



ACT CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Providing climate change advice to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability



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Letter of Transmittal

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

Dear Minister

It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the ACT Climate Change Council for the year ended 30 June 2017.

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

This Report has been prepared pursuant to section 19 of the Act, and outlines the Council's activities during 2016-17, the advice given and recommendations made to you as Minister. Subsection 19(3) of the Act provides that within 21 days after receiving this report, it must be presented to the Legislative Assembly.

In presenting this Annual Report, I thank my colleagues in the Council for their continued professionalism and dedication in advancing the interests of the ACT by providing credible advice on climate change matters and engaging with the community and business sector throughout the year.

Yours sincerely



Professor Barbara Norman
Chair
ACT Climate Change Council

Introduction

The Climate Change Council (the Council) is an advisory body to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability (the Minister). The Council's main function is to provide advice on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The Council also plays a pivotal role in informing climate change policies in the ACT and in providing leadership to the community, working to raise awareness of climate change risks and community benefits from effective climate action, influencing community views and attitudes, and encouraging everyone to take action towards a decarbonised economy and a more resilient Territory.

The Council was formed in 2011 following the passage of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the Act), which was enacted on 5 November 2010. The Minister announced the inaugural membership of the Council on 20 October 2011.

ACT residents are welcome to raise an issue with the Council, invite Council members to attend a local event or alert them to recent climate change news or research. Contact details for the Council are at the end of this report.

Statutory obligations

The Act sets out the functions of the Council and outlines how they are to be exercised:

S. 17 Functions of the Council

1. The main function of the Council is to advise the Minister on matters relating to
 - a. reducing greenhouse gas emissions,
 - b. addressing, and adapting to, climate change.

Subsection 18(4) provides that in exercising its functions the Council must try to consult with representatives from business and the community, including environmental and conservation entities, on matters relating to climate change. The Council must also make efforts to provide information to private entities to encourage action to address, or adapt to, climate change.

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

Administration

Remuneration

Remuneration for the Council is set by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal and reviewed annually. The Tribunal determined per diem (per day) remuneration of \$510 for the Chair and \$435 for members, effective from December 2016. The attendance of members at Council meetings and official events conducted during the reporting period is provided at Appendix A. A summary of Council expenditures is at Appendix B.

Gender report

The gender balance of the Council is taken into consideration when members are appointed. For the majority of the 2016–17 reporting period, membership included four female and three male members.

Freedom of information

No freedom of information applications concerning Council business were received during 2016–17.

Accountability and secretariat

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



Members of the ACT Climate Change Council. Left to right: Mr Toby Roxburgh, Ms Karen Jesson, Professor Barbara Norman (Chair), Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Shane Rattenbury, Ms Dorte Ekelund, Professor Penny Sackett and Dr Frank Jotzo (Absent: Professor Will Steffen).

Membership

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

The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Climate Change Council Membership) Appointment 2015 (No 1) instrument appointed Professor Barbara Norman, Professor Penny Sackett, Professor Will Steffen and Dr Frank Jotzo until 1 March 2018.

The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Climate Change Council Member) Appointment 2016 (No 1) instrument appointed Mr Toby Roxburgh until 1 March 2018.

The Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Climate Change Council Chair and Member) Appointment 2016 (No 1) instrument appointed Professor Barbara Norman as chair in line with her term and Ms Karen Jesson as a member until 30 June 2019.

Ms Dorte Ekelund stood down from the Council during the financial year, in line with her resignation from the ACT public service.

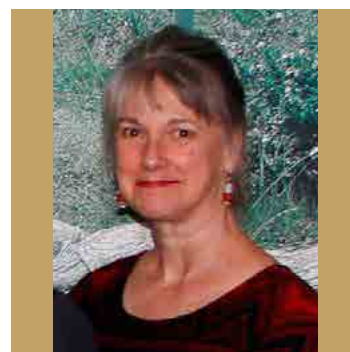
Council members



Professor Barbara Norman (Council Chair) is the Foundation Chair of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Business, Government and Law at the University of Canberra. Professor Norman is Director of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) and an Adjunct Professor with the Australian National University (ANU). Professor Norman is a Life Fellow and past National President of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Life Honorary Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute (UK).

Professor Norman advises public and private sectors in Australia and has strong international links within Asia, Europe and the United States. She was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Working Group 2 (WGII) 'Impacts', 2014, and was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for her contribution to the community through urban and regional planning.

Professor Penny Sackett (Council Deputy Chair as of February 2015) is a physicist, astronomer, former Chief Scientist for Australia and, currently, an Adjunct Professor with the ANU Climate Change Institute and private strategic advisor. Professor Sackett has served on Australian, Dutch, European, and United States science and advisory panels. Much of her research career has centred on applying physics to questions in astronomy. In 2002, Professor Sackett was appointed as Director of the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics and the Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories. When the Mt Stromlo Observatory was destroyed in the 2003 bushfires, Professor Sackett led the effort to rebuild and re-establish the international centre for research, training, and high-tech instrumentation.



As Chief Scientist for Australia (2008–2011), Professor Sackett provided independent advice to the Australian Government on matters of science and innovation, and was a vocal champion of evidenced-based decision making. She spearheaded the effort to introduce long-term, cross-portfolio and cross-disciplinary foresight into the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, and opened new channels of communication to the Australian public on matters of science, particularly those related to sustainability such as climate change and food security.



Toby Roxburgh is the chair of the Canberra branch of the Australian Institute of Energy and a Founding Director at Beast Solutions. Mr Roxburgh is an electrical and electronics engineer with more than 13 years of experience in sustainable energy projects. His work in the energy sector includes fields such as education, policy, planning, sustainable design, energy efficiency, district energy, renewables, microgrids and peak demand reduction.

Mr Roxburgh has been involved in demand management projects for ActewAGL, district energy delivery for the City of Sydney, remote solar PV systems for Indigenous communities through the Australian Government's Indigenous Affairs Group, infrastructure savings for the ACT Government, renewable energy microgrids for campuses and developments, net zero carbon emissions solutions, and helping independent energy utilities operate off the electricity grid.



Professor Will Steffen is a Councillor on the publicly-funded Climate Council of Australia, which delivers independent expert information about climate change. Professor Steffen is a climate change researcher at the ANU in Canberra. He is the sustainability theme leader of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF). He previously served as the Science Adviser to the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Professor Steffen has served as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, an international network of scientists studying global environmental change based in Stockholm, Sweden and is currently a guest researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. His research interests span a broad range within the fields of climate and Earth System science, with an emphasis on incorporation of human processes in Earth System modelling and analysis, and on sustainability and climate change, with an emphasis on urban areas. Professor Steffen was a contributing author to the IPCC AR4 WGI report.

Dr Frank Jotzo is an Associate Professor at ANU, Director of the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy at Crawford School of Public Policy and an ANU Public Policy Fellow. Dr Jotzo has research expertise in the economics and policy of climate change (including mechanisms and policy design for greenhouse gas control), policy frameworks for adaptation to climate change and international climate policy, as well as energy policy and land-use change policy.



Dr Jotzo has published widely, has advised governments and consulted for international organisations. He was an advisor to the Garnaut Climate Change Review, advisor to Indonesia's Ministry of Finance, consultant to international organisations and was a lead author of Chapter 3 and the Technical Summary of the IPCC AR5. He is a frequent contributor to the public and policy debate on climate change in Australia and internationally.



Ms Karen Jesson is a Community Development Officer with Communities@Work. Ms Jesson has worked in the area of Community Development for the past 9 years, working with a variety of groups in the ACT. She has qualifications in Community Development and Management, as well as Permaculture Design and Home Sustainability Assessment.

Ms Jesson has assisted in the development and delivery of key projects within the ACT, such as the Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club, Outreach Water & Energy program, Tuggeranong Men's Shed, and 50+ Network (research project). She has been a member and sat on the committee of the Canberra Environment Centre as well as a member of the Tuggeranong Community Council and is a key member of Canberra Transition Town.

Performance

Council meetings

In the 2016-17 reporting period, the Council met three times in addition to progressing work through sub-committees, and continued to consult with representatives from business and the community on climate change matters.

Meeting 19: 23 August 2016

The nineteenth meeting of the Council was held on 23 August 2016. The Council welcomed Ms Karen Jesson, a Community Development Officer from Communities@Work. Ms Jesson has been appointed as a member to represent the community.

Based on discussions with the Chief Minister and Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability the Council discussed their priorities. Six key themes were identified:

- » Communications – sharing stories
- » Energy efficiency – how to implement, behaviour change, economic benefits
- » Cooling the urban fringe
- » Social equity issues – addressing the public housing stock
- » Energy management systems
- » Sustainable integrated transport strategies – reduce emissions and build resilience

Mr Malcolm Snow, Chief Executive, National Capital Authority and Mr Andrew Smith, Chief Planning Officer, National Capital Authority, presented to Council on Commonwealth land in the ACT, the National Capital Authority and the National Capital Plan.

Meeting 20: 30 January 2017

The twentieth meeting of the Council was held on 30 January 2017. The Council discussed the ACT climate change community engagement strategy, battery storage initiatives, the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, large scale renewables, implementation of the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the Climate Action Roundtable and bushfire prone areas of the ACT.

The Council provided comment to the Directorate on the proposed work plan associated with the development of the next Climate Change Strategy for the ACT. Discussions included interim greenhouse gas reduction targets, carbon offsets, partnerships, carbon footprint analysis, ACT specific carbon budget, per capita emissions targets, concerns regarding biological offsets, business as usual projections and scenarios and the language used to communicate with the community.

The Council committed to having an ongoing role as the next Climate Change Strategy is developed, including providing advice and acting as community champions.

The Council was joined by Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA. In discussion with the Council the Minister highlighted his priorities for Council support; which included technical, policy and economic advice on development towards zero net emissions by 2050 at the latest, setting interim targets and community engagement.

Meeting 21: 27 April 2017

The twenty-first meeting of the Council was held on 27 April 2017. The Council welcomed Mr Ben Ponton as the new Director General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. Mr Ponton highlighted his intention to improve the visibility of the Council across government and the community.

Ms Hedwig Kembek and Mr Andrew Waldron, Masters students from the University of Canberra presented to Council on the infrastructure and urban planning report, *Carbon neutral precincts in the 21st century – the time to ACT is now*. The post-graduate report was commissioned by the Council to demonstrate best practice examples of carbon neutral precincts. Council formally acknowledged, cited and received the Council-commissioned post-graduate student report, noting that it could form the basis of a carbon neutral precinct briefing paper.

The Council discussed the development of the next Climate Change Strategy for the ACT, including consultation to date and milestones to deliver a final strategy and the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, including government working groups, living infrastructure, the Sustainability Alliance and reporting processes.

Publications

Council members collaborated in a range of reporting activities associated with the work of Council sub-committees. These included:

- Carbon neutral precincts in the 21st century – the time to ACT is now, supported by Mr Toby Roxburgh and Professor Barbara Norman

Summary:

A post-graduate report commissioned by the Council to demonstrate best practice examples of carbon neutral precincts.

“Currently, there is an active discussion at the national level about energy policy. Climate change adaptation and mitigation is essentially about making our cities as resilient as possible. This paper intends to guide action on achieving the ambitious energy and emissions targets that our nation’s capital has proposed for itself.”

Kembek, H. & Waldron, A. (2017). Carbon neutral precincts in the 21st century – the time to ACT is now. Unpublished postgraduate report. University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT.

- Climate change 2016: A brief science update for the ACT, by Professor Will Steffen

Summary:

The global climate is warming rapidly, primarily due to the emission of carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Southeast Australia, including the ACT, has warmed by about 1°C; extreme bushfire weather has increased; and cool season rainfall has declined. Canberra’s climate is projected to warm further; even harsher fire weather is expected, and droughts are likely to become more intense and last longer. To meet the Paris target aimed at limiting temperature rise to 2°C, the ACT should aim for zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, and preferably by 2040.

Available online at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cc>

Out of session activities

Council members engaged in a range of activities out-of-session, including high-level presentations. These included:

- **Climate Change Council Workshop: ACT emissions projections to 2050–December 2016**

This workshop was designed to outline and highlight key scientific, economic and policy issues and frameworks to inform the development of the ACT Government’s new climate change strategy and action plan.

Attended by Professor Penny Sackett, Dr Frank Jotzo and Professor Will Steffen from the ACT Climate Change Council. Council members were required to develop preliminary papers on climate science, sectoral policies and assumptions.

- **Climate change community and stakeholder roundtable–February and May 2017**

A series of roundtables were held to support the development of the next ACT Climate Change Strategy to 2050. The roundtables were designed as the start of an ongoing and open conversation with the community and stakeholders to inform an issues paper for broader public consultation.

Ms Karen Jesson and Professor Penny Sackett assisted in both facilitation and advising on community engagement protocols for the roundtables.

Advice to the Minister

During the 2016–17 reporting period, the Council provided advice to the Minister in person and through consultation with government officers.

Advice to the Minister:

The Council met with the Minister in January 2017 to discuss ongoing technical, policy and economic advice on development towards zero net emissions by 2050 at the latest, setting interim targets and community engagement.

Advice through Government officers:

Members of the Council engaged in discussion with ACT Government officials, principally from EPSDD, on:

- » Development of the next ACT Climate Change Strategy
- » Implementation of the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- » Interim GHG emissions reduction targets
- » Increased community engagement by the Council on climate change issues

Join the Council on social media

The Council has a growing interactive media presence on three social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. The Council invites the community to connect with them.

Facebook—search for ACT Climate Change Council on Facebook.

Twitter—The Council’s Twitter handle is @act_ccc

LinkedIn—The Council’s page is at <https://au.linkedin.com/pub/act-climate-change-council/a0/702/b51>

Contact the Council

The community and stakeholders are invited to contact the Council via the Council’s secretariat.

Email: climatechangecouncil@act.gov.au

Telephone: 13 22 81 (Access Canberra)

Post: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Appendix A: Council members' attendance

During the 2016–17 reporting period the Council held three meetings:

1. 23 August 2016
2. 30 January 2017
3. 27 April 2017

Number of meetings attended by Council members

| Member | Number of meeting in reporting period | Number of meetings attended |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Professor Barbara Norman (Chair) | 3 | 3 |
| Professor Penny Sackett | 3 | 3 |
| Ms Dorte Ekelund | 2 | 2 |
| Professor Will Steffen | 3 | 2 |
| Dr Frank Jotzo | 3 | 3 |
| Mr Toby Roxburgh | 3 | 3 |
| Ms Karen Jesson | 3 | 2 |

Appendix B: Budget

| Climate Change Council | Payments in 2016–17 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Remuneration – sitting fees * # | \$8,714.00 |
| Projects | \$6,429.60 |
| Miscellaneous | \$673.50 |
| Total (excluding GST) | \$15,817.10 |

* Council members representing the public service are not paid sitting fees.

Remuneration for Council members for sittings and out-of-session activities is determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.