and technical training programs.
 - Later in 2018 the CIT skills centre will run solar PV and battery courses that will allow licensed electricians to apply for Clean Energy Council PV Accreditation and battery storage endorsement.
- The Renewables Innovation Hub, a collaborative co-working space in Canberra's renewables precinct, currently supports around 70 members through more than 25 businesses and has held around 110 industry events to date.
- The \$12 million Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) is providing up to \$2 million to help local start-ups to develop and commercialise new technology including new household battery controls, hydrogen fuel cells and solar forecasting.
- REIF is also providing \$5 million towards an \$8 million research program on battery storage at the Australian National University, led by local entrepreneur and former Chief Technology Officer at Canberra start-up Reposit Power, Dr Lachlan Blackhall.
 - This world-leading program will research improved ways to store and integrate renewable energy into the grid.

Background Information

- The ACT secured more than \$500 million over 20 years in local investment as an outcome of its renewables reverse auctions. The ACT Government is now working with industry to deliver an integrated package of renewable energy industry support.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: COAG ENERGY COUNCIL

Talking points:

- The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council is a Ministerial forum for the Commonwealth, states and territories and New Zealand to advance national energy reforms.
- In the past year, the COAG Energy Council has been pursuing work seeking to integrate the objectives of both climate and energy policy in response to the 2017 Finkel Review. This review identified the need to manage the transition to a decarbonised energy system while maintaining the reliability and affordability of energy supply.
- The ACT Government has for many years supported efforts at the national level to address these fundamental challenges, and has backed this position with nation-leading climate and energy policies of its own.
- The COAG Energy Council agreed at its 26 October 2018 meeting to progress development of a Retailer Reliability Obligation, but not to progress further work relating to emissions reduction. While this may address some of the short-term concerns affecting market reliability, it does not deal with the fundamental issue of needing a clear framework for a smooth transition to lower emissions electricity.
 - The Energy Security Board (ESB) will return to the Council in December with a final draft Bill for decision to implement the Reliability Obligation.
- In December, the ESB will also prepare advice regarding a long-term, fit-for-purpose market framework to support consumer outcomes from the mid-2020's for endorsement at the December 2018 meeting. The prominence of emissions reduction in this framework will be a key consideration for the ACT.

Key Information

- On 26 October 2018, the COAG Energy Council noted the Commonwealth Government's intention not to progress the development of the National Energy Guarantee (NEG).
- The ACT's key concerns with the NEG were ensuring the ACT's 100% renewable electricity target could be delivered efficiently and fairly under the NEG arrangements, and the inadequacy of the proposed 26% emissions reduction target.

Portfolio: Climate Change and Sustainability

ISSUE: REPORT ON THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY (COST OF LIVING) IMPROVEMENT ACT 2012 FOR 2017-18

Talking points:

- The EEIS is a key mechanism for delivering on the ACT's emission reduction targets by helping households and businesses reduce emissions and energy costs.
- An independent review of the EEIS, published on 13 July 2018, found the program has fulfilled its objectives with a benefit to cost ratio of 4:1. The review recommended extending the EEIS beyond 2020 to support further energy cost and emissions reductions.
- The Scheme also provides targeted assistance to low income households through a 20% Priority Household Target. The classes of priority households were extended on 1 January 2018.
- As the current EEIS expires in 2020, the Government is considering whether and how to extend the Scheme.
- The Public Housing Energy Efficiency Pilot Program was launched in November 2017 and replaced 240 inefficient heaters with new high-efficiency systems, saving approximately \$4 million on public housing tenants' lifetime energy bills. The ACT Government is planning to invest a further \$7 million to improve energy efficiency in public housing.

Key Information

- Since 2013, nearly 72,000 households and businesses have participated in the Scheme and it has achieved lifetime emission reductions of 439,000 t CO₂ –e.
- More than 18,000 low income households are expected to save \$45 million off their energy bills over the lifetime of the energy saving items installed under the EEIS.
- Average weekly savings are \$5.65 for participating households and \$57 for participating businesses.
- Current activities include ActewAGL's Big Business Light Switch program, Fridge Buyback scheme and rebates to replace poor performing heaters and hot water systems with high efficiency models.

Background Information

- The EEIS was established under the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012*, began on 1 January 2013 and is currently legislated until December 2020.

- It requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in households and small-to-medium enterprises. Smaller Tier 2 retailers can achieve their obligation by paying an 'Energy Savings Contribution'.

**2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism**

**Chris Steel – Minister for Community Services and Facilities –
Monday 5 November 2018 – 3:45pm – 4:30pm (45 minutes)**

Performance Analysis		
Community Facilities – including property services and charging policy		
1.	Sale of land to non-profit community organisations	Pg. 89
2.	Direct Sale of land to Ahmaddiyya Muslim Association Block 43 Section 34 Narrabundah	
3.	Direct Sale of land to Canberra Hindu Mandir part Block 1 Section 23 Moncrieff	
4.	Direct Sale of land to Hartley Lifecare part Block 4 Section 45 Chapman	
5.	O'Malley Block 25 Section 31 Community Consultation	
6.	Community facility planning	

CORPORATE (FOR ALL EPSDD MINISTERS) Performance Reporting	
Corp.1.	Financial Report
Corp.2.	Output Costing
Legislative and Policy Reporting	
Corp.3.	Freedom of Information
Corp.4.	Restructuring
Corp.5.	Voluntary Redundancies
Corp.6.	Advertising and Communications costs
Corp.7.	Bullying Statistics
Corp.8.	Staffing Profile
Corp.9.	Workers compensation
Corp.10.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.11.	Directorate Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.12.	ATSI employment strategies

2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES PORTFOLIO
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING – 2017-18

Number	Brief Title	Responsible Executive	Responsible Officer
COMMUNITY FACILITIES			
1.	Community Vacancy Rate	Daniel Bailey	Garry Gordon
2.	Community Facilities – Rent Charging Models and Peppercorn Rents	Daniel Bailey	Garry Gordon

Portfolio: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: SALE OF LAND TO NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Talking points:

- As part of an ongoing policy review, the Government has suspended consideration of all new and existing community direct sale applications for non-contiguous land.
- The current policy governing the direct sale of non-contiguous land to not for profit community organisations operates on a reactive “first come, first served” basis – and this does not necessarily promote a fair or efficient allocation of land.
- The Government is reviewing the existing policy approach because the amount of land available, particularly in established suburbs, is becoming increasingly scarce. The Government also wants the process of land supply for community uses to be more proactive, strategic and innovative, so that land allocated for these uses best aligns with community needs as Canberra’s population continues to grow.
- The review of community direct sales of land will better support Government decision-making by creating a fair and transparent application process for community organisations, with clear selection and assessment criteria, in order to achieve the best public value and community benefit from land set aside for community use.

Key Information

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Background Information

- In late 2017, the Government agreed to suspend consideration of non-contiguous community direct sales of land, and to progress policy reform.
- On 8 May 2018, the Minister for Planning and Land Management wrote to the five existing community direct sale applicants advising them of the Government’s decision to suspend consideration of their applications. The five organisations are:
 - Islamic Practise and Dawah Circle
 - Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)
 - Black Mountain Rowing Club

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext:50204
Information Officer name: Kathy Cusack
Contact Officer name: Jessica Hanigan Ext: 50896

- St Athanasius Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church
 - Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas.
- Following receipt of this correspondence, one community organisation, BAPS, met with Minister Gentleman to discuss their application.
- The Government cannot prevent organisations from submitting direct sale applications, but has made clear that no new or existing applications for non-contiguous land to community organisations will be considered while the current policy is reviewed.

Portfolio: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: DIRECT SALE OF LAND TO AHMADIYYA MUSLIM ASSOCIATION BLOCK 43 SECTION 34 NARRABUNDAH

Talking points:

- The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (AMA) is a multi-national religious organisation that has members spread across the world including a significant presence in many of the capital cities of Australia.
- The AMA were found eligible for a direct sale of Block 43 Section 34 Narrabundah to establish a place of worship.
- The land is zoned CZ6 –Accommodation and Leisure which permits the purpose of a place of worship and religious associated uses.
- The AMA is currently preparing a development application (DA). Once the DA is approved the direct sale will be concluded.

Key Information

- The sale of the land to AMA will attract a concessional lease in accordance with the charging policy for direct sale to religious organisations. The charging policy identifies a dollar amount per square metre of land. The formula for this sale is \$61,550 + \$5/m² above 3,000m² of land. The block is approximately 4,079m², based on this, the amount payable for the land is approximately \$66,945.
- Access to the subject block is from Narupai Street which runs parallel to Jerrabomberra Avenue. The neighbouring blocks comprise the Spanish Australian Club, Best Western Hotel, the Narrabundah Ball Park and Canberra International Golf Centre.

Background Information

- On 11 March 2014 Cabinet found the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (AMA) eligible for a direct sale of land under section 112 of the Planning and Development Regulation 2008, to develop a place of worship at Block 13 Section 28 Rivett.
- The Rivett block was subsequently found to be unsuitable for the proposed development by the AMA. The AMA requested a new block of land. [REDACTED]

Portfolio: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: DIRECT SALE OF LAND TO CANBERRA HINDU MANDIR PART BLOCK 1 SECTION 23 MONCRIEFF

Talking points:

- A 6000m² block of land has been identified in Moncrieff as a possible location for the Canberra Hindu Mandir Incorporated (CHMI) and CHMI have agreed that they will accept this block of land for the establishment of a Hindu Temple if they are found eligible for a direct sale.
- There is a high need for a Hindu Temple to be established in Gungahlin as currently there is no facility available for the 4000 Hindu community members to worship at.

Key Information

- The CHMI is awaiting confirmation from Government about their eligibility to be granted a direct sale.
- [REDACTED]
- The ACT Government has suspended consideration of all new and existing community direct sale applications for non-contiguous land.
- However, when making this decision, several applications were exempted from the suspension, one of which was the CHMI, as they were considered to be well advanced in the current process and could be readily finalised prior to the completion of the policy review.

Background Information

- CHMI first submitted their direct sale application in May 2014.
- CHMI has sought a 1 hectare block of land in the Gungahlin region for the past four years although for various reasons including lack of land availability at this size, it has not been possible to locate a block of land at that size for the purpose of a single community organisation.

Portfolio: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: DIRECT SALE OF LAND TO HARTLEY LIFECARE PART BLOCK 4 SECTION 45 CHAPMAN

Talking points:

- Cabinet (18/83/CAB) found Hartley Lifecare (Hartley) eligible for a Direct sale of land on 6 February 2018 in accordance with section 113 of the Planning and Development Regulation 2008.
- In line with the current charging policy for charitable and social organisations, Hartley is entitled to the grant of a Crown lease at nil cost.
- The proposed Hartley development will provide a housing choice for people with disabilities as they grow older to have a level of independence from their families but still have a high level of care. The organisation is Canberra-based and has provided care services in the ACT and region for 50 years.
- Bushfire risks for the site have been considered by the Commissioner for the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ACT ESA). Further consideration will be given as part of the development application (DA) to ensure the project is compliant with all relevant standards.
- Hartley is currently preparing a DA. Once the DA is approved the direct sale of the land will be concluded.

Key Information

- Negotiations have been ongoing for a number of years with Hartley, Housing ACT, the Community Services Directorate and the parents of the disabled adult children to find a suitable block of land to construct the four bedroom home.
- The Commissioner ACT ESA provided written confirmation dated 22 January 2018, confirming that the direct sale of part Block 4 Section 45 Chapman to Hartley for the purpose of locating supportive housing, is suitable provided the construction standards are consistent with those that will be adhered to by the adjacent public housing development on Block 3 Section 45 Chapman.

Background Information

- The proposed development of public housing on adjacent Block 3 Section 45 Chapman was criticised by members of the local community and was subject to an ACAT appeal which has since confirmed the DA's approval.
- Community members opposed the development of the proposed public housing on the basis that they felt it is not appropriate to locate public housing on a Community Facilities zoned block in a bushfire protection zone.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
Information Officer name: Chloë Howorth Ext: 50402
Contact Officer name: Katherine Hicks Ext: 54868

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Portfolio: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: O'MALLEY BLOCK 25 SECTION 31 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Talking points:

- Block 25, section 31 O'Malley was included in the Indicative Land Release Program for release in 17-18 for community use. The release did not have a specified use proposed, although a likely outcome may have been a childcare centre or medical facility.
- This release has been put on hold for the Government to undertake a further parking and traffic assessment. The community raised a concern regarding the previous parking and traffic study and how that considered the impacts of the development on the surrounding area.
- The Government is committed to genuine community consultation and we appreciate the community's engagement and feedback.
- The new parking and traffic assessment will help determine the appropriate level of development for the site.
- The community has provided feedback on the scope of the proposed study, which will start in November 2018. The community will have a further opportunity to comment on the draft findings before the study report is finalised early in 2019.

Key Information

- On 14 February 2018 Mr Hanson MLA tabled a petition in the ACT Legislative Assembly on behalf of 81 O'Malley residents objecting to development, primarily the closure of the car park within the site. The Minister for Planning and Land Management responded to the residents' petition on 12 April 2018.
- On 6 September 2018, EPSDD wrote to the Residents Action Group, the Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) and residents to seek their feedback on the proposed scope of the study, and advise that the draft study is anticipated to become available for their review later in the year.
- The new traffic and car parking study will be undertaken in November 2018, with a presentation to the WVCC before the study is finalised, early in 2019.

Background Information

- The O'Malley site is zoned Community Facility (CF) under the Territory Plan. The O'Malley Precinct Code prohibits retirement village or supportive housing uses on the site.
- On 5 January 2018 the Office of the Surveyor-General publicly notified the intention for the closure of the carpark. The community was provided opportunity to comment

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018

Cleared by: Executive Director

Ext: 50204

Information Officer name: Kathy Cusack

Contact Officer name:

Liz Klein

Ext: 70734

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on the proposal from this date until 14 February 2018. This closure process has been discontinued pending further investigation.

- On 9 April 2018, EPSDD wrote to O'Malley residents to advise of the intention to undertake further work.

Portfolio: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: COMMUNITY FACILITY PLANNING

Talking points:

- Ensuring every person in the ACT has access to community facilities and services is a key feature of liveable and inclusive communities and is a priority for the ACT Government.
- Planning for community facilities is an integral part of planning for new greenfield areas as well as planning for areas undergoing change and urban renewal.
- The Government regularly undertakes assessments of the range of community facilities and services needed to support new or changing communities in order to ensure liveable and inclusive places.
- For new greenfield areas, the general approach is that structure plans outline broad planning principles for the provision of community facilities based on expected population and workforce. This is informed by community needs assessments that correspond with a hierarchy of service, considering both larger facilities provided at the district and regional level, and local-level facilities.
- Community needs assessments develop an understanding of the demographic characteristics of the existing and anticipated future community. This may include features such as age profile, cultural background and employment industry. The range of existing facilities, their catchments, capacities and suitability to meet potential future demand is then considered.
- Building on the population profile and audits of existing facilities, the community needs assessments provide advice about how the likely future needs of both local residents and workers could best be addressed.
- This work is done in close collaboration across Government and key community service providers.
- Land for community facilities is becoming increasingly scarce and the Government is now looking to maximise the use of community land and to enhance community facility provision in urban renewal areas where it is needed.
- To achieve this, the Government undertakes strategic planning for areas where urban renewal is currently occurring or expected to occur, such as City and Gateway for the Northbourne corridor. Where possible this strategic planning will support flexible, multi-use facilities and 'clustering' of facilities, as well as the adaptive re-use of existing facilities.

- The Government will continue to undertake these district level assessments and consider options for achieving community facility provision in new urban mixed use sites.
- The Government has had a history of allocating land for community uses by direct sale and also providing concessional leases. The Government is working on reforms for both of these areas to maximise whole-of-community benefit.
- For direct sales, the Government will be introducing reforms to proactively identify suitable sites for community release (for lower order, not-for-profit uses) and implementing a competitive process to assess applicants and release the land to successful applicants. A new Expression of Interest process will also be introduced for non-Government school sites.
- For concessional leases, a number of landholders, such as golf clubs, are interested in rezoning or redeveloping their land with the aim of generating revenue. In evaluating these requests, it is important to consider the long term public interest and to understand the overall use of land under concessional leases in making an assessment.

Key Information

- Community use as defined by the Territory Plan is allowable in the majority of zones throughout the ACT as well as specifically in the Community Facility Zone.

Background Information

- A starting point to assess community facility provision involves referring to benchmarks, guidelines or indicative provision standards. It is important to not rely solely on benchmarks as a basis for future provision as this approach lacks consideration of complex, interrelated issues such as useability, accessibility, condition and differences in future communities needs.
- It is also critical to note that in the context of urban renewal there are practical elements that affect the way we plan for community facilities. Accessing large parcels of land in an urban environment is more difficult and more expensive to achieve than in less urbanised areas. Considering community needs in their context is critical.
- EPSDD is considering a project to address the rezoning sites such as golf clubs and other sporting clubs (often PRZ2 - Parks and Recreation and CZ6 - Leisure and Accommodation). As some of these sites have concessional leases (though not all of them), the relationship between the zoning and the concessional lease could also be considered.

Portfolio/s: Community Services and Facilities

ISSUE: COMMUNITY VACANCY RATE

Talking points:

- Accountability Indicator Output 9.1b Government Services, Property, 'Occupancy rate for properties designated for use by non-government tenants' sets a target of 96 per cent occupancy for 2018-19.

Key Information

- ACT Property Groups occupancy rate at October 2018 is 98 per cent, exceeding the 2018-19 target.
- ACT Property Group is proactive in promoting space that is available to applicants on the Community Application Register and more broadly to existing tenants.
- Community interest remains strong, with previous difficult to lease sites attracting new tenants.

Background Information

- ACT Property Group manages 151 properties designated for community use.
- ACT Property Group aims to keep the vacancies in properties it manages to a minimum, however some vacancies will occur for example due to changes in tenant requirements or turnover of properties (new or to be disposed of).
- It is also an opportunity for a 'rethink' by applicants in terms of adapting their more specific requirements to the space that is available.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
Cleared by: Shaun Strachan Deputy Under Treasurer Ext: 71001
Information Officer name: Daniel Bailey
Contact Officer name: Brendon Smith Ext: 54673
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development

Portfolio/s: Community Services and Facilities**ISSUE: COMMUNITY FACILITIES – RENT CHARGING MODELS AND PEPPERCORN RENTS****Talking points:**

- 71 Peppercorn leases are currently in place with community groups across the ACT Property Group portfolio.
- Tenants on peppercorn arrangements are responsible for paying their own outgoings such as electricity and water, and are invoiced for the first \$500 plus GST towards maintenance expenses.

Key Information

- The current community rental rate is \$143.90 per square metre per annum for Net Lettable Area (NLA) accommodation, and \$69.54 per square metre per annum for Gross Floor Area (GFA) accommodation. These rates incurred a 3% increase on 1 July 2018 in accordance with the ACT Property Group Rent Model.
- The NLA rate is applied in shared accommodation such as a former school and includes outgoings such as electricity and water. The GFA rate is applied where a tenant occupies the whole building, such as a former depot and the tenant is liable for outgoings.

Background Information

- The ACT Property Group within the Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), manages buildings which are surplus to agency requirements. These buildings are available for use by community groups, small businesses and some commercial organisations.
- The applicable policy is the Community and Other Tenancies, Application and Allocation policy 2007 and this can be downloaded at:
https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/act_property_group/leasing_government_property
- Most tenants on peppercorn arrangements occupy community accommodation based on historic arrangements. There is no intention to change these arrangements when renewing existing licences. Any new community tenants are charged rent in accordance with the ACT Property Group rent model as detailed above.
- The Community and Other Tenancies, Application and Allocation policy 2007 is currently under review in order to cover peppercorn arrangements.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/10/2018
Cleared by: Shaun Strachan Deputy Under Treasurer Ext: 71001
Information Officer name: Daniel Bailey
Contact Officer name: Phil Revill Ext: 76133
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development

**2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal**

**Rachel Stephen-Smith – Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety –
Friday 9 November 2018 – 2:45pm – 3:15pm (30 minutes)**

Performance Analysis		
Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme		
1.	Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme Update	Pg. 151-162
2.	Demolition Program	
3.	Complex properties	
4.	Sales Program	
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Corp.10.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.11.	Directorate Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.12.	ATSI employment strategies

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Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Safety

ISSUE: LOOSE FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION ERADICATION SCHEME UPDATE

Talking points:

- There are 1,023 houses on the Affected Residential Premises Register (Register) and 15 impacted requiring demolition to facilitate the safe and efficient demolition of an affected property.
- Scheme participation rates as at 17 October 2018 are:
 - Affected Properties: 994 (97%)
 - Eligible Impacted Properties: 14 (93%)
- 956 (93%) affected and 3 (20%) impacted properties have been demolished as at 17 October 2018.
- 949 (93%) affected properties have been removed from the Register.
- 800 (78%) affected properties have been sold (exchanged).
- 7 of the remaining 12 impacted properties are owned by the Territory and demolition planning is underway; 4 are associated with other properties not yet owned by the Territory and 1 is not participating.
- The Taskforce is now focussing on working with the Complex Properties and the Sales Program.

Key Information

- The anticipated net cost of the Scheme to the ACT Government has fallen from the original estimate of \$400 million to approximately \$295 million as at 30 June 2018.
- The improvement in the net cost is due primarily to demolition costs steadily reducing and market-wide increases in land values leading to improved sales revenue.

Background Information

- The Taskforce recognises the impact its work has had on the lives of current and former homeowners, tenants and neighbours. Its focus on targeted communications, personalised advice and assistance, and individual case management will continue to be a top priority to ensure those impacted by the Mr Fluffy legacy can access any support they need.
- Remediated blocks are becoming increasingly available for purchase by former homeowners and the general public, with new homes appearing on former Mr Fluffy blocks helping to reinvigorate affected neighbourhoods.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
Information Officer name: Chloë Howorth Ext: 50402
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Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Safety

ISSUE: DEMOLITION PROGRAM

Talking points:

- 956 (93%) of the 1,023 affected properties have now been demolished:
 - 933 through the Taskforce demolition program
 - 12 Assisted private demolitions
 - 11 Self-funded private demolitions
- 949 (93%) have been removed from the Affected Residential Premises Register.
- Of the remaining 67 affected properties (7%) that have not been demolished:
 - 18 owned by the Territory, have additional complexities and will be demolished in the coming years once complexities are resolved
 - 31 have a future settlement date (26 of which have elected a June 2020 settlement date)
 - 18 are not participating
- 3 (20%) of the 15 'Impacted Properties' have been demolished.
- 7 of the remaining 12 impacted properties are owned by the Territory and demolition planning is underway; 4 are associated with other properties not yet owned by the Territory and 1 is not participating.

Key Information

- The vast majority of demolitions were completed by the end of 2017 resulting in a slowing down of intensity in demolition activity in 2018.
- This has allowed the Taskforce to focus this year on properties identified as 'complex' while steady progress continues with any standard single properties as they are surrendered to the Territory.

Background Information

- Not all surrendered properties have been able to be scheduled due to additional considerations and complexities, such as those properties that are unit titled or on dual occupancy properties and these are known as 'complex properties'.
- The Taskforce continues to undertake investigative and preparatory works on the remaining unscheduled properties to identify the specific requirements for each demolition, including the requirement for development application approvals and ongoing works with Owners' Corporations.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
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Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Safety

ISSUE: COMPLEX PROPERTIES

Talking points:

- As at 30 June 2018, 19 of the 53 identified ‘complex’ properties had been demolished (17 of the 38 affected and 2 of the 15 impacted).
- As at 17 October 2018, 23 of these complex properties have now been demolished (20 affected and 3 impacted).

Key Information

- Statistics for demolition of complex properties is below:

	Properties			Demolished As at 30 June 2018		Demolished As at 17 October 2018		Progress	
	TOTAL	Affected	Impacted	Affected	Impacted	Affected	Impacted	Affected	Impacted
Duplex	7	6	1	4	1	4	1	0	0
Dual Occupancy Non Unit-Titled	8	8	0	8	0	8	0	0	0
Shared Garages	3	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Dual Occupancy Unit-Titled	10	9	1	1	0	3	0	2	0
Strings	15	7	8	2	1	3	2	1	1
Unit Complexes	10	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	53	38	15	17	2	20	3	3	1

Background Information

- The Taskforce is undertaking detailed analysis of the individual circumstances for each of these properties, including obtaining expert advice from asbestos assessors, structural engineers and demolition contractors.
- The Taskforce is also in various stages of engagement with the owners and neighbours of these properties to gain an increased understanding of the personal circumstances of those who may be impacted.
- The complexity associated with some properties may be managed through additional engagement, administrative processes to meet commitments under the *Unit Titles (Management) Act 2011*, a Development Application process and/or an adjusted demolition methodology.
- Other properties that present greater challenges, such as those in unit complexes, may require a non-standard approach that not only delivers a safe and efficient demolition but an appropriate future rebuild solution for the community.
- There is no specific criteria that triggers a non-standard treatment.
- The Taskforce is at all times conscious of balancing the need for a safe and efficient demolition with the potential disruption this activity may cause to people’s living arrangements.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
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RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Safety

ISSUE: SALES PROGRAM

Talking points:

- As at 30 June 2018, 739 contracts for sale had been exchanged and 683 settlements completed.
 - 793 blocks were released to the market for sale by auction;
 - 689 blocks sold, either at auction or over the counter (OTC);
 - 104 blocks remained for sale OTC;
 - 5 blocks sold direct to Agency;
 - 45 First Right of Refusal (FROR) blocks exchanged.
- As at 17 October 2018, 800 contracts for sale have been exchanged and 745 settlements completed.
 - 848 blocks have been released to the market for sale by auction;
 - 750 blocks have sold to date, either at auction or OTC;
 - 98 blocks remain for sale OTC;
 - 5 blocks sold direct to Agency;
 - 45 FROR blocks exchanged.

Key Information

- Sales Program Revenue (based on exchanged contracts) is below:

Sales Program Revenue	As at 30 June 2018		As at 17 October 2018	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
FROR	45	36,436,700	45	36,436,700
Public Sale	689	453,308,851	750	490,496,151
- Auction*	375	272,248,750	395	285,119,550
- OTC	314	181,060,101	355	205,376,601
Sale to Government	5	2,340,000	5	2,340,000

* This includes blocks passed in at auction but sold during the negotiation window post-auction.

- The next auction is scheduled for 5 December for 18 blocks.
- The overall sales clearance rate of publicly offered blocks is 88%. The auction clearance rate is 47% with the balance of sales being OTC post auction.
- The FROR buyback rate is approximately 7%.

Background Information

- Since the first properties were offered to the market in April 2016, Canberra (and nationally) experienced significant property growth, fuelling a demand for new homes in established suburbs.
- This resulted in blocks in the Inner North and Inner South continuing to exceed expected auction results.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/01/2018
 Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
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Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Safety

ISSUE: NON-PARTICIPATING PROPERTIES

Talking points:

- The government's position remains that properties affected by loose fill asbestos insulation should be vacated as soon as possible, and that the only way to remove the physical, financial and social risks is through demolition.
- A number of participants are choosing to bring forward their surrender date and this year there has been seven of these.
- Additionally, there has been one self-funded private demolition in 2018 with a further four that are being considered or underway.
- The Taskforce expects movement in surrender dates and private demolitions to continue, further decreasing the number of remaining affected properties.
- It would be premature to determine the best course of action now when the number and circumstances of those remaining is not yet known.

Key Information

- Participation in the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme (the Scheme) is voluntary.
- As at 17 October 2018, there are 67 (7%) affected properties that have not been demolished:
 - 18 owned by the Territory, have additional complexities and will be demolished in the coming years once complexities are resolved
 - 31 have a future settlement date (26 of which have elected a June 2020 settlement date)
 - 18 are not participating.

Background Information

- It is important to note that a range of actions exist to protect the community from the potential risk of exposure:
 - Publishing of the Affected Residential Premises Register, making it easy for tradespeople and health care workers to identify contaminated properties
 - Requirement for Asbestos Management Plans (AMP)
 - Encouragement and education to remind tradespeople to check the Register and ask to see a current AMP so they can ensure they work safely in an affected property.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
Information Officer name: Chloë Howorth Ext: 50402
Contact Officer name: Michelle O'Donnell Ext: 55591

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**2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal**

**Rachel Stephen-Smith – Minister for Urban Renewal –
Friday 9 November 2018 – 2:00pm – 2:45pm (45 minutes)**

Current Issues	
A.	Block 10 Section 47 Fyshwick (Canberra Railway Museum Site)
B.	EPIC/ Kenny Urban Renewal
C.	Dickson Section 72 Urban Renewal
D.	Watson Section 74 and 76 Territory Plan Variations

Performance Analysis		
Urban Renewal		
1.	Asset Recycling Initiative (ARI) site land releases	Pgs. 33, 90-92
2.	Demonstration Housing/ Housing Choices Collaboration Hub	Pg. 41

Suburban Land Agency - relating to urban renewal sites including Kingston Arts Precinct and Canberra Brickworks	
3.	Kingston Arts Precinct
4.	Canberra Brickworks

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Corp.4.	Restructuring

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Corp.5.	Voluntary Redundancies
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Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

Portfolio: Urban Renewal

ISSUE: BLOCK 10 SECTION 47 FYSHWICK (CANBERRA RAILWAY MUSEUM)

Talking points:

- The Australian Railway Historic Society (ACT Division) has a short term lease on Block 10 Section 47 Fyshwick to operate the Canberra Railway Museum.
- The ARHS liquidator has sub-let the site to Capital Region Heritage Rail P/L (a registered charity) to operate the Canberra Railway Museum.
- Capital Region Heritage Rail P/L is currently in negotiations with the Directorate to manage the site following the expiry of the current lease through a Licence to Occupy Unleased Land under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.
- In preparation for the expiry of the lease, the Territory has undertaken a building and site condition assessment to inform safety, security and future management decisions. The assessment has identified a number of current Work Health & Safety risks. WorkSafe ACT has been in contact with the current lessee of the site to ensure that appropriate safety measures are in place.
- The site is located within a future urban investigation area, however the Government has no immediate plans to remove the Canberra Railway Museum.

Background Information

- Block 10 Section 47 Fyshwick is 4.2 hectares of land in a Transport Services Zone; it includes a private siding and some structures in the Canberra railyards.
- ARHS remains under control of [REDACTED] the appointed liquidator and lessee. The liquidation has included the sale of various assets owned by ARHS but does not intend on selling 'Locomotive Number 1210,' a registered heritage object under the *ACT Heritage Act 2004*.
- Capital Region Heritage Rail Ltd (CRHR) has met with the Government and expressed an intention of continuing the Canberra Railway Museum operations.
- The site is located in the East Lake future urban investigation area. East Lake is on the Land Release Program subject to Territory Plan Variation and all necessary Government approvals.

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

ISSUE: EPIC/KENNY URBAN RENEWAL

Talking points:

- EPSDD has begun early planning feasibility investigations to identify the financial and non-financial benefits and costs in redeveloping Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), the suburb of Kenny and its surrounds. This work includes a 'Needs Assessment for EPIC', as well as identification of a suitable school site (primary and high school).
- This is a two year study designed to inform Government about possible future redevelopment options for this precinct. However, the school site investigation will be fastracked to meet enrolment demand in East Gungahlin.
- There are a number of detailed policy questions to be considered, in conjunction with comprehensive due diligence, market analysis and costings assessment that would need to be collected to inform a final decision by Government. From an urban renewal perspective, it is important to commence this preliminary investigation to allow for the provision of a continued supply of urban land under the government's land release strategy.

Key Information

- The EPIC/Kenny precinct is a 400 hectare site is well serviced by light rail and existing amenities in Gungahlin and the Inner North of Canberra.
- Key issues that will need to be investigated further include:
 - the role of a new EPIC facility
 - integration to ACT Government policy objectives
 - integration with light rail
 - future operational requirements of the existing users of the site including major events and the Canberra Harness Racing Club
 - infrastructure requirements
 - a new primary/and high school to meet enrolment demand from Gungahlin and future demand from the City-Gateway precinct
 - the Michell Resource Management Centre

Background Information

- The Territory has previously undertaken planning studies for Kenny, including the establishment of Kenny Nature Reserve in accordance with the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, which was approved under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) in 2014. These studies will be reviewed as part of the EPIC/Kenny feasibility study, and will be integrated into the further due diligence work undertaken for EPIC.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Chloe Howorth Executive Director Ext: 58294
Information Officer name: Chloë Howorth Ext: 50402
Contact Officer name: Jamie Valdivia Ext: 54417

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Portfolio: Urban Renewal

ISSUE: DICKSON SECTION 72 URBAN RENEWAL

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is undertaking a community and planning-led urban renewal of Section 72 Dickson, a strategically-located site adjacent to the Dickson commercial centre.
- In the first stage of engagement there was support for integration of residential uses (including social housing), active travel, community uses, protection of green space and urban amenity.
- Engagement feedback guided the preparation of planning scenarios for the site. These scenarios are being tested with the community and other stakeholders as part of the second stage of engagement.
- Ultimately the government is delivering on its commitment to a second Common Ground development in Dickson and an integrated urban renewal of the precinct.

Key Information

- EPSDD has engaged a consultant to prepare a detailed planning and engineering Estate Development Plan (EDP), which will form the agreed plan for the site. This is similar to how the Government successfully facilitated the Red Hill precinct urban renewal through an EDP prepared in consultation with the community.
- The Section 72 Dickson EDP is being guided by the outcomes of stage 1 community engagement and the strategic planning work undertaken by EPSDD, which ran from January to June 2018. The stage 1 engagement report is available on the Your Say website.
- Stage 2 engagement is open for seven weeks from Thursday 6 September to Friday 26 October 2018 and is seeking community and stakeholder feedback on two draft planning scenarios. This will inform an Estate Development Plan and future Territory Plan Variation.
- A development application (DA) was lodged on 17 July 2018 for demolition of existing buildings on Block 6 by Indesco Pty Ltd on behalf of Suburban Land Agency as the land custodians (DA 201834080). Public notification closed on 10 August 2018.
- EPSDD is working with the Community Services Directorate to incorporate a site for a second Common Ground development. This remains subject to a Territory Plan Variation to allow residential use on the site. The variation process will run simultaneously with the EDP and design work for the Common Ground development. It is expected that these processes could commence in early 2019 and will involve further community engagement.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
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Contact Officer name: Anton Veld Ext: 54683

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Portfolio: Urban Renewal

ISSUE: WATSON SECTION 74 AND 76 TERRITORY PLAN VARIATIONS

Talking points:

- Blocks 10, 11 and 12 Section 74 and Block 2 Section 76 Watson are identified on the Government's Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP) for 2020-21 and 2021-22 to be released for a combined total of 400 dwellings. The exact number of dwellings on each block/section is yet to be determined.
- The land is currently zoned as CZ6 Leisure and Accommodation in the Territory Plan and a planning report to support the proposal to amend the zoning to also allow for 'residential use', as defined in the Territory Plan, is currently being prepared by EPSDD –Urban Renewal.
- In the formulation of the planning report, a preliminary consultation process was undertaken which included a public information session that was held on the morning of Saturday 23 June 2018 and at the request of the Watson Community Association (WCA), a further public information session was held on Monday night 23 July 2018.
- The first session was attended by 25 people with approximately 80-90 people attending the second session. An electronic survey for feedback on the proposal was also made available. There were 130 responses to the online survey. This survey closed 5 August 2018.
- EPSDD will now consider the community's feedback before progressing further plans for the blocks.

Key Information

- There will be further opportunity for the community to provide comments on the draft Territory Plan Variation (TPV) for Watson through the statutory consultation process, should the site be considered suitable for rezoning.

Background

- It is important to note that these two subject sections in Watson are separate to the private developments currently under way in a nearby area of Watson, near the television studios.

Portfolio: Urban Renewal**ISSUE: ASSET RECYCLING INITIATIVE SITE LAND RELEASES****Talking points:**

- In February 2015, the Territory entered into *the National Partnership Agreement on Asset Recycling* with the Australian Government under the Commonwealth's Asset Recycling Initiative (ARI).
- Of the 16 sites identified for sale by the end of 2018–19, 12 are public housing and four are commercial properties. Ten of these properties have now settled, with the six remaining scheduled to settle in 2018–19. These properties remain on schedule.
- Sale of these properties and delivery of replacement public housing dwellings under the Public Housing Renewal Program has assisted to provide public housing tenants with modern, well-designed and efficient housing. It will also break down concentrations of disadvantage in these sites.

Key InformationSettled - Public Housing:

Dickson Flats Dickson (Settled 13 Sep 2017); **Karuah Flats Dickson** (Settled 13 Jun 2018); **Owen Flats Lyneham** (Settled 9 Jun 2017); **Bega Court Reid** (Settled 15 Jun 2018); **Allawah Court Braddon** (Settled 4 May 2017); **Red Hill Precinct** (Settled 7 Sep 2018).

Exchanged but yet to Settle – Public Housing:

Lyneham and De Burgh Lyneham (exchanged 20 Mar 2017, to settle by Jun 2019).

Yet to Exchange – {Public Housing}:

Northbourne Flats (two sites) – Braddon and Turner (released to market 26 Jun 2018, Tenders closed 4 Oct 2018, to settle by Jun 2019); **Strathgordon Court Lyons, Stuart Flats Griffith and Gowrie Court Narrabundah (three sites)** - (market release expected Dec 2018, to settle by Jun 2019).

Settled – Commercial Properties:

Dickson Motor Registry Site (Settled 1 May 2018); **Dame Pattie Menzies House Dickson** (Settled 9 Oct 2017).

Exchanged but yet to Settle – Commercial Properties:

Tourist Information Centre Dickson (Expected to settle by Jun 2019).

Yet to Exchange – Commercial Properties:

Macarthur House Lyneham (Market release expected Nov 2018, to settle by Jun 2019).

Portfolio: Housing and Suburban Development

**ISSUE: DEMONSTRATION HOUSING PROJECT / HOUSING CHOICES
COLLABORATION HUB**

Talking points:

- In response to the Legislative Assembly's resolution to deliver Demonstration Housing, EPSDD is delivering a Demonstration Housing Project that aims to showcase innovative housing design and delivery in Canberra. The Demonstration Housing project is running in parallel to the Housing Choices policy development, with input from the Collaboration Hub, the Government's innovative approach to community engagement.
- The Demonstration Housing process provides a clear example of the potential changes the Collaboration Hub would like to see in Canberra, while at the same time, testing their viability.
- Proposals have been received from a range of groups, including community groups, developers, and property owners – and included co-housing, a manor house, micro apartments and townhouses.

Key Information

- The Collaboration Hub assisted in the development of the second stage RFP evaluation criteria- specifically the Collaboration Hub requested the following be included: improving building quality; preserving the garden city character; retaining trees and vegetation to mitigate heat island effect; and encouraging universal design. The evaluation criteria include demonstration housing concept, excellence in design quality, excellence in build quality, stakeholder and community engagement and financial capacity.

Background Information

- A two-stage EOI process was developed in consultation with community and industry representatives, and commenced in April 2018. The Stage 1 EOI process called for 'proposals with land' and 'proposals that required land'. Twenty seven (27) Proposals were received and following the evaluation of Stage 1, 19 proposals were shortlisted to submit Proposals through the Stage 2 RFP.
- Stage 2 RFP for 'projects with a site' were sent out to successful Stage 1 Proponents on Monday 3 September and closes on Monday 28 January 2019.
- EPSDD is currently working with successful Stage 1 Proponents 'without a site' to identify suitable Territory land which may be sold at market value if they are successful in the Stage 2 RFP.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 22/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 58294
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Contact Officer name: Joanne Mitchell Ext: 57259

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**Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal
2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings**

**Mick Gentleman – Minister for Planning and Land Management
Friday 9 November 2018 – 3:30pm – 4:45pm (1 hour 15 minutes)**

Current Issues	
A.	Commercial Land Release Program
B.	<u>Topical Development Applications</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curtin Shops – Block 7 Section 62 2. Garema Place Hotel 3. Block 2 Section 7 Reid 4. Block 3 Section 12 Coombs 5. Lawson South Stage 2 – Estate Development Plan (EDP) 6. Top 10 Merit Track DAs submitted
C.	<u>Topical EIS Applications</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EIS Exemption - Canberra Brickworks Precinct Access Road and Dudley St Upgrade 2. EIS Exemption – Ginninderry Stage 2 Urban Development 3. EIS – ACT Second Electricity Supply 4. EIS – Fyshwick Materials Recovery Facility
D.	Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment Independent Audit
E.	Reporting on Government Land Acquisitions

Performance Analysis		
Land Release Policy		
1.	Indicative Land Release Program 2017-18 to 2020-21	Pg. 249
2.	Strata Reform program for Mixed Use Developments	Pg. 89

Performance Analysis		
Planning		
3.	Pre-DA Community Consultation Guidelines	Pg. 36
4.	City and Gateway Urban Design Framework	Pg. 42
5.	ACT Planning Strategy Refresh	Pg. 43

**Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal
2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings**

6.	Section 72, Dickson	Pg. 44
7.	National Capital Design Review Panel	Pg. 44
8.	ACT Chief Engineer	N/A
9.	Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment	N/A
10.	Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Planning and Design Framework	N/A
11.	Planning Refresh of the Gungahlin Town Centre	N/A
12.	Territory Plan Review	N/A
13.	Draft integrated Plan for the Red Hill Nature Reserve	Pg. 21
14.	City Parking Strategy	Pg. 26
15.	Parking Code Review	Pg. 26
16.	Disability Parking Review	Pg. 21
17.	<u>Master Plan Program</u> A. Kippax Group Centre B. Curtin Group Centre C. Tharwa Village Plan	Pg. 42
18.	3D Canberra Planning Tool	Pg. 42
19.	Housing Choices – policy development	Pg. 41
20.	Territory Plan Variations	Pg. 43
21.	Development assessments (performance)	Pg. 36
22.	Leasing issues	Pg. 36
23.	Function of the DA Gateway team and statistics	Pg. 40
24.	DA leasing and ACAT coordination	Pgs. 36. 40
25.	Impact Assessment team	Pg. 38
26.	Office of the Surveyor General and Land Information team	Pg. 35
27.	ACT Place Names Committee	Pgs. 18. 35

**Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal
2017-2018 Annual and Financial Report Hearings**

Other Ministerial briefs for reference	
28.	Community Facility Planning (Minister for Community Services and Facilities)

CORPORATE (FOR ALL EPSDD MINISTERS) Performance Reporting	
Corp.1.	Financial Report
Corp.2.	Output Costing
Legislative and Policy Reporting	
Corp.3.	Freedom of Information
Corp.4.	Restructuring
Corp.5.	Voluntary Redundancies
Corp.6.	Advertising and Communications costs
Corp.7.	Bullying Statistics
Corp.8.	Staffing Profile
Corp.9.	Workers compensation
Corp.10.	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable Contracts
Corp.11.	Directorate Energy Efficiency Savings
Corp.12.	ATSI employment strategies
Corp.13.	Audit Report Recommendations
Corp.14.	Fraud and integrity

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: COMMERCIAL LAND RELEASE PROGRAM

Talking points:

- The Government releases commercial land to the market through mixed use sites (CZ5) as well as dedicated commercial releases.
- The 2017-18 program included the release of 97,161m² of mixed use land against a target of 77,000m².
- The program also included the release of 1,860m² of dedicated commercial land through two direct sale proposals in the City against a target of 24,070m².
- This lower result is because three commercial sites totalling 24,070m² that were scheduled for release in 2017-18 did not proceed for varying reasons. These releases will now occur in future years after further planning work.
 - The Moncrieff Group Centre will now be released in 2020-21. Planning is underway to inform a Territory Plan Variation to make sure the community can have access to a full line supermarket (currently limited to a mid-sized, 2,500m² supermarket).
 - A surface car parking site in the Wanniasa Group Centre (Erindale) was identified in the 2012 Master Plan as an opportunity to provide an additional supermarket and specialty retail – it is now scheduled for 2020-21 to allow for further consideration of parking issues.
 - The former Belconnen water police site on Lake Ginninderra has been put on hold pending the approval of the Belconnen Town Centre Precinct Code (which will increase development potential for the site and improve the likelihood of a successful tender process).

Key Information

- The 2018-19 Commercial land release program includes a small (1,559m²) CZ4 site in the Charnwood local centre. The site was the former Alkira child care centre site.

Background Information

- From 2016-17, Commercial land releases and Mixed use land releases are reported and published separately to better reflect the delivery of urban renewal initiatives in commercial centres and along urban intensification corridors.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL DA - CURTIN SHOPS – BLOCK 7 SECTION 62 CURTIN

Talking points:

- The initial application (DA201630437) for a six storey development on Block 7 Section 62 Curtin was refused on 15 February 2017.
- Extensions to lodge a reconsideration application were granted to enable the proponent to participate in the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan Community Panel meetings.
- A reconsideration application was lodged on 31 July 2018, proposing a five storey building with a single storey fronting Curtin Square.
- The reconsideration application was notified from 2 August 2018 until 11 September 2018 and attracted 216 representations.
- The application remains under assessment by the planning and land authority.

Key Information

- The *Planning and Development Act 2007* contains a specific provision [Section 191(5)(b)] that provides discretion to the planning and land authority to extend the timeframe to lodge a reconsideration application.
- A key consideration in the assessment of the reconsideration application relates to Rule and Criterion 45 of the *Commercial Zones Development Code*. The rule limits the maximum number of storeys to two, whereas the criterion allows the planning and land authority to consider greater heights where buildings are compatible with the desired character; appropriate to the scale and function of the use; and minimise detrimental impacts, including overshadowing and excessive scale.
- The Curtin Master Plan is currently being finalised and is not used for assessment purposes. However the assessment process will ensure that any approved development is consistent with key recommendations of the Curtin Master Plan.

Background Information

- A further information request was sent to the applicant 9 October 2018 to clarify several significant issues with the proposal. The applicant has granted an extension of time until 9 November 2018 for the reconsideration decision.
- The applicant has previously threatened to close the site indefinitely if a viable development proposal is not approved.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 76804
Information Officer name: George Cilliers
Contact Officer name: Chris Gell Ext: 72642

[RETURN TO INDEX](#)

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL DA - GAREMA PLACE HOTEL

Talking points:

- A development application (DA) for a 5-star hotel fronting onto Garema Place and Bunda Street at Block 5, Section 47, City was lodged 18 April 2018.
- The initial proposal for a 16 storey building with 233 rooms was on public notification from 1 May 2018 until 21 May 2018. This attracted 14 representations.
- Following assessment, which raised concerns with overshadowing and building form, an amendment was lodged on 27 September 2018. This reduced the building height to between 6 and 10 storeys and the available room numbers to 191. Two levels of basement provide 47 parking spaces and a public food court area.
- The revised proposal is on public notification from 8 October 2018 until 29 October 2018. The application remains under assessment by the planning and land authority.

Key Information

- The proposal for a 16 storey, five star hotel building was presented to the National Capital Design Review Panel on 7 February 2018, prior to lodgement. The panel supported the use, however recommended the building height be reduced due to overshadowing concerns. The application was lodged without any height reduction.
- The ACT Government is encouraging an agreement between the lessee (Geocon) and the adjoining lessees (particularly Block 3 Section 47) to ensure a single vehicle access point to Bunda Street.

Background Information

- The proposed use for a 5 star hotel is supported by the City Renewal Authority as it will possibly attract a revitalisation of Garema Place.
- While it has been made clear to the applicant that overshadowing of Garema Place remains an issue, the applicant maintains that a building of this proportion is required to deliver 190 rooms to ensure a 5 star hotel is viable.
- The proposal includes balconies projecting beyond the boundary to Garema Place to enable doors to open out onto Garema Place.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
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RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL DA - BLOCK 2 SECTION 7 REID

Talking points:

- A development application to redevelop the former ‘Bega Court’ site at Block 2 Section 7 Reid was lodged 30 July 2018.
- The application is for a mixed-use development comprising three buildings ranging from 9 to 12 storeys for 520 apartments and three levels of basement car parking, providing parking for 824 cars.
- The application was on public notification from 7 August 2018 until 27 August 2018 with 13 representations received.
- The application remains under assessment.

Key Information

- The proposal was presented three times to the National Capital Design Review Panel prior to lodgement. The panel recognised the amendments made to the proposal over this period, however recommended concerns with trees and solar access to apartments be addressed.
- The removal of eight exceptional rated trees on this site was approved under a previous development application for demolition, lodged by the former LDA.
- A further information request was provided to the applicant on 11 October 2018 to address issues identified during the assessment. This information has not yet been provided.

Background Information

- Block 2 Section 7 Reid was the site of the former ACT Housing complex, ‘Bega Court’. The site is part of the Asset Recycling Initiative, and was sold to Geocon for \$38.5 million in August 2017 and is currently marketed by Geocon as “Metropol”.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL DA - BLOCK 3 SECTION 12 COOMBS

Talking points:

- A development application to construct an 8-storey apartment building for 212 apartments was lodged 4 September 2018. The proposal includes 345 carparks over two basement levels and a small ground floor commercial tenancy.
- The proposed development is on a prominent site zoned *RZ5 High Density Residential* fronting John Gorton Drive, adjacent to recently constructed two storey townhouses.
- Public notification for the proposal occurred from 24 September 2018 until 15 October 2018 and received 141 representations.
- The proposal has had strong community and media interest due to the proposed increase in dwelling numbers above the 44 maximum dwellings identified by the draft lease. There is also concern with the height difference between the proposal and adjacent dwellings.

Key Information

- The draft lease issued for the site specifies a minimum of 21 dwellings and a maximum of 44 dwellings. It is likely these limits will remain when the lease is registered. In this case, a new DA for a lease variation will be required to be approved.
- An amendment to this DA is required as incorrect elevations were provided with the original submission. When finalised, this amendment will require public notification.
- The development application remains under assessment with a current due date of 7 November 2018.

Background Information

- The applicant argues that the development is within the height limit of 21.5m for an RZ5 zone and is an appropriate outcome for the site.
- Block 3 Section 12 Coombs was sold for \$3.35m on 28 February 2018.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL DA - LAWSON SOUTH STAGE 2 – ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EDP)

Talking points:

- Lawson South Stage 2 estate development plan was approved subject to conditions on 24 September 2018, and is located north of Ginninderra Drive, directly across the University of Canberra Hospital and *Kangara Waters*.
- The new estate includes 1 X *CZ5 Mixed Use* commercial block (with a maximum of 138 dwellings), 2 X *CFZ Community Facility* blocks, 4 X *RZ5 High Density Residential* blocks (with a maximum of 550 dwellings), and 4 X *RZ4 Medium Density Residential* blocks (with a maximum of 252 dwellings), associated earthworks, roads, utility services, footpaths, landscaping, urban open spaces and off-site works.
- Works associated with the undergrounding of the existing 132kv powerlines have commenced concurrent with site preparation. These works were previously approved as part of a separate Impact Track development application.

Key Information

- Planning controls to highlight the additional earthing requirements to buyers will be uplifted to the Lawson South Precinct Map and Code.
- In accordance with a report prepared by *SafeEarth* there is a requirement for the estate to ensure that all shared trenching, utility services, public street furniture and reinforced steel of major concrete structures be earthed to minimise the risk of electrical transfer during a failure event of the existing substation.
- Retention of natural and cultural features including a stand of trees along the pre-1915 track and tree groups within open spaces is ensured through conditions of approval.

Background Information

- DA201834093 seeking approval for the Estate Development Plan for Lawson South Stage 2 was approved subject to conditions on 24 September 2018.
- Conditions of approval included submission of revised plans to show retention of trees along the pre-1915 track and within open spaces, and landscape treatments around the existing substation, and revised planning control plan to include additional earthing requirements and building height requirements.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL DA - TOP 10 MERIT TRACK DAs SUBMITTED

Talking points:

- The planning and land authority received some significant development applications, indicating strong growth in the development sector.
- The estimated cost of works for the top ten development applications received in the Merit Track ranges between \$24 million and \$221 million.
- Some of the DAs with the highest cost of works associated with it include the “WOVA” development (Block 17 Section 3 Phillip) at \$221million; the “SOHO” development along Northbourne Avenue in Dickson at \$92million; and two developments in Dickson (Challis Street) at \$69million and \$68million respectively.

Key Information

Top 10 Merit Track development applications submitted according to Cost of Works as declared on applications submitted:

1. Block 17 Section 3 Phillip (DA201833492) – “Wova”: Mixed-use development comprising four buildings ranging in height from 12 to 24 storeys (approximately 800 apartments, ground floor retail and commercial space, and approximately 1160 car parking spaces in basements and above ground level) and provision of landscaped public open spaces at ground level. (Est. cost of works \$221,754,000)
2. Block 1 Section 96 City (DA201630592): Mixed-use development comprising commercial retail units at ground and first floor levels, a 10-storey office tower above retail floors and a 12-storey residential (246 units)/commercial accommodation (180 units) above retail floors. (Est. cost of works \$214,400,880)
3. Block 2 Section 200 Belconnen (DA201731646) – “Republic”: Mixed-use development consisting of five buildings ranging from 14 to 28 storeys and including approximately 1200 apartments, 135 hotel rooms and podium parking, commercial and retail uses, associated landscaping and other site and off-site works. (Est. cost of works \$158,453,872)
4. Blocks 5 and 6 Section 35 Phillip (DA201731595) – “Grand Central Towers”: Mixed-use development comprising two towers (up to 18 and 26 storeys) on a podium, 430 units and associated landscaping, off-site verge and access works. (Est. cost of works \$100,000,000)
5. Block 4 Section 1 / Block 6 Section 77 / Block 1 Section 12 Dickson (DA201733065) – “SOHO”: Multi-unit residential development comprising 6 buildings consisting of

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018

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Contact Officer name:

Director

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- 409 apartments (combination of 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments) including 42 adaptable units (Est. cost of works \$92,911,300)
6. Blocks 7, 8 and 9 Section 18 Braddon (DA201630974) – “Midnight”: A 9-storey mixed-use development with basement parking, commercial uses, a 180-room hotel with ancillary facilities, 241 residential units, associated landscaping and other site and off-site works. (Est. cost of works \$79,391,431)
 7. Block 2 Section 64 Watson (DA201630707) – “Norrebro”: Three staged construction of 319 residential/mixed-use buildings comprising apartments, ‘terrace style’ townhouses, commercial space and other site and off-site works. (Est. cost of works \$70,621,275)
 8. Block 8 Section 77 Dickson (DA201733041) – “DKSN”: Six storey office building with café, construction of an eight storey building with 144 serviced apartments, 90 place childcare centre on the first floor, retail and commercial space on the ground floor, and two levels of basement parking. (Est. cost of works \$69,098,872)
 9. Block 4 Section 209 Gungahlin (DA201732990) – “Jade”: A 15-storey mixed-use development comprising 167 residential apartments, ground floor commercial, and three levels of basement parking. (Est. cost of works \$36,384,670)
 10. Block 34 Section 52 Belconnen (DA201629672): A 13-storey mixed-use development consisting of commercial space at ground level and associated works. (Est. cost of works \$24,588,750)

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

**ISSUE: TOPICAL EIS APPLICATIONS - EIS EXEMPTION - CANBERRA
BRICKWORKS PRECINCT ACCESS ROAD AND DUDLEY ST UPGRADE**

Talking points:

- On 7 September 2018, the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) lodged an application for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exemption under s 211 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (PD Act) for construction of the access road to the Canberra Brickworks Precinct (CBP) and upgrade of Dudley Street, Yarralumla.
- The proposal identifies impacts to matters of national environmental significance including Golden Sun Moth and Natural Temperate Grasslands, with offsets identified in the North Mitchell Grasslands.
- The EIS exemption application was publically notified from 18 September 2018 to 8 October 2018 in accordance with the PD Act. Five public submissions were received.
- Issues raised in submissions, by referral entities and the authority's comments must be addressed by the applicant in a revised application.

Key Information

- The proposal is for the upgrade of Dudley Street, construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Dudley Street and new access road to the CBP, pedestrian path, minor diversion of the existing pedestrian path for Uriarra Track and other works.
- The proposal will result in a direct loss of 0.123 ha of Natural Temperate Grassland and 2.64 ha of Golden Sun Moth Habitat. The North Mitchell Grasslands is proposed as an offset for these impacts in accordance with the EPBC Act environmental offsets policy.

Background Information

- The development of the CBP is not part of this proposal and will be assessed through a separate EIS application.
- The proposal is located on designated land and territory land and will require assessment by the Commonwealth, the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the ACT Government.
- An EIS exemption process is not an approvals process. Rather, it is an information gathering exercise about the potential impacts of the proposal. The information submitted as part of an EIS exemption application is subject to the same regulatory scrutiny as a draft EIS.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

**ISSUE: TOPICAL EIS APPLICATIONS - EIS EXEMPTION - GINNINDERRY
STAGE 2 URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Talking points:

- On 9 March 2018, Riverview Projects (ACT) Pty Ltd lodged an application for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exemption under s211 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* for the urban development of Ginninderry Stage 2.
- The Ginninderry project is a joint venture between the ACT Government and the applicant. The project will provide residential, community and commercial development in the ACT and NSW for a population of 30,000 residents over the next 40 years.
- The EIS exemption application had an extended consultation period due to the complexity and volume of information lodged. A total of 23 public submissions were received.
- The application was ministerially approved on 24 October 2018 as the application sufficiently addressed the proposal's likely environmental impacts. Future development applications in the project area will need to comply with the required mitigation measures and conditions.

Key Information

- The proposal will result in the following impacts:
 - clearing of 7.18 ha of native vegetation, including Box Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland;
 - removal of approximately 9.5 ha of high and 3.5 ha of low quality Pink Tailed Worm Lizard habitat; and
 - loss of approximately 10 ha of Golden Sun Moth habitat.
- The project includes a biodiversity offset package of 360 hectares in the West Belconnen Conservation Corridor.

Background Information

- The Ginninderry project has been the subject of a strategic assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- An EIS exemption process is not an approvals process. Rather, it is an information gathering exercise about the potential impacts of the proposal. The information submitted as part of an EIS exemption application is subject to the same regulatory scrutiny as a draft EIS.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL EIS APPLICATION - ACT SECOND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PROJECT

Talking points:

- The Electricity Transmission Supply Code (2016) establishes requirements for electricity providers in the ACT (such as Transgrid and ActewAGL/Evoenergy) to provide secure electricity supply to the ACT.
- Transgrid and Evoenergy lodged a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and two concurrent development applications (DAs) for the project. One DA is for Evoenergy works (DA201732485), the other is for TransGrid works (DA201732500).
- The purpose of the works is to meet the requirements of the code and provide secure and enhanced electrical supply to the ACT.
- On 17 October, as the Minister for Planning and Land Management, I deemed the draft EIS complete.
- On the 18 October 2018 I directed the Authority to refer the development applications to me for consideration.
- I considered the development applications and concluded that the proposal will provide a substantial public benefit to the Canberra community by way of providing a second, geographically separate, secure, compliant and reliable delivery of electricity to the ACT.
- On 8 November 2018, and after due consideration, I utilised my call-in powers under the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to ensure that the Utility providers meet their obligations of providing customers in the ACT with a secure electricity supply.

Key Information

- The proposal is being assessed in the Impact Track, which requires the highest level of scrutiny, by the planning and land authority and relevant entities, in accordance with the PD Act.
- One representation was received during the EIS process, two for DA201732485 and four for DA201732500.
- Matters raised during the consultation include ecological and heritage values, impact on Commonwealth matters and impacts on surrounding properties.
- Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the overall impact of the proposal to adequate levels and must be applied during construction and operational stages.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 76804
Information Officer name: George Cilliers
Contact Officer name: James Bennett Ext: 54877

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Background Information

- The Electricity Transmission Supply Code (2016) requires a second secure connection in anticipation of future interruptions such as bushfires or significant storm events.
- The code requires a second connection to be constructed by 31 December 2018.
- On 18 October 2018, the Minister for Planning and Land Management directed the planning and land authority to refer DA201732485 and DA201732500 to him to consider using his call-in powers under the PD Act.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TOPICAL EIS APPLICATIONS – FYSHWICK MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

Talking points:

- The authority is currently considering an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a materials recovery facility, proposed to be built by Capital Recycling Solutions (CRS) in Fyshwick.
- A revised EIS has recently been submitted and will need to be considered by the authority and relevant agencies to ensure all matters raised, during the EIS process, have been addressed.

If asked about previous development applications:

- The proponent for the development has recently commenced proceedings against the planning and land authority to appeal a decision to refuse a DA (DA201630668) for a hardstand on Block 11 Section 8 Fyshwick, in both the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) and the ACT Supreme Court.
- As the decision is subject to legal proceedings, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further on the matter at this time.

Key Information

- This is not an ACT Government proposal, this is a private proponent putting forward a proposal for consideration.
- The draft EIS underwent a public consultation period of 45 working days, instead of the required 20 working days, to give the public additional time to comment.
- During the notification period, 464 representations were received and must be adequately addressed by the proponent.
- The EIS must also address matters raised by the authority and relevant entities such as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and ACT NoWaste.
- Matters that need to be addressed (amongst others) include odour, traffic, consistency with ACT policies and Territory Plan requirements and any hazards and risks associated with the proposal.

Background Information

- The proposal aims to divert waste from Mugga Lane landfill to be sorted, separated and prepared for transfer at the Fyshwick site, processing more than 300,000 tonnes of waste per year.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 26/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

**ISSUE: MOLONGLO VALLEY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT INDEPENDENT
AUDIT**

Talking points:

- The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment delivered the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment (MVSA) independent audit on 5 April 2018.
- I presented the ACT Government Response to the Assembly on 25 October 2018, agreeing, or agreeing in-principle, to all 12 recommendations.
- The audit found that of the 60 commitments under the MVSA, 44 (28 with observations) were compliant. 11 commitments were non-compliant, one was not applicable, and four were 'undetermined'.
- Areas of non-compliance resulted largely from delays in timely delivery and implementation of the commitments across government agencies.
- The audit included four corrective actions for commitments identified as high risk. One of these actions was completed on 18 April 2018.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is coordinating with relevant agencies to ensure the other three corrective actions are implemented by their due dates, including the finalisation of the Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan.
- The Kama Nature Reserve buffer, a key commitment, will be determined during the Estate Development Plan stage. The buffer must be consistent with the Capital Ecology Kama Interface Management Strategy.

Key Information

- The Audit recommendations relate to environmental management and administration of the MSVA. The recommendations will be addressed through implementation of new processes and procedures to improve the coordination and delivery of the MVSA.

Background Information

- The Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (the NES Plan) was approved on 20 December 2011. The NES Plan sets out the commitments between the ACT Government and the Commonwealth to

protect MNES within the strategic assessment area. An independent audit is required every five years as one of the commitments in the NES Plan.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: REPORTING ON GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITIONS

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is committed to transparency and accountability in reporting on land acquisitions by government agencies.
- On 1 August 2018 Mr Coe MLA introduced in the Legislative Assembly, the *Government Agencies (Land Acquisition Reporting) Bill 2018*. The Government has worked with the Opposition and Greens MLAs on amendments to ensure the bill is a focussed, practical measure for an informed Canberra community.
- After a number of Government amendments and amendments from the Opposition, the Bill was passed on Thursday 1 November 2018.
- The Bill replaces existing reporting requirements for the Suburban Land Agency and City Renewal Authority under the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017*, and applies the new requirements to all government agencies that acquire land, effective from 1 January 2019.
- The reporting requirements will apply to all government agencies including directorates, Territory Authorities and Territory instrumentalities. The bill will apply to Territory Owned Corporations, such as Icon Water, but will not apply to the University of Canberra.
- The bill will require quarterly reports to be published on the government website on relevant land acquisitions, covering such matters as the location of the land, its price and the identity of the acquiring agency.
- The reports will also summarise other key matters such as why the acquisition was in the public interest, how it represents value for money and how it is consistent with the Territory Plan.

Key Information

Commencement

- The new requirements will take effect from 1 January 2019 subject to the following transitional provisions. The Act will not apply to Icon Water and will not apply to easements until 1 July 2019.

Types of land acquisitions to which Bill applies

- The Act will apply to scenarios where land (including unleased land) moves from the private sector to government ownership/management through:
 - acquisition of crown leases by standard purchase

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- compulsory acquisition of land under *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*
 - acquisition of unleased land through withdrawal of land from a lease (eg a rural lease granted on condition government can resume land for a road)
 - acquisition of unleased land through termination of a lease
 - acquisition of land as a result of operation of Territory law – eg resulting from a court judgement
 - acquisition of unleased land following the surrender of a lease
 - other acquisitions as might be prescribed in regulation.
- The Act will require reporting on acquisition of easements including by Icon Water. Regulations can exclude specified easements ie establish a threshold for what is/is not reportable. To allow for development of regulation and to give time to Icon Water to consider, the commencement of easement provisions are delayed to 1 July 2019.
 - The Act will not apply to interests like contractual rights to use of land or products from land, licences to occupy land, subleases. But will apply to *declared land subleases* ie subleases on University of Canberra land that operate like a full crown lease.

Reporting process

- Reports must be published quarterly on government websites. In practice the coordination, collation and publication of reports will likely be the responsibility of the Minister for Planning and Land Management.
- The Act requires copies of the reports to be forwarded to the relevant committee of the Legislative Assembly.
- Inter-Directorate discussions on implementation of the new requirements are continuing.

Privacy

- Report content is to be restricted for protection of privacy and reputation (reports cannot include a specific address and instead only identify the relevant district under the *Districts Act 2002*) if the land is:
 - a housing assistance property (including public housing, properties used for support services eg domestic violence shelter)
 - a facility for community health or safety service that has been declared by the Minister to be sensitive in terms of privacy
 - a land rent lease (eg where a land rent lease is surrendered as lessee in financial or health difficulty)

This is to protect the privacy of future residents or users of public housing or sensitive facilities and of land rent lessees.

- These measures are consistent with existing protections in the *Housing Assistance Act 2007* and the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*.
- If the seller is an individual (ie not a company or unincorporated association) then the identity of the seller cannot be disclosed.

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Government Procurement Act reporting of land acquisitions

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Discussions will also consider the position in relation to possible reporting under the Government Procurement Act for easement acquisitions.

Ongoing reporting requirements for Land Entities

- Urban and rural land acquisitions by the City Renewal Authority (CRA) and Suburban Land Agency (SLA) will continue to be reported in the Legislative Assembly each quarter until the commencement of the Government’s new land reporting legislation on 1 January 2019.

Background Information

Second Quarter Reporting – 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018

- The CRA reported that it made no acquisitions during the second quarter of 2018.
- The SLA reported that it made two acquisitions during the second quarter of 2018.

District (Property)	Block and Section	Acquisition Cost (Excl. GST)	Date of Settlement
Belconnen	Part Block 1601	\$1,698,795.31	1 June 2018
Belconnen	Block 1582	\$2,200,000.00	27 June 2018

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: STRATA REFORM PROJECT FOR MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENTS

Talking points:

- EPSDD is undertaking a review of strata laws to better support mixed-use developments, referred to as the Strata Reform Project.
- Current strata laws are complex and designed for single-use residential or commercial developments. Reforms are necessary to make strata laws more suitable for mixed-use developments, balancing the needs of residential and commercial users.
- A staged approach is proposed over the next 12-18 months. Initial reforms will focus on some early legislative changes that can be made and the second stage focused on more complex changes.
- Key stakeholder groups will continue to be engaged as this work progresses.

Key Information

- The three identified major areas of reform are:
 1. updating governance and management frameworks for new and existing developments;
 2. reviewing administrative procedures; and
 3. changing planning requirements to better support mixed-use developments
- As of June 2018, 3927 unit plans have been registered in the ACT which incorporate over 55,500 individual units. Approximately 10% of these individual units are commercial units. This points to significant numbers of mixed-use unit plans in existence.
- Redevelopment of many urban areas, including the Northbourne corridor, is likely to increase the number of mixed-use unit plans. Unit plans represent a significant and increasing portion of accommodation for ACT residents and commercial operations.
- Problems in mixed-use developments may include:
 - inequitable division of costs between residential and commercial units;
 - unwieldy decision making processes preventing unit plans from managing the competing needs in mixed-use developments; and
 - overly complex and restrictive laws affecting the development industry and other stakeholders by inhibiting new developments and processes.
- A staged approach to these complex reforms would allow EPSDD to progress certain practical solutions relatively quickly in stage one, with major changes on more complex matters in stage two.
- A stakeholder consultative group will be convened before the end of 2018.

Background Information

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- A mixed-use development is where residential and commercial operations co-exist under a single building envelope or unit title (e.g. cafes, restaurants, retail on ground floor with residential units above).
- The Project commenced in July 2016 with consultation and research undertaken to understand the problems that occur in planning, developing and managing units plans within the ACT.
- The Project has met with delays arising from the complexity, diversity and interconnected nature of the relevant issues.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: PRE-DA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

Talking points:

- The Chief Planning Executive introduced Pre-DA Community Consultation Guidelines in November 2017 to encourage developers to have meaningful engagement with a diverse range of community members.
- Pre-DA Community Consultation is required prior to submitting a development application for a significant development.
- Prescribed development types are:
 - A residential building with 3 or more storeys and 15 or more dwellings
 - A building with a gross floor area (GFA) of more than 5,000m²
 - A development with more than 1 building and total GFA of more than 7,000m²
 - A building or structure more than 25 m above finished ground level
 - Variation of a lease to remove its concessional status.
- Pre-DA community consultation is open to all interested community members and is organised and run by the developer
- The Pre-DA community consultation guidelines provide greater certainty for the development industry and the community as to what constitutes positive engagement.
- Involving the community in the early design stages can help identify and address potential issues, and significantly benefit the outcome of a project. It also helps to build community trust and support for a project and encourages innovation.
- The guidelines set out minimum documentation and consultation requirements, which require a report to be submitted to the authority.
- The planning and land authority has provided a dedicated page on the planning website listing all of the active community consultation processes.
- The Government has committed to undertaking a 12 month implementation review which will commence later in 2018, with findings delivered in the first half of 2019.


Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: CITY AND GATEWAY URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

Talking points:

- The City and Gateway Urban Design Framework (the Framework) has been jointly prepared by the National Capital Authority (NCA) and ACT Government to set the long term strategic direction for the city and gateway corridor.
- Considerable research supports the Framework and there has been extensive community and stakeholder consultation through the development of the Framework.
- The Framework sets the directions for growth and to guide urban renewal for more people to live and work close to sustainable transport options - such as the light rail, services and infrastructure.
- The Framework recommends some planning controls to deliver built form and landscaping in the corridor that is well-designed and responds to Canberra's heritage, especially the unique landscape character.
- To implement the Framework's recommendations for planning controls, the NCA will prepare an amendment to the National Capital Plan (NCP) and EPSDD will prepare a variation to the Territory Plan (TP).
- The National Capital Plan Amendment and Territory Plan Variation process will commence following the release of the Framework in late 2018. The community will have the opportunity to provide feedback as part of community consultation on the next stages of the NCP and TP.

Key Information

- 
- The National Capital Plan amendment and Territory Plan variation are expected to be released in early 2019 for public exhibition.

Background Information

- Community engagement on the Draft Framework occurred between 1 March - 6 May 2018.
- As part of the finalisation of the Framework, the NCA and EPSDD have responded to concerns raised during community engagement on the Draft Framework. Concerns raised included: building heights, relationships with neighbouring areas and provision of community facilities.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: ACT PLANNING STRATEGY REFRESH

Talking points:

- A process to refresh the ACT Planning Strategy 2012 is underway- this is to provide a current and future looking Planning Strategy consistent with its main object, which is to promote the orderly and sustainable development of the ACT.
- An innovative approach to community engagement was adopted in the refresh process, with engagement activities shaping the 2018 Strategy as it was being developed. The engagement also built on feedback received from recent consultations on strategic matters such as the housing choices and climate change discussion papers and the (my) Statement of Planning Intent.
- Consistent messages were heard on the importance of protecting the environment and landscape qualities, and preference for infill development over greenfield expansion with a strong emphasis that infill must be high quality and respect neighbourhood character. There was strong support for innovation in how we resolve future challenges and offer diversity across the city to meet a range of different lifestyle needs.
- The refreshed Planning Strategy will provide directions that will guide the upcoming review of the Territory Plan, scheduled to commence in 2019.
- The refreshed Strategy is proposed for release this year.

Key Information

- The Planning Strategy is timely given the changes that have happened since 2012 including Government commitments to net zero carbon emissions by 2045, the light rail network and growth in urban renewal. The population and demographic changes and accommodating growth have been key considerations.
- The concurrent housing, climate change and transport strategies have provided significant opportunities for policy alignment in the delivery of key Government priorities.
- Community engagement to inform the Strategy refresh process was undertaken from 19 June to 14 September 2018. Outcomes of the engagement conversations are available on the ACT Government's 'YourSay' website. Engagement activities included a speaker series of TEDeX type talks, community workshops and informal 'Planning in the Pub' events.

Background Information

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- The review of the planning strategy accords with the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, which requires consideration every five years as to whether a review of the planning strategy is required, to ensure it is consistent with its main object to promote the orderly and sustainable development of the ACT in accordance with sound financial principles.
- Notice of the decision to review is given in Planning and Development (Review of Planning Strategy) Notice 2018 Notifiable Instrument NI2018-79 (14 February 2018).

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: SECTION 72 DICKSON

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is undertaking a community and planning-led urban renewal of Section 72 Dickson, a strategically-located site adjacent to the Dickson commercial centre.
- In the first stage of engagement there was support for integration of residential uses (including social housing), active travel, community uses, protection of green space and urban amenity.
- Engagement feedback has guided the preparation of planning scenarios for the site. These scenarios are being tested with the community and other stakeholders as part of the second stage of engagement.
- Ultimately the Government is delivering on its commitment to a second Common Ground development in Dickson and an integrated urban renewal of the precinct.

Key Information

- EPSDD has engaged a consultant to prepare a detailed planning and engineering Estate Development Plan (EDP), which will form the agreed plan for the site. This is similar to how the Government successfully facilitated the Red Hill precinct urban renewal through an EDP prepared in consultation with the community.
- The Section 72 Dickson EDP is being guided by the outcomes of stage 1 community engagement and the strategic planning work undertaken by EPSDD, which ran from January to June 2018. The stage 1 engagement report is available on the Your Say website.
- Stage 2 engagement was open for seven weeks from Thursday 6 September to Friday 26 October 2018 and sought community and stakeholder feedback on two draft planning scenarios. Additional community workshops will assist to inform the EDP and future Territory Plan Variation.
- A development application (DA) was lodged on 17 July 2018 for demolition of existing buildings on Block 6 by Indesco Pty Ltd on behalf of Suburban Land Agency as the land custodians (DA 201834080). Public notification closed on 10 August 2018.
- EPSDD is working with the Community Services Directorate to incorporate a site for a second Common Ground development. This remains subject to a Territory Plan Variation to allow residential use on the site. The variation process will run simultaneously with the EDP and design work for the Common Ground development. It is expected that these processes could commence in early 2019 and will involve further community engagement.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: NATIONAL CAPITAL DESIGN REVIEW PANEL

Talking points:

- The National Capital Design Review Panel (NCDRP) is a joint initiative between the ACT Government and National Capital Authority (NCA) to provide a city-wide peer review process for development in Canberra. Design review assists in achieving good design outcomes for development proposals and, where there is scope to innovate, can challenge conventional planning and design parameters.
- Chaired by the ACT Government Architect and the NCA Chief Planner (where the NCP applies), the NCDRP facilitates a single voice to industry for the delivery of improved design outcomes for significant development proposals across the city. The key focus of the panel is on town centres, main avenues and approach routes (as identified under the National Capital Plan), significant government infrastructure projects, major growth areas including greenfield sites and the sale of Territory Land.
- It is anticipated that a permanent NCDRP will be announced prior to the end of 2018 and a formal expression of interest (EOI) process will be undertaken at the commencement of 2019 to identify suitably qualified panel members for the permanent panel.

Key Information

- NCDRP members are selected, using a merit process from a pool of experts identified for their skills, expertise and record of achievement in professional fields relevant to planning, design and development. Any panel formed is composed to achieve a balanced representation of skills and experience in professions including Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Urban Design.
- The panel also includes advice from fields such as planning, heritage, education, sustainability and environmental services, engineering and design. Where a specific skill set is required, additional panel members will be called in on an as-needs basis.

Background Information

- The interim National Capital Design Review Panel was convened in August 2017 to review time critical projects. To date, the interim panel has reviewed 11 major projects over 15 sessions. Panel review has resulted in positive changes to individual development proposals and practical advice provided to Government for consideration through the development application process.
- The interim design review panel sessions have also provided the opportunity for Government to test the design review panel processes and procedures to ensure that the review of design is useful for both Government and proponents.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: ACT CHIEF ENGINEER

Talking points: Chronology of Events

- The now Chief Minister, during the 2016 election campaign, committed to appoint a Chief Engineer for the ACT.
- The Minister for Planning and Land Management has since assumed the responsibility to determine the scope of the role longer term and how this position can best bring value to the ACT.
- Peak industry organisations including Consult Australia, Engineers Australia and Professionals Australia have an active interest in the position of Chief Engineer and have provide suggestions for the role.
- An interim Chief Engineer was appointed following the budget announcement - a senior executive engineer from within Government – Mr George Tomlins.
- The Interim Chief Engineer and the EPSDD strategic infrastructure team have been liaising with the Industry to refine the role and a workplan of focus priorities for the future and to establish the recruitment process seeking expressions of interest to fill the role in the long term.
- It is expected that the on-going ACT Chief Engineer will be appointed and announced in the early part of 2019.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: EASTERN BROADACRE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Talking points:

- The ACT's existing industrial land supply is limited. New industrial and employment areas are required to maintain Canberra's economic growth, diversity and employment into the future. In parallel, consideration of the type of land we need in the future for industrial and employment hubs is required.
- The ACT Planning Strategy (2012) identified the Eastern Broadacre area for further investigations to determine its potential as a future industrial and employment corridor. This is due to the area's proximity to existing industrial estates and to the arterial and highway road network to provide efficient movement of freight.
- However, the area accommodates both ACT and Commonwealth-listed threatened species and habitats including the Grassland Earless Dragon.
- Due to the potential impacts on environmental values, a strategic assessment process under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is being undertaken to develop a biodiversity commitment strategy to compensate for the loss of, or impact on the environmental values, as a result of future development.
- EPBC documentation for Eastern Broadacre is expected to be lodged with the Commonwealth before the end of the year, seeking their endorsement to progress to public consultation.
- Subject to the Commonwealth's endorsement, the draft Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment is expected to be released for public consultation early next year.

Key Information

- The delays in the commencement of consultation has been partly due to continuing prolonged negotiations with the Department of Defence over the ACT's acquisition of surplus Defence land north and south of Canberra Airport, which are included in the strategic assessment.
- The opportunity has also been taken to review the documentation for Eastern Broadacre in light of the recent audit of the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment and the earlier audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, and the strategic assessments respective annual reports.

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- The review has resulted in the strengthening of the biodiversity commitments nominated in the draft Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment to ensure their appropriateness, workability, measurability and deliverability within specified timeframes.
- Following the Commonwealth Environment Minister’s determination of the strategic assessment in 2019, a Territory Plan Variation (TPV) will be undertaken to realise the industrial and employment corridor within parts of the Eastern Broadacre area.
- No land for new development (outside the existing industrial estates) may be released without the Commonwealth’s approval of the strategic assessment.

Background Information

- Subject to the approval of the strategic assessment and the TPV, the ACT Government’s Indicative Land Release Program 2018-19 to 2021-22 proposes industrial land releases in Symonston in 2020-21 and adjacent to Fyshwick and Pialligo in 2021-22.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: MOLONGLO VALLEY STAGE 3 PLANNING AND DESIGN FRAMEWORK

Talking points:

- The Planning and Design Framework (PDF) is a long term, high-level strategic plan that refines the existing Territory Plan's Molonglo Valley Structure Plan to guide future detailed design and subdivision planning.
- The PDF specifies planning requirements and principles to inform future detailed design and subdivision planning. The PDF also requires the preparation of indicative design plans to provide a greater level of design resolution prior to commencing subdivision planning.
- The PDF includes requirements to protect important Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) such as box-gum woodlands and the pink-tailed worm lizard.
- Importantly, the PDF also includes the requirements for the buffer to Kama Nature Reserve that the Minister for Planning and Land Management specified through the granting of an exemption from the requirements to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Molonglo Valley Stage 3 – Urban Development and Infrastructure.

Key Information

- The PDF has been prepared for the future suburb of Whitlam and two thus far unnamed suburbs, located between the Molonglo River and William Hovell Drive, Belconnen.
- The PDF is a requirement of the 2011 Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (NES Plan) approved under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- The NES Plan specified that construction in Molonglo Stage 3 will not commence before completion of the PDF.
- The PDF supports future statutory development application processes including estate development plans.

Background Information

- The NES Plan specified 44 avoidance, mitigation, on-ground management, and offsetting measures and commitments to protect MNES and a further 16 implementation actions.
- The PDF supersedes the 2017 Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Interim Limited Area PDF, which permitted necessary capital works construction to commence to support future land release in Whitlam. The works included the construction of 900 metres

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of John Gorton Drive (Coppins Crossing Road), the John Gorton Drive / William Hovell Drive intersection and a water main extension from Belconnen. The interim limited area PDF applied only to the capital works construction area.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: PLANNING REFRESH OF THE GUNGAHLIN TOWN CENTRE

Talking points:

- The Government has been undertaking a review and refresh of the Gungahlin town centre planning. The Snapshot of the refresh is ready for release now (i.e. November 2018).
- The Snapshot provides a response to a Government commitment to undertake a review in response to community concerns about liveability, amenity and types of development including high rise within the town centre.
- The Snapshot includes a number of recommendations that will direct future planning and development within the town centre. The Snapshot is supported by a Draft Concept Variation to the Territory Plan's Gungahlin Town Centre Precinct Map and Code, to illustrate how the recommendations relating to the Territory Plan may be implemented.
- A Draft Variation to the Territory Plan will be released for public consultation early next year to formally implement the recommendations arising from the Snapshot (including revisions to building heights and land uses) informed by the outcomes of the community engagement and urban analysis. This will provide the community with a further opportunity to influence the future of the town centre.

Key Information

- The Snapshot makes recommendations relating to building heights; residential land uses; active travel; public spaces; and the location of community facility sites.
- In relation to residential land uses, the Snapshot has recommendations on the removal of the restriction on residential uses in the eastern precinct (east of Kate Grace Street), to generate some development in the short term to support light rail and the light rail stop along Flemington Road at Manning Clarke Crescent.
- Building heights will be limited to between 8 and 10 storeys. By comparison, high rise development in the northwest of the town centre is up to 18, 20 and 22 storeys high.
- The Snapshot also recommends reserving 65,000m² for future large-scale commercial office(s).

Background Information

- The matters raised by the community in 2017 were technically assessed through a 3D Canberra model of the town centre; an open space and active travel review; and by transport modelling.
- Based on Australian Bureau of Statistic census data, between 2006 and 2016, the population of the suburb of Gungahlin, which includes the town centre, increased by 2,870 to 6,330 people and all employment increased by 2,450 to 4,100 employees.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TERRITORY PLAN REVIEW

Talking points:

- The review of the Territory Plan will commence in early 2019 following on from the current refresh of the ACT Planning Strategy and a range of work that has been underway including Housing Choices.
- The review of the Territory Plan will need to be considered in the broader ACT planning framework context. The review will be framed by the refreshed ACT Planning Strategy (expected to be released by end-2018) and will consider the linkages between the Territory Plan and the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.
- A key objective of the review is to establish a clear, outcomes-focused statutory plan for the ACT. The Territory Plan will be a contemporary, best practice document that is easy to understand and use, avoids ambiguity and is as clear and concise as possible.
- The current Territory Plan is based on the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) model, a national model seen as leading practice at the time. It is evident that this model needs revisiting to support the delivery of better outcomes.
- The current plan is complex and is not user-friendly. It has 43 strategic principles and approximately 180 codes, 160 objectives, 1400 rules, 1200 criteria and more than 2700 pages.

Key Information

- The planning and land authority has been moving towards the Territory Plan Review for the past year, with diverse and improved community engagement, the establishment of the interim National Capital Design Review Panel and commencement of the Planning Strategy refresh process.
- All these efforts will inform the review so we get the right tools in place to ensure we make informed changes to our statutory planning instrument.
- In making the decision to undertake a review, the Chief Planner was not satisfied the Territory Plan does not meet strong planning intentions or current community and building industry expectations, and felt there is potential for it to be more easily understood and more outcomes-focused.

Background Information

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- The *Planning and Development Act 2007* requires the planning and land authority to consider at least once every five years whether the Territory Plan should be reviewed. The decision to review was made by the Chief Planner on 29 March 2018.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: DRAFT INTEGRATED PLAN FOR THE RED HILL NATURE RESERVE

Talking points:

- The draft Integrated Plan for the Red Hill Nature Reserve and surrounding areas is underway. There has been ongoing work to consider the factors raised in the motion and EPSDD has met with stakeholders during the work to date. The work is continuing and is anticipated to be in draft format toward the end of 2018.
- The draft plan captures two known proposals for Territory Plan Variations at Deakin section 66 on Kent Street (mixed use residential development) and on part of the Federal Golf Club (lifestyle retirement complex).
- The *Planning and Development Act 2007* does not provide scope for Development Applications to be halted or delayed whilst this strategic planning process - preparing this draft Integrated Plan, is underway.

Key Information

- The draft plan responds to the resolution of the Legislative Assembly of 25 October 2017 which halts Territory Plan variations adjoining the nature reserve until the integrated plan has been completed.
- Development applications have been submitted for both the Deakin section 66 site and for the Federal Golf Club site. Deakin is under assessment, and the Federal Golf Club site DAs have not yet been lodged.
- The key issues for consideration in the preparation of the draft Integrated Plan include:
 - Managing traffic and congestion particularly in relation to Kent Street;
 - Ensuring safe access to the golf course , including emergency access, along Gowrie Drive;
 - Complying with bushfire requirements;
 - Protecting environmental values; and
 - Maintaining residential amenity in the surrounding suburbs of Red Hill, Deakin, Hughes and Garran.

Background Information

- On 25 October 2017 the Legislative Assembly resolved to delay Territory Plan variations on land adjoining the Red Hill Nature Reserve until an integrated plan had been prepared for the Nature Reserve and surrounding residential areas.
- Subsequently two petitions were lodged with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (no. 28 -17 and no. 29 -17) calling for a more holistic review of planning and development in proximity to the Canberra Nature Park at Red Hill.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: CITY PARKING STRATEGY

Talking points:

- EPSDD is developing a City Parking Strategy to better manage parking supply and demand in the city centre, to support urban renewal and improve amenity and economic outcomes.
- Managing parking supply and demand is particularly challenging in the city centre as there is high demand.
- The City Parking Strategy will determine future supply and location of parking to provide convenient access for businesses, visitors and workers while supporting sustainability and active travel.
- The strategy will be released in mid 2019. Its recommendations will inform the Parking Code review in 2019 and the subsequent Territory Plan Variation to introduce the new code. They will also inform any future changes to on-street car parking arrangements in the city centre.

Key Information

- Going forward, to provide an adequate supply of parking in the city, new developments are required to provide parking on-site in accordance with the Territory Plan's parking provision rates.
- Certain sites are nominated car parking areas where the existing level of public carparking must be retained, including the City West Car Park on Marcus Clarke Street and several sites on Cooyong Street.
- As surface car parks are redeveloped over time, public parking will increasingly be privately provided in basement or structured car parks. Redevelopment may affect short term parking supply. EPSDD will continue to monitor parking supply and demand as the city centre grows and changes over time.
- Key stakeholder engagement will be undertaken and the whole-of-Government Executive Parking Coordination Group is overseeing the development of the City Parking Strategy.
- The preparation of a city parking strategy delivers on an action contained in the draft *City and Gateway Urban Design Framework* and aligns with government's parking strategy, *Building an Integrated Transport Network – Parking* (2015).
- A consultant will be appointed in late 2018 to undertake a technical modelling analysis for parking supply options to inform the strategy.

Background Information

- A review of the disability parking scheme is underway and will be considered in the development of the City Parking Strategy.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: DISABILITY PARKING REVIEW

Talking points:

- A review of the government’s disability parking scheme is currently being undertaken so that it meets the needs of its users and is sustainable in the long term, as the scheme is utilised by a growing number of members of the community.
- The review is considering:
 - ways to encourage the appropriate use of disability parking spaces;
 - increase surveillance and enforcement of illegal parking in disability parking spaces in support of the new penalties;
 - assess whether the minimum disabled parking provisions in the Territory Plan’s Parking and Vehicular Access Code are sufficient for the number of permit holders.
- The recommendations of the review will be reported to the Assembly in early 2019. The recommendations of the review will be implemented through improvements to the administration and enforcement of disability parking permits and changes to the Parking Code regarding disabled parking provisions.

Key Information

- The review is being overseen by the whole-of-Government Executive Parking Coordination Group.
- Access Canberra received \$250,000 in the 2018/2019 budget to undertake a Smart Mobility Permit project to design a mobility permit system which responds to the review’s requirements.
- The Disability Parking review will be finalised and the outcomes provided to the Assembly, in conjunction with the completion of Access Canberra’s Smart Mobility Permit Project, in 2019.

Background Information

- The review responds to an Assembly motion in August 2017 requesting a review of mobility parking permits.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: MASTER PLAN PROGRAM - KIPPAX GROUP CENTRE

Talking points:

- A master plan for the Kippax group centre is in its final stage of preparation having been informed by a fourth and final round of community engagement earlier this year.
- The master plan provides a clear direction for future growth of the group centre. It contains key opportunities to increase the economic growth and viability of the group centre through potential retail expansion. It includes initiatives to increase visitation to the centre such as a new community hub, better connectivity and upgrades to key public spaces.
- The master plan responds to the transitional impacts on the group centre in anticipation of significant population growth in west Belconnen, particularly as a result of the Ginninderry residential development (approximately 11,500 additional dwellings).
- A key recommendation is retail expansion to the east of Kippax Fair over part of the existing Holt District Playing Fields. This option was tested through a community panel process and subsequent engagement with the broader community who generally supported the expansion.

Key Information

- The master plan will inform changes to the Holt Precinct Map and Code (DV361), which will guide the future growth and development of the group centre. This will increase certainty for the community, developers and the Government on a range of issues, including building heights and new development.
- [REDACTED]
- DV361 will be released for community engagement in conjunction with the release of the final master plan.

Background Information

- The ACT Government hosted additional rounds of community engagement for development of this master plan due to the emergence of development and re-development opportunities in the centre following the initial community engagement on the draft master plan.
- The additional rounds included the establishment of a community panel process and a subsequent period of community engagement on the revised draft master plan which was then updated to take into account the outcomes of the community panel process.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/10/2018
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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: MASTER PLAN PROGRAM - CURTIN GROUP CENTRE

Talking points:

- A master plan for the Curtin group centre is in its final stage of preparation having been informed by a fourth and final round of community engagement earlier this year.
- The master plan provides a clear direction for limited growth within the core of the centre and the majority of proposed growth to the periphery of the centre. It recommends key opportunities for diversity and choice through a range of shops, services, and transport and housing options that balance the future economic viability of the group centre with the community's aspirations to maintain its village character.
- A development application for 44 Curtin Place (Block 7 Section 62 Curtin) was refused by the planning and land authority on 15 February 2017 due to the height, character, bulk and scale of the six storey redevelopment proposal. A reconsideration of a revised proposal was lodged on 24 July 2018 for a five storey proposal with a reduced bulk and scale to the development. An extension of time to undertake the assessment of the reconsideration was granted on 21 September 2018 and it remains under assessment.

Key Information

- The master plan will inform changes to the Territory Plan Curtin Precinct Map and Code, which will guide the future growth and development of the group centre. This will increase certainty for the community, developers and Government on a range of issues, including building heights and permitted new development.
- [REDACTED]. The revised draft Curtin Precinct Code (draft Territory Plan Variation) will be released for community engagement in early 2019 following the release of the final master plan.

Background Information

- The ACT Government hosted additional rounds of community engagement for development of this master plan due to the emergence of development and redevelopment opportunities in the centre following community engagement on the draft master plan.
- The additional rounds included the establishment of a community panel process and a subsequent period of community engagement on the revised draft master plan which was updated to take into account the outcomes of the community panel process.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: MASTER PLAN PROGRAM - THARWA VILLAGE

Talking points:

- The final village plan for Tharwa was released on 9 September 2018.
- The village plan focusses on the locally based economic, tourism, recreation and community opportunities for Tharwa’s long-term viability and the protection of the village character. In doing this, the village plan recognises the significance of Tharwa to the overall planning of Tuggeranong and the tourist and recreational values it adds to the area.
- Key principles of the village plan include: retaining the existing rural village character and identity; ensuring Tharwa is accessible and well connected; protecting the natural heritage; and promoting sustainability in the built and natural environments.
- A key recommendation of the village plan is the release of five existing vacant residential blocks within the village for limited residential development. The existing blocks are currently unleased territory land proposed for release for sale in 2019-20, consistent with the Government’s Indicative Land Release Program (2018).
- Design guidelines are included in the village plan that provide guidance and define the desired character for new and redeveloped buildings that can be built in Tharwa to protect and enhance the historic village.

Key Information

- A draft Territory Plan Variation (DV359) has been prepared to support the implementation of the village plan. The draft variation provides for the removal of an historic public land overlay from the Territory Plan Map on a residential block within the village in response to residential concerns and also introduces changes to the Tharwa Precinct Map and Code to support the implementation of the master plan.
- Community engagement on DV359 concluded on 24 October 2018. Feedback received from the community is currently being reviewed.

Background Information

- In response to the village planning study, an allocation of \$1.42 million was made available in the 2017/18 ACT Budget for the establishment of new non-potable water supply infrastructure, including a new pump, a new rising main and new tanks, for the purpose of firefighting in Tharwa.

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- Design and construction of the new infrastructure is currently being led by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate with the construction scheduled to commence in 2019.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: 3D CANBERRA PLANNING TOOL

Talking points:

- 3D Canberra is the ACT Government’s contextual 3D planning and design tool that is allowing government to perform direct and interactive human scale 3D analysis for urban planning, transport planning, development and redevelopment proposals.
- 3D Canberra is a critical planning tool in community engagement processes, allowing the community and key stakeholders to better understand the complex issues associated with urban renewal and redevelopment. This is especially in relation to the analysis and exploration of planning policy and/or built environment proposals.
- This planning and design tool is offering immediate benefits in the decision making process. 3D Canberra enables Government to understand the potential impacts of proposed design controls and development proposals will have on the existing urban environment, including urban form, overshadowing and context analysis.
- 3D Canberra is anticipated to expand across the city in strategic priority areas to inform the implementation of the ACT Planning Strategy’s future directions. It will provide continuing support for the Government’s key planning and transport initiatives, including the Light Rail network, new urban renewal strategies and the National Capital Design Review process.

Key Information

- Significant gains are being made on Government priorities through the use of 3D Canberra.
- The gains include the number of key stakeholders and the community being successfully engaged on complex planning and urban renewal projects. Further gains include: better understanding of intensification in priority areas of the city; time efficiencies in formulating planning and building design controls; and time efficiencies in assessing and gaining support for new development and urban renewal opportunities.

Background Information

- 3D Canberra is currently being utilised in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorates and the City Renewal Authority. An increase in its use across Government is being actively promoted.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: HOUSING CHOICES – POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Talking points:

- The ACT Government has given in-principle support to all of the recommendations of the Housing Choices Collaboration Hub that were presented in July 2018.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is currently exploring options for addressing changes to the Territory Plan related to some of the recommendations of the Collaboration Hub.
- The key recommendations of the Collaboration Hub include: introducing mandatory standards for proportion of soft landscaping and plantable area in RZ3 to RZ5; increasing the mix of dwelling sizes and housing types in all residential zones; and allowing dual occupancy developments with separate title in RZ1.
- Such policy changes would be made as part of a variation to the Territory Plan for the Housing Choices project.

Key Information

- The Housing Choices project is being undertaken by EPSDD to investigate whether the housing needs of the Canberra community are being met and how they may be better met in the future.
- The recommendations of the Collaboration Hub presented in July 2018 are supported in-principle by the Government, subject to further policy analysis and public consultation by EPSDD.
- The submissions received during consultation on the Housing Choices project will be considered as part of the proposed policy development.

Background Information

- A Housing Choices Discussion Paper released for consultation in November 2017 provided a basis for community comment to inform future planning decisions on improving housing choice.
- The next step of the project was a deliberative democracy process with the Collaboration Hub meeting five times from March to July 2018 to prepare their recommendations on ways to improve housing choices.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: TERRITORY PLAN VARIATIONS

Talking points:

Between 1 July 2017 to 31 October 2018:

- Five variations commenced:
 - V348 Active Living Principles – 3 May 2018
 - V352 Changes to various development tables, codes and definitions – 28 May 2018.
 - V358 Restrictions on Wright Section 29 Block 3 (to prohibit residential development on CFZ zoned land) – 24 August 2018
 - V329 Weston group centre - 31 August 2018
 - V344 Woden town centre - 31 August 2018
- Nine variations were underway:
 - DV342 Belconnen town centre – to refer to Standing Committee
 - DV345 Mawson group centre – with Standing Committee
 - DV328 for Oaks Estate - on hold pending further studies
 - DV350 Changes to the definition of ‘single dwelling block’ - with Standing Committee
 - DV354 Waterways: Water Sensitive Urban Design – at public consultation
 - DV355 Calwell group centre – preparing consultation report
 - DV356 Gas infrastructure for stage 1 West Belconnen Ginninderry - tabled in Assembly on 20 September 2018
 - DV357 End-of-trip facilities General Code - resolving issues post consultation
 - DV359 Tharwa Village Plan – at public consultation

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENTS (PERFORMANCE)

Talking points:

- In 2017-18 the Development Assessment Section received 1216 Merit Track DAs and decided 1143 Merit Track DAs, with 64 % of decisions made within time.
- This is a notable increase compared to the previous financial year (2016-17) when the Development Assessment Section received 989 Merit Track DAs and decided 986 DAs, with 73% of decisions made within time.
- The average number of Merit Track DAs lodged per month for 2016-17 was 91. This has increased to an average of 104 Merit Track DAs lodged per month for the 2017-18 financial year.

(If asked about current performance and measures implemented)

- The financial year-to-date reporting average for Merit Track is now 59%.
- The much lower reporting average can be ascribed to a significant increase in the number of DAs lodged in the Merit Track compared to previous years.
- An increase in larger and more complex projects, particularly in town centres, and along the light rail corridor, also contributed to the lower reporting average.
- At the end of September 2018 there were 417 Merit Track DAs under assessment. This is a significant increase compared to the 297 Merit Track DAs under assessment at the same time for 2017.
- A new staged assessment and decision-making model has been trialled by the planning and land authority since mid-August 2018, specifically to respond to the increase in the quantum of DAs.
- The staged assessment and decision-making model allows for more targeted and effective use of resources in the assessment process and spreads the workload more consistently. The planning and land authority also uses targeted sessions and additional resources to address the current backlog.

Key Information

Accountability Indicators Output 1.2

	2017-18 Targets	2017-18 Actual Result
a. Development application processing times:		
- average processing time in working days	45	59
- median processing time in working days	30	44
b. Percentage of development application decisions made within statutory timeframes	75%	64%
c. Percentage of development application appeals resolved by mediation in relation to development proposals	35%	61%
d. Percentage of ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) decisions which uphold the Directorate's original decision	85%	86%

Background Information

- The variance in the statutory timeframe is mainly due to an increase in development applications, and a higher than expected number of complex applications which requires more time to resolve. Currently there is a significant backlog of applications which is progressively being worked through. Current data is indicative of an increase in workflow in excess of 20%.
- A new staged assessment and decision-making model has been introduced since mid-August 2018 to address the greater volume of development applications. The “staged assessment and decision-making model” delivers the assessment task through six assessment and decision-making stages:
 - Stage 1: Pre-assessment appraisal
 - Stage 2: Assessment (Territory Plan and *Planning and Development Act 2007*)
 - Stage 3: Information collection (consideration of entity advice)
 - Stage 4: Issues consideration (consideration of representations)
 - Stage 5: Relevant considerations (MPRG / LRP / Further information)
 - Stage 6: Determination / Decision-making
- Each stage is assigned with a different team responsible for the assessment or decision-making involved for its particular stage.
- Assessment for Territory Plan compliance is undertaken early in the process to identify any significant assessment issues early.
- Three assessment forms have been combined into a single form to simplify the assessment documentation. New decision templates are also being introduced.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: LEASING ISSUES

Talking points:

- The number of Units Plans registered in the 2017-18 financial year increased for the third year in a row to 118 (102 in 2016-17).
- Land rent payouts returned over \$60 million to the Government in the 2017-18 financial year. Over 1000 land rent payouts have now been processed since the introduction of the Land Rent Scheme in 2008.
- A position was created within Leasing Services specifically to undertake an audit on existing telecommunication towers and equipment shelters constructed on unleased Territory land. This will establish an amount of revenue due to the Territory with regards to application and annual licence rental fees.

Key Information

- In the 2017-18 financial year, Leasing Services processed the following:
 - four applications for the grant of an Executive Crown lease; 71 further Crown lease applications and two further rural Crown leases;
 - 40 licences over unleased Territory land (including encroachments) and 41 grazing licences;
 - 118 unit title applications and one community title application;
 - 476 applications for consent to transfer under section 298 of the Act and 34 other transfers and subleases;
 - 112 requests for liquor licence advice; 11 requests for motor vehicle licence advice and 64 purpose clause interpretations; and
 - 207 land rent payout applications and 41 Crown lease rent reappraisals.

Background Information

- Leasing Services provides a range of services to Government, industry and the general community. These services include: administering Crown leases and licences of unleased Territory land; granting further Crown leases; processing unit and community title applications; determining applications for consent to transfer and other dealings; managing rural leases; providing lease advices; processing applications for land rent payouts and surrender of rental leases and Crown lease rent reappraisals.

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Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: FUNCTION OF THE DA GATEWAY TEAM AND STATISTICS

Talking points:

- The DA Gateway Team was established in 2016 to provide support to the development assessment teams and provide a single point of contact for industry and the community for all development related matters in the ACT.
- The team is responsible for all pre-lodgement processes including pre-application meetings, completeness checks for new DAs and providing administrative support for the exemption declaration process.

Key Information

- Completed 2313 DA completeness checks (including failures/resubmissions)
- Average time to undertake completeness check of 6.1 days
- First time failure rate for completeness was 77%
- Conducted 202 pre-application meetings
- Determined 968 exemption declarations
- Answered 5318 customer enquiries over the phone, in writing (with enquiries being submitted via an online form) and over the counter; this does not include enquiries related to exemption declarations.

Background Information

- Customer enquiry statistics are used to identify areas that require the preparation of further customer information and adjust internal processes.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: DA LEASING AND ACAT COORDINATION

Talking points:

- Planning Support undertakes development applications (DAs) for lease variations, for example to add an additional use to a lease. It also manages the post-approval leasing process which includes any ACAT appeals, determining and collecting lease variation charge (LVC) and issuing new leases or variation instruments to leases.
- In addition, the team manages the process to determine and remove the concessional status of leases. The team also manages the division's ACAT and Court work.
- DA leasing also provides advice to the community and developers on the leasehold system.

Key Information

- During the year, 239 lease variations DAs were lodged and 105 were approved. Although this is a small decrease compared to last financial year, this still reflects an increase of approximately 30% compared to the number of 2014-15 lodgements.
- 1066 leasing checks on new DAs were processed by the team.
- Under delegation from the Commissioner for Revenue, the DA leasing team administers LVC. 2017-18 saw 207 LVCs determined with a value of \$15,830,445.00. This is seven more than 2016-17. Eight waivers were granted by the Treasurer.
- Two applications for reconsideration of a LVC determination were lodged and determined in 2017-18, one more than 2016-17.
- 159 Crown leases and Instruments of Variation were registered at Access Canberra, an increase of 14.4% compared to 2016-17.
- 21 determinations were made on the concessional status of Crown leases and two applications were determined to remove the concessional status.

ACAT

- ACAT made 21 decisions on DAs during the year. 18 of these supported the authority's decision, with 13 being consent decisions based on mediated outcomes. 3 decisions went against the authority's decision.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: **IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEAM**

Talking points:

- The Impact Assessment team is responsible for the environmental impact assessment processes under Chapters 7 and 8 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, including Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes and impact track development applications.
- The team also manages the monitoring and reporting functions for the Gungahlin and Molonglo Strategic Assessments, approved under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

Key Information

In the 2017-2018 financial year the impact assessment team was responsible for:

- Completing one EIS process for a liquid waste facility in Hume and commencing three others by issuing EIS scoping documents for the ACT Second Electricity Supply Project, the Belconnen Trunk Sewer, and a materials recovery facility in Fyshwick.
- Granting five EIS exemptions under s 211 of the Act for removal of underground storage tanks from ACT Government industrial land; the Molonglo Stage 3 Development; a Kaleen service station redevelopment; and a mixed-use development in Kingston.
- Issuing 41 Environmental Significance Opinions (ESOs) mainly relating to infrastructure and public works in reserves.
- Assessing seven impact track development applications for two standalone applications and five concurrent development applications.
- Providing advice to the Commonwealth for seven referrals under the EPBC Act for potential controlled action projects.
- Responding to the corrective actions and recommendations in the two independent audits conducted by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment into the Gungahlin and Molonglo strategic assessments.
- Implementing changes to the *Planning and Development Act 2007* that makes commencing the storage of hazardous chemicals an action that requires planning approval.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL AND LAND INFORMATION TEAM

Talking points:

- The Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information regulates the surveying profession in accordance with the *Surveyors Act 2007* and maintains the integrity of the cadastre and land administration system.
- The team has a key role in the land release program including the administration of subdivision plans, address allocation, place naming and road gazettals.
- The Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information promotes the use of location information to improve government services and continues to maintain the ACT Government's online mapping system, ACTmapi.
- The Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information is implementing the Spatial Data Management System and ACTmapi Redevelopment Project. The project will realise efficiencies by modernising our spatial data technologies and infrastructure. ACTmapi will be able to deliver faster and more accurate display of of spatial information.

Background Information

- The Surveyor-General co-chairs the ACT Place Names Committee. The Committee represents a wide cross-section of the community and provides advice on public place names, the naming of geographical features and contentious naming matters.
- The Surveyor-General chairs the Survey Practice Advisory Committee which provides advice on boundary surveying and related land titling matters.

Portfolio: Planning and Land Management

ISSUE: ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE

Talking points:

- The ACT Place Names Committee is a voluntary (unpaid), non-statutory committee, appointed by the Minister for Planning and Land Management on 1 October 2017 for a three-year term.
- The membership comprises the ACT Surveyor-General, a representative of the National Capital Authority, two Indigenous representatives and eight other members with experience or expertise covering a range of disciplines including Australian history, Australian heritage, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander anthropology, archaeology, cultural diversity, town planning, authoritative addressing and media.
- The Committee provides expert advice about the naming of divisions (suburbs) and public places, including road names and geographic names, and opportunities to commemorate eminent Australians under the provisions of the *Public Place Names Act 1989*.
- The Committee recommends nomenclature themes to provide opportunities for place names which reflect an inclusive community.

Key Information

- The Surveyor-General co-chairs the ACT Place Names Committee with historian, Dr David Headon.

Background Information

- There are approximately 6,000 commemorated place names in the ACT including 121 division names.
- The *Public Place Names Act 1989* (the Act) applies to unleased Territory land and the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928* applies to National land in the ACT.
- The Canberra National Memorials Committee considers the naming of public places on National land in the ACT.
- The *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2014* provide that if a public place is to be named after a person, reasonable steps are taken to obtain prior permission from relatives, close colleagues or a relevant professional organisation.
- The Act provides for consultation with an appropriate cultural group before commemorating a word from Aboriginal or Torres Strait vocabulary.
- The Committee welcomes nominations of names from the community for consideration in the ACT's public place names process.

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