

QTB Index February 2022	
IMMEDIATE ISSUES	
A.	Costs and benefits of Climate Action
B.	Climate Change Strategy
C.	Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan
D.	Public Electric vehicle charging stations
E.	Electricity and gas prices
F.	ACT Climate Change policy – costs to community and consumers
G.	Transition from natural gas
H.	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for rental properties
I.	Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme
J.	Community Club Upgrades
K.	Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme
L.	Water Governance
M.	Zero Emissions Government (including social cost of carbon)
N.	Cessation of Solar Business Program
O.	Scope 3 Emissions

WATER	
1.	Water quality (Blue Green Algae)
2.	Water Security and Efficiency
3.	Healthy Waterways (Basin project)
4.	Sewage treatment plant
5.	Catchment Management Groups and Volunteering
6.	Water report card /reporting
7.	MDBA

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION	
8.	COVID 19 Impacts
9.	Living Infrastructure Plan (including DV369)
10.	Community Zero Emissions Grants Program
11.	<u>Renewable energy programs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Generation Energy Storage program • Industry development/Renewable Energy Innovation Fund
12.	Energy Emergency Management

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION****Talking points:**

- The ACT's actions on climate change are designed to deliver a range of outcomes:
 - reduce greenhouse gas emissions in pursuit of ACT targets;
 - build resilience to climate change impacts;
 - ensure the ACT does not lock in future emissions; and
 - lay the foundations for achieving net zero emissions.
- We also recognise the need for a just transition that ensures all households and workers are helped to share in the benefits of our climate change response.
- The Government does not shy away from the fact that getting to zero emissions will have costs. We are seeing electricity price rises this year in part due to the costs of meeting our 100% renewable electricity target.
 - In this unusual case, the government is introducing new measures to address some of these impacts.
- But our current measures also bring a range of economic benefits, for example:
 - Households and businesses participating in the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) will see benefits of in the hundreds of millions in lifetime energy bill savings.
 - Local investments arising from our renewable electricity auctions will bring over \$500 million of benefits to the ACT in knowledge-based renewable energy industries of the future.
 - Improving energy performance of rental properties will improve quality of life, reduce health impacts and costs, and improve educational outcomes.
 - Early stage investment in new and emerging industries will develop new economic and employment opportunities in the ACT. For example, the Government is investing nearly \$8m to support zero emissions vehicle industry development and infrastructure.
- The Climate Change Strategy recognises that achieving future targets “will require continual learning and improvement as well as the active participation of the whole community”.
- Climate change is a pervasive and complex problem, and that is why the Government's response Strategy addresses the challenge on multiple fronts. Many actions are inter-linked and when implemented together, they will deliver a greater outcome.
- We are continuing to trial and assess new ideas, work with various partners to leverage government action, and find new ways to empower our community:

- Investing in strong analysis on issues like our transition from fossil fuel gas, to ensure we make the best decisions for the future.
- Supporting community engagement, participation and leadership, through community-led initiatives like the *Nature in the City* environment grants and the *Community Zero Emissions Grants*.
- Demonstrating Government leadership by pursuing gas-free and net zero emissions buildings, and establishing a pathway towards a zero emissions bus fleet.

Key Information:

- In 2020-21, ACT emissions were 1,685 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent which is 45% lower than 1989-90 levels.
- Since 1989-90 the ACT's population grew by 54% from 279,000 to 432,000 whilst total emissions have fallen 45% over the same period. The key driver of this outcome was the emission reductions associated with 100% renewable electricity generation.
- Now that the ACT's electricity is 100% renewably sourced, emissions from the gas and transport sectors make up around 22% and 64% of the ACT's total greenhouse gas emissions, respectively. Any policy that is targeted at getting households, businesses, and industry off gas, or reducing emissions from transport therefore will have the largest emissions reduction potential.

Background Information:

- The Government has set an emissions target of a 50-60% reduction on 1990 levels by 2025 and net zero emissions by 2045.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Talking points:

- The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025 (the Strategy) sets out actions to work towards achieving our 2025 greenhouse gas emission reduction target, build resilience to climate change impacts and progress towards achieving net zero emissions by 2045.
- The Strategy focuses on reducing emissions from transport and gas. Transport and gas account for around 64% and 22% of 2020 ACT emissions, respectively.
- The Strategy is complemented by Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan (the Plan), which sets directions for maintaining and enhancing trees, soils and waterways to keep our city cool and liveable in a changing climate.
- The Government has since committed to new, ambitious actions detailed in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (the PAGA) that will further support action on climate change, such as legislating to prevent new gas connections in greenfield suburbs, and expanding the number of zero emission vehicles in the ACT.
- The Strategy, Plan and PAGA bring together emission reduction and adaptation measures as part of a holistic response to climate change. The importance of building our resilience to climate change impacts was highlighted by the latest climate science and the extreme weather-related events we have seen over the past few years.

Key Information:

- Key achievements to date have included:
 - A 100 per cent renewable electricity supply and meeting the legislated 40% emissions reduction target in 2020.
 - In 2019, the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* was amended to legislate an ongoing 100 per cent renewable electricity target post 2020.
 - In 2019, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme was extended to 2030. In 2022, the Priority Household Target has increased from 30 per cent to 40 per cent.
 - From 20 December 2019, e-scooters and other similar devices can now legally be used in the ACT.
 - On 28 August 2020, a Territory Plan variation commenced that removes the mandatory requirement for gas connection to blocks in new suburbs and new estates are being developed without gas connections.
- Achieving the aims of the Strategy will require an active partnership between the Government and the community. We look forward to working with our citizens to ensure Canberra continues to be a sustainable and vibrant city.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: Emma Richardson Ext: 76493
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

[RETURN TO INDEX](#)

Background Information:

- The *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25* and *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan* were released in September 2019.
- In May 2019, the ACT joined many other cities, states and territories around the world in declaring a state of climate emergency, acknowledging the need for urgent action across all levels of Government.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**TRANSITION TO ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLES ACTION PLAN****Talking points:**

- In April 2018 the Government released ‘The ACT’s Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV) Action Plan 2018-2021’ (the Action Plan).
- The Action Plan sets a clear direction for the ACT to accelerate and support the uptake of ZEVs, including battery electric vehicles (BEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles and electric bikes. Australia’s first public hydrogen refuelling station opened in Fyshwick on 26 March 2021 and is operated by ActewAGL.
- As at 1 December 2021 there were 1,559 ZEV registered in the ACT, 21 of which are Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV). ZEVs make up 0.42% of total registered vehicles in the ACT. FCEVs make up 0.01% of total registered vehicles, and BEVs make up 0.41%. In December 2021, 5.0% of all new light vehicle sales in the ACT were BEVs. This information is displayed and regularly updated on the Climate Change website.
- The 2020 Parliamentary and Governing Agreement and the 2020-21 ACT Budget set out an ambitious agenda to increase the number of ZEVs in the ACT. Specifically Government has committed to:
 - Engage with the ZEV industry and adopt a target for new ZEV sales by 2030;
 - Provide financial incentives for the purchase of ZEVs;
 - Fund 50 public chargers in 2021-22;
 - Establish a fleet advisory service to support Canberra businesses and community organisations transitioning their fleets to ZEVs; and
 - Enact regulation in conjunction with the Territory Plan Review to ensure infrastructure for new multi-unit residential and commercial buildings are electric vehicle (EV) ready, and investigate measures to support retrofitting of charging infrastructure in existing buildings.

Key Information:

- On 22 April 2021, the ACT Auditor General’s performance report on ACT Government’s vehicle emissions reduction activities was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Government accepted all recommendations and implementation is underway.
- The ACT has among Australia's most generous financial incentives for the purchase and registration of ZEVs:
 - A full stamp duty exemption the first time a ZEV is purchased.
 - Two years of free registration for new or used ZEVs purchased from 24 May 2021 and before 30 June 2024, subject to eligibility requirements.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 77533
Contact Officer name: Jacinta Evans Ext: 71502
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- On 10 December 2021 Government published its ZEV Public Charging Outlook, which will provide information about future locations for public ZEV chargers. The Outlook will also inform the location of the 50 publicly accessible charging stations funded in 2022 and Expressions of Interest are now closed.
- The ACT Government has partnered with Neoen, Hyundai and ActewAGL on a hydrogen mobility demonstration project, based around the Fyshwick hydrogen refuelling station, and integrates 20 hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles into the ACT Government fleet.
- The ACT Government is a key partner in the ‘Realising Electric Vehicle-to-grid Services’ (REVS) project which is a trial to demonstrate that EVs can contribute energy stability to the live power system, by transferring power back and forth into the grid as required. This will pave the way for accelerated adoption of vehicle-to-grid (V2G) services in the National Energy Market. 50 Nissan LEAF electric vehicles in the ACT Government fleet will provide V2G services. The project commenced in June 2020 and will conclude in 2022.
- ZEVs are able to use ACT transit lanes from July 2019 until December 2023. “Zero Emission Cars Permitted” signage has been installed on Adelaide Avenue.
- The NRMA has invested in public EV charging infrastructure in regions surrounding the ACT such as Batemans Bay and Bega. Braidwood is one of the next planned sites. Evie Networks, Jolt and Ampol have also announced east coast charging network expansion that will provide links to the ACT as part of an integrated east coast.
- Road rules were amended in December 2019, to facilitate the safe use of new sustainable personal mobility options, such as electric scooters.
- Two dockless micromobility schemes (e-scooters) are operational in Canberra and expansions are being considered.
- The ACT Government is developing a business fleet advisory service. This will support provide practical information to businesses about transitioning vehicle fleets to zero emission. It will be launched in 2021-22.

ACT Government fleet passenger vehicles

- The ACT Government is leading by example with one of the largest passenger ZEV fleets in Australia. In 2019-20, there were 70 new ZEV leases, making up 57% of the total new passenger vehicle leases. In 2020-21, there were 74 new ZEV leases, making up 100% of new passenger leases where a fit for purpose ZEV was available.
- The ACT Government passenger fleet of 586 vehicles includes 180 zero emissions vehicles, totalling 31% of the fleet. Of these, there are 78 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) totalling 13% of the fleet; 82 plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) totalling 14% of the fleet; and 20 Hyundai Nexo fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) totalling 3% of the fleet.
- The ACT Government has over 125 fast charging (7-22kW) stations across the ACT, as well as four rapid chargers (25kW).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 77533
Contact Officer name: Jacinta Evans Ext: 71502
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS****Talking points:**

- Expanding the number of zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) in the ACT is an important part of Government's action to reduce ACT emissions toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
- Government has committed to Australia's most ambitious ZEV agenda to address transport emissions, which account for around 60% of total ACT emissions.
- In the 2020-21 ACT Budget, Government supported this commitment with \$1.3 million of funding for the installation of 50 publicly accessible charging stations.
- Increasing the number of publicly accessible chargers in the ACT will make charging convenient and give confidence to ACT drivers.
- In line with the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement, Government will conduct a two-step competitive funding process in 2021-22 to award funding for 50 public chargers. Expressions of Interest closed in early February 2022.
- On the 10th of December, Government published the Electric Vehicle (EV) Public Charging Outlook which will inform the locations of the 50 publicly accessible chargers, based on analysis of ZEV charging demand now and to 2030.

Key Information

- Range anxiety and charger availability is a key barrier to purchasing an EV.
- New charging infrastructure in visible and convenient locations will address range anxiety concerns.
- The total cost of this budget measure will be \$2.7 million to 2023-24 (including \$1.3 million for chargers). It has also funded the development of the fleet advisory service, Public Charging Outlook and market sounding and research projects to aid with the setting of a target for new ZEV sales in 2030.

Background Information

- On 9 June 2021, ActewAGL announced that it would be installing 20 public chargers in the ACT by 2027 in partnership with Evie networks.
- Development of the EV Public Charging Outlook, released in December 2021, included engagement with business and Evoenergy, noting the interaction with the ACT electricity network.
- The ACT currently has 42 charging stations that are accessible to the public, across 27 sites. A further 6 charging sites exist; however these are considered inaccessible to the general public.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/2/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 77533
Contact Officer name: JacintaN Evans Ext: 71502
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions**ELECTRICITY AND GAS PRICES****Talking points:**

- The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's (ICRC) regulated retail electricity price decision for 2021-22 was a 11.95 per cent increase in ActewAGL Retail's regulated retail electricity tariffs.
- This translates to an annual electricity bill increase of \$195 for an average ACT residential household (\$3.76 per week). The annual impact for an average small business customer is \$751 (\$14.44 per week).
- A significant component of the price increase is due to increases in the cost of the Territory's large-scale feed-in tariff scheme. This is driven by a significant reduction in wholesale electricity prices, in part in response to COVID-19.
- Low wholesale electricity prices affect the costs of the Territory's large-scale feed-in tariff scheme, due to our 'contract for difference' arrangements. When wholesale prices increase the costs of the scheme reduce, and when wholesale prices decrease the cost of the scheme rises.
- We know this is a significant impact for households and businesses, but also note:
 - With this increase, ACT electricity prices will remain comparable with other jurisdictions, even while delivering 100% renewable electricity.
 - In recent years, the costs of meeting our 100% renewable electricity target have been lower than originally anticipated, due to higher wholesale electricity prices.
 - Households can save money through energy saving measures including insulation and draughtproofing that can also increase comfort. The Sustainable Home Advice service offers free advice to households on energy savings.
 - Analysis by the Australian Energy Market Commission indicates households can save hundreds of dollars through switching to different pricing plans. So, shopping around for retailers and asking retailers for better deals is important.
 - The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission has recently published a new Code that requires retailers to notify customers when a better tariff is available. The Code commenced on 1 October 2021, with retailers being required to provide clear and transparent advice regarding offers to customers.
 - For those in particular need, a government Utilities Concession is available for \$750 per year. The ACT Government is also providing an additional \$250 rebate to eligible households for 2021-22, taking the 2021-22 payment to \$1,000.
 - In 2020-21, the ACT Government provided Utilities Hardship funding for \$100 vouchers to eligible customers with participating retailers. This program has been extended to 2021-22.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022

Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752

Contact Officer name: James Priestley Ext: 72092

Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- The ACT Government will also be funding an energy literacy program to fund community groups to help citizens better navigate the complex web of energy pricing.
- The energy price increase in 2021 was in part due to historically low wholesale electricity prices.
- It is impossible to predict future prices with certainty. However, we have already seen a return to more “normal” wholesale electricity prices.
- If this trend continues, we could reasonably expect to see a reduction in electricity prices in future years.
- When the reverse auction approach was first agreed in 2012, the ACT Government indicated costs could rise to around \$5.50 per household per week, which is very close to expected impacts in 2021-22.
- At the time, the auctions were recognised as a key support for continued renewable energy investment.
- The ACT Government’s approach to renewable electricity allows ACT consumers to benefit from electricity prices comparable with the rest of Australia, while making a real difference to greenhouse gas emissions.

Gas prices

- On 30 April 2021 the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) released its final determination on Evoenergy’s gas distribution network tariffs for 2021-2026.
- The new 5-year determination is expected to see an annual decrease in typical residential customer gas bills of \$10 in 2021-22, followed by an average increase of \$14 per year for the next 4 years.
- The ACT Government has supported the establishment of an Energy Consumer Advocacy Network, through the Energised Consumers Project, to ensure consumer impacts are considered in decisions such as the ICRC retail electricity price decision.

Key Information

- Unlike retail electricity prices, retail gas prices are not regulated in the ACT. From 1 July 2021, ActewAGL Retail decreased both its supply and consumption charges by around 3.5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.
- Gas price increases in recent years have been driven by rising wholesale gas costs due to increased exports from the east coast of Australia and by a lack of competition between suppliers and pipeline operators. The Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee has initiated reforms to ensure efficient prices for customers.
- St Vincent de Paul also found that a typical consumption household can save \$550 per year, or 23 per cent, on electricity costs by switching from the highest priced market offer to the lowest priced offer in the market (including discounts).

Background Information

- ACT energy consumers can receive free advice through the Sustainable Home Advice line. Call 1300 141 777 or email ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au
- A range of rebates are also available for households and businesses to save on energy bills. Information is available at <https://www.actsmart.act.gov.au/>

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: James Priestley Ext: 72092
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**ACT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY – COSTS TO COMMUNITY AND CONSUMERS****Talking points:**

- The ACT continues to have electricity prices that are comparable with other jurisdictions, while leading the world in climate change response.
- The ACT has reached its 100 per cent by 2020 renewable electricity target, one of the most ambitious targets globally. It has strong community support.
- ACT Government climate change mitigation policies are expected to contribute around \$358 per annum to the typical¹ annual electricity bill of an average household in the ACT in 2021-22 (\$6.88 per week) using 6,370kWh annually. These are the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) Schemes at approximately \$6.50 per week and the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) at around 40 cents per week per household.
- Pass-through costs of the EEIS are offset by reduced energy demand, placing downward pressure on electricity prices.
- From the inception of the EEIS in 2013 to 30 June 2021, close to 78,500 households and businesses have benefited from the Scheme, including close to 20,400 priority households.
- Within the same timeframe, more than 40% of ACT households participated in the Scheme. For the close to 20,400 priority households, there are total lifetime bill savings of over \$100 million.
- Changes to wholesale electricity prices, in part in response to COVID-19, have seen the cost of the Territory's large-scale feed-in tariff scheme increase in 2021-22. In recent years, the costs of meeting our 100% renewable electricity target have been lower than originally anticipated, due to wholesale electricity prices.
- The energy price increase in 2021 was in part due to historically low wholesale electricity prices.
- It is impossible to predict future prices with certainty. However, we have already seen a return to more "normal" wholesale electricity prices.
- If this trend continues, we could reasonably expect to see a reduction in electricity prices in future years.
- These jurisdictional costs were less than 10% of retail electricity costs in 2020-21, in 2021-22 they will rise to approximately 20%.
- The ACT Government is helping households and businesses to manage their energy costs through a variety of programs and services.

¹ Representative household consumption as defined by the AER's annual retailer markets report 2020-21 Jurisdictional snapshot. Anticipated cost of schemes as provided by ICRC Retail Electricity Price Recalibration 2021-22: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers. Report 11 of 2021, June 2021.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022

Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752

Contact Officer name: Daniel Harding Ext: 77533

Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Key Information

Cost breakdown

- The annual costs expected for an average Canberra household using 6,370 kWh/yr in 2021-22² are:
 - large FiT component: \$300.86;
 - small-medium FiT component: \$36.82; and
 - Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme: \$20.32.

Opportunities to mitigate costs

- ACT energy consumers can receive free advice through the Sustainable Home Advice line (phone: 1300 141 777 or email: ActsmartAdvice@act.gov.au). A range of rebates are also available for households and businesses to save on energy bills. Information is available at www.climatechoices.com.au.
- Analysis by the Australian Energy Market Commission indicates households can save hundreds of dollars through switching to different pricing plans. So, shopping around and asking retailers for better deals is important.
- For those in particular need, a government Utilities Concession is available for \$750 per year. The Government is also providing an additional \$250 rebate to eligible households for 2021-22, taking the 2021-22 payment to \$1,000.
- In 2020-21, the ACT Government provided Utilities Hardship funding for \$100 vouchers to eligible customers with participating retailers. This program has been extended to 2021-22.
- The ACT Government will also be funding an energy literacy program to fund community groups to help citizens better navigate the complex web of energy pricing.

Annual Reporting of Cost of Living Impacts from Climate Change Policies

- The *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25* was released on 16 September 2019. Together with *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City*, the Strategy sets out the next phase of the ACT Government's climate response.
- The Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction reports on the cost of living impacts of implementing the Strategy in the Minister's annual report under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*.

² Representative household consumption as defined by the AER's annual retailer markets report 2020-21 Jurisdictional snapshot. Anticipated cost of schemes as provided by ICRC Retail Electricity Price Recalibration 2021-22: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers. Report 11 of 2021, June 2021.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

TRANSITION FROM NATURAL GAS

Talking points:

- Over 20% of ACT greenhouse gas emissions come from natural gas use. By contrast, all electricity in the ACT now comes from renewable sources. So, reducing gas use is essential to meeting our emission reduction targets.
- Rising retail gas prices and dramatic advances in the efficiency of electrical equipment mean that gas is no longer the cheap, green alternative it was in the past.
- The government will finalise by 2024 a plan for achieving zero emissions from natural gas use by 2045.
 - This will allow for planning a careful transition from fossil fuel natural gas. This planning will also consider the potential applications of zero emission alternatives to natural gas such as hydrogen and biogas.
 - A Gas Transition Taskforce has been established within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and is currently finalising modelling to consider technical and economic impacts of possible transition options.
- Action 4.3 of the *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019 - 2025* called for removing the mandatory requirement for natural gas infrastructure to be installed in new developments.
- A draft variation to the Territory Plan to implement this measure took interim effect from 17 January 2020 and was finalised on 28 August 2020.
- The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly includes a number of measures to reduce emissions from natural gas, including:
 - Legislating to prevent new natural gas network connections to future greenfield residential developments in 2020-21 (Measure A1.vii)
 - Advancing all-electric developments with a view to no new natural gas network connections from 2023 (Measure A1.viii)
 - Ensuring all new ACT Government buildings and facilities are fossil-fuel-gas free. (Measure A1.x)
- In 2018, the ACT Government agreed to a request from the Ginninderry estate developers in West Belconnen to remove the requirement to install natural gas in support of plans for a range of low-carbon electricity measures for the development.
 - This pilot demonstration project of an all-electric area will cover Stages 1 and 2 of the Ginninderry precinct, a total of 1,150 residences.
 - The results of the pilot will provide valuable information on energy cost savings for consumers and impacts on network connection charges, informing government consideration of future energy infrastructure and planning policies.

Portfolio/s: Sustainable Building and Construction
Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

MINIMUM ENERGY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is committed to ensuring that renters can enjoy the liveable homes that all Canberrans have a right to expect.
- Poorly insulated and energy inefficient housing can contribute to high energy bills and poor thermal comfort, affecting health and liveability.
- Renters living in these properties are either unable to make significant changes to the property or less able to afford energy efficiency measures like curtains, shading devices and more efficient appliances, leaving them subject to either discomfort or high energy costs.
- The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly includes a commitment (A1.iii) to enact minimum energy efficiency standards regulations for rental properties in 2021.
- This reiterates Action 4.7 of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025.
- To support delivery of this action, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was undertaken which considered minimum standard options along with consideration of issues such as safety and potential consequences for rental prices and availability. ACIL-Allen was commissioned to deliver this RIS. A round of engagement of key stakeholders to inform the RIS was undertaken in April and May. This included a survey of renters and rental providers through the ACT YourSay website. The results of the survey are available on the YourSay website.
- Three main options outlined below were considered through the RIS:
 - a minimum ceiling insulation standard; or
 - a minimum energy efficient heating standard; or
 - a ‘performance’ based standard, such as a minimum star rating, that gives rental providers a choice of upgrades to make.
- The option proposed for the standard is for rental homes with less than R2 insulation to be required to install or upgrade to a minimum of R5, where the R value is a measure of thermal performance and R5 is what is typically installed in new builds in Canberra. This was the option preferred from the RIS analysis.
- This standard will target only the worst performing properties. There will also be a phase in period of several years to allow rental providers that don’t meet the standard plenty of time to comply.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 77533
Contact Officer name: Perry Wiles Ext:76742
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- Recognising that a minimum energy performance requirement may potentially impose costs on rental providers, the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement also commits to a \$50 million program to improve efficiency of housing for vulnerable households, including “financial incentives to implement minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties.”
- Another round of community consultation and stakeholder engagement was undertaken in November and December last year. It garnered views on the proposed minimum standard and on how it should be implemented. These views are now being considered and are informing the detailed design of the regulation to enact the standard and associated measures.
- A “Listening Report” summarising the feedback received will be released in February.
- We expect the regulation to commence in mid-2022 with the minimum standard being phased-in over a few years.

Key information:

- The 2016 Census identified that there were approximately 45,000 residential rental properties in the ACT.
- Housing ACT has close to 12,000 dwellings, representing about 25 percent of the total rental market, and about 50 percent of the low-income rental market, in the ACT.
- The *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* as amended in 2020, allows for a regulation to be made to require minimum standards for residential rental properties. The Act specifies that regulated minimum standards may relate to energy efficiency.
- There is a ‘split incentive’ barrier to landlords investing in energy performance improvements as tenants end up as the beneficiary through reduced energy costs and improved thermal comfort. Government intervention through a regulation is necessary to overcome this barrier.
- Many rental properties are already energy efficient. Well-performing properties are unlikely to be affected by these minimum requirements. The standard will not apply to lower floor units in apartment blocks, and dwellings where installation of insulation is physically unfeasible will be exempt.
- The impact analysis in the RIS shows that this minimum standard, with a four-year phase-in, would provide around \$18 million in benefits for the ACT. The analysis also shows that for every dollar spent on the minimum standard, it returns \$1.30 to the community.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SUPPORT SCHEME (VHESS)****Talking points:**

- The ACT Government recognises the need for a ‘just transition’ as part of its climate change response, to ensure all households can receive the benefits of lower emission homes.
- A key element of this recognition, is that poorly insulated and energy inefficient homes contribute to higher energy bills and poor thermal comfort.
- Upgrades to improve thermal efficiency or replace inefficient appliances are expensive and can be difficult to afford particularly for Canberra’s most vulnerable households.
- To address these issues, the ACT Government committed \$50 million to the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme will deliver a range of measures to reduce energy hardship for low-income homeowners, public, private, and social housing renters.
- Informed by the options presented in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the Minimum Energy Standards for Rental Homes, the Scheme will support insulation upgrades for public and community housing.
- Phase one funding from the 2021-22 Budget includes national scorecard energy assessments and the commencement of insulation upgrades to Housing ACT properties.
- Phase two will commence in mid-2022 and will support insulation upgrades to priority rental homes to align with the expected introduction of the Minimum Energy Standards for Rental Homes.
- Phase Two will also offer support for low-income home owners to assist with ceiling insulation upgrades and transitioning off gas, and a pilot to support low income home owners living with chronic conditions.
- Participating households will benefit from reduced energy costs and improved health and wellbeing outcomes realised through greater thermal comfort and adequate insulation.
- The Scheme complements the Solar for Low Income Program that offers rebates to low income households, and the \$150 million Sustainable Household Scheme which supports all ACT households invest in energy efficient appliance upgrades through zero-interest loans.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 01/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext:77533
Contact Officer name: Sam O’Neill Ext:78616
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Key Information

- **The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement** action A1. iv seeks to *“Implement a five-year, \$50 million program to improve building efficiency and sustainability for social and public housing, low-income owner-occupiers, and the lowest performing rental properties; this includes upgrades to government housing, and financial incentives to implement minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties.”*
- The Scheme supports the following ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025 goals:
 - 2.A - Support low-income residents
 - 4.C - Climate-wise, zero emissions rental homes
 - 4.D - Climate-wise, zero emissions public housing
 - 4.E - Climate-wise, zero emissions low-income homes.
- The preferred option presented in the RIS for the Minimum Energy Standards for Rental Homes, proposed rental homes with less than R2 ceiling insulation be required to install or upgrade to a minimum of R5 ceiling insulation.
- The RIS impact analysis for the Minimum Energy Standards for Rental Homes shows, the preferred option with a four-year phase-in, would provide around \$18 million in benefits for the ACT. The analysis also shows that for every dollar spent on the Standard, it returns \$1.30 to the community.

Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Gaming

COMMUNITY CLUB UPGRADES

Talking points:

- The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (PAGA) includes a commitment to a five year, \$5 million Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund, to be accessible to community clubs.
- The Community Clubs Program supports eligible ACT clubs to undertake energy efficiency upgrades, building envelope improvements and install rooftop solar and energy storage systems to reduce their energy use and bills. It will also support clubs with their transition from gas.
- Rebates of up to \$75,000 per eligible club are available for approved upgrades and installations.
- Clubs will be given the opportunity to provide their plan to become an extreme weather refuge site as part of the program.
- Registrations for the program opened Friday 29 October 2021. As at 14 February 2022, 15 clubs have registered for the program and seven clubs have received energy assessments.
- Continued consultation will ensure the program is fit for purpose, meets the needs of the community clubs and meets the Government's expectation of PAGA action.

Key Information

- This program was developed by EPSDD in cooperation with the Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Directorate.
- This program is PAGA measure E.9.
- PAGA measure E.10 also includes commitment to financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather and smoke refuges. This element is being developed by JACS.

Background Information

- This program builds on the experience of the Actsmart Business Energy and Water program which currently provides energy efficient upgrades, solar advice and rebates to small businesses. It also complements the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme which requires electricity retailers to achieve energy savings in small-to-medium businesses and households.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 62054752
Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 62075335
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

**Note: Figures provided in this QTB incorporate reported 2020/21 data that is currently undergoing compliance verification; figures are expected to marginally change following final data validation **

Talking points:

- In 2020-21, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme (EEIS) delivered energy and bill savings for close to 2,700 participating ACT households that received energy efficiency upgrades under the Scheme.
- The Energy Savings Target (EST) is set at 12.5% for the 2022 compliance period (calendar year).
- The EST represents the total energy savings to be achieved by retailers in each compliance period. It is expressed as a percentage of their total sales in the ACT.
 - Larger electricity retailers (Tier 1) must meet this target by undertaking eligible energy saving activities.
 - Smaller electricity retailers (Tier 2) can meet the target by undertaking eligible energy saving activities, but have the option to pay an Energy Savings Contribution (ESC) of 12.5% of their electricity sales.
- The EST has increased from 8.6% in 2021 to 12.5% for the 2022 compliance period.
 - This adjustment reflects the transition of the Scheme from a greenhouse gas emissions to an energy savings metric since the ACT achieved its 100% renewable electricity commitment.
 - The increase in the EST is to maintain the intended ambition of the Scheme.
- The Priority Household Target (PHT) has increased from 30% to 40% for the 2022 compliance period. This will help to expand opportunities for low-income priority households in the Territory to reduce their energy use and costs.

Key Information

- From the Scheme's commencement in 2013 up to 30 June 2021:
 - Close to 78,500 households and businesses have benefited from the Scheme, including close to 20,400 priority households.
 - The close to 20,400 priority households, which includes rental properties, have experienced lifetime bill savings of over \$100 million.
 - Over 4,300 small- and medium-sized businesses have received commercial LED lighting upgrades worth over \$200 million in lifetime energy bill savings. Average lifetime energy bill savings for businesses is approximately \$50,000. This equates to just under \$100 per week in bill savings.
 - More than 40% of ACT households have participated in the Scheme.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022

Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager

Ext:62054752

Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf

Ext:62075335

Lead Directorate:

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Background Information

- The EEIS was established under the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012*. The scheme aims to encourage the efficient use of energy; reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use; reduce energy costs; and assist priority households to reduce energy use and associated costs.
- The EEIS requires electricity retailers to make energy savings in households and small-to-medium businesses. Electricity retailers achieve this by either undertaking eligible activities that deliver energy efficient appliance upgrades (e.g. installation of efficient heating, insulation, lighting etc.), or by making a financial contribution to the scheme.
- The EEIS adds approximately 40c per week to ACT household electricity bills (for an average household that uses 6,370kWh¹) in pass-through costs (*note: pass-through costs are calculated on standing offer contracts*).
- The EEIS is legislated to 2030 and is a key mechanism for delivering on the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025.
- On 1 January 2021, the EEIS transitioned from a greenhouse gas emissions to an energy metric in response to the Territory meeting the 100% renewable electricity target.
 - The 2020 compliance year (1 January - 31 December 2020) was therefore the final year to report abatement in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e).
 - Energy savings of the scheme measured are in megawatt-hours (MWh).

¹ Representative household consumption as defined by the AER's annual retailer markets report 2020-21 Jurisdictional snapshot. Anticipated cost of schemes as provided by ICRC Retail Electricity Price Recalibration 2021-22: standing offer prices for the supply of electricity to small customers. Report 11 of 2021, June 2021.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 14/02/2022

Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager

Ext:62054752

Contact Officer name:

Ros Malouf

Ext:62075335

Lead Directorate:

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

WATER GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Talking points:

- The ACT Government committed through the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement to consider the best administrative arrangements to manage new water programs and provide a holistic and coordinated approach to water programs and policy.
- Improvements to water governance in the ACT will aim to provide a more streamlined, collaborative, focused and accountable water management structure and, importantly, support effective engagement on critical issues such as planning the long-term water security, water quality and catchment conditions for the ACT.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) has commenced an independent review of current governance arrangements for water management in the ACT. This review will provide the foundation for improvements to support the ACT Government's water and catchment management agenda.
 - The review is being conducted with the involvement of relevant agencies across government and with Icon Water.
 - A proposed package of improvements to water governance arrangements is being prepared, with detailed analysis, business planning and consultation to deliver the blueprint for ACT water governance by early March 2022.

Key Information

- The governance review project aims to:
 - review current water governance arrangements and assess strengths and weaknesses in the context of 'best practice'
 - identify alternate models and approaches that could be applicable to the ACT, including the preparation of a cost-benefit analyses
 - prepare an implementation plan to deliver the preferred model.
- Implementing this project will:
 - establish a pathway to achieve good governance arrangements for providing efficient, effective water management within the ACT and surrounding region
 - strengthen the treatment of strategic risks associated with future water security and compliance with Murray-Darling Basin reform commitments
 - enhance long-term planning for water security, water quality and catchment condition for the ACT.
- The Project is being conducted in three stages:
 - **Stage 1** – Preparation of a Scoping Paper identifying issues, strengths and preliminary options for enhancing water governance arrangements.
 - A report has been received by EPSDD with the findings used in scoping Stage 2.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 01/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ryan Breen Ext: 78268
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

[RETURN TO INDEX](#)

- **Stage 2** – Development of a proposed governance framework and implementation plan which will:
 - provide detailed analysis of improvement options
 - include an improvement package framed by a preferred governance model as it would apply to ACT water resource management
 - seek government endorsement of a preferred model
 - outline a high-level implementation plan (blueprint) for instituting the preferred governance arrangements in the ACT.
- A service provider to facilitate Stage 2 has been contracted and delivery of the scope of work is nearing completion.
- **Stage 3** – Full implementation of the preferred governance model and options.
 - The timeframe for this stage will be dependent on the preferred governance arrangements developed through the project.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**ZERO EMISSIONS GOVERNMENT****Talking points:**

- The ACT Government has set an ambitious target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045. Meeting the emissions targets will require continued Government investment in emissions reduction programs and policies. This includes addressing Government's own emissions.
- In September 2019, the ACT Government released 'The ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25' (the Strategy) which outlined the Government's commitment to reduce emissions, setting targets of 33 percent reduction in Government emissions against 2020 levels by 2025 and net zero by 2040.
- Embedding a Social Cost of Carbon will help the ACT Government meet its emissions reduction targets by establishing a dollar value per tonne of emissions generated, based on the projected cost of climate change damages.
- Putting a price on the Social Cost of Carbon can then help the ACT Government measure the costs and benefits of alternative emissions reduction options and to prioritise public investment.
- Implementing a Social Cost of Carbon in the ACT also aligns with two Government commitments under the Strategy:
 - Action 5.5 - ensure the Social Cost of Carbon and climate change adaptation outcomes are considered in all ACT Government policies, budget decisions, capital works projects, and procurements; and
 - Action 5.11 - invest an interim price of \$20 per tonne of emissions from government operations into measures to meet the Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) target from 2020–21 and arrange for an independent body to develop a Social Cost of Carbon for application from 2025.
- In 2021, the Climate Change Council developed a report to support the Government to implement a Social Cost of Carbon in the ACT, building on advice provided over the previous five years and informing actions in the Climate Change Strategy. The Council's report is available on the ACT Government's Environment website. [The link to this work is here.](#)
- In 2021, the ACT also received a report from economist Nicki Hutley titled 'A Social Cost of Carbon for the ACT' that provided international examples of best practice use of the Social Cost of Carbon in governments globally. The report is published on the Environment website. [The link to this work is here.](#)
- The two largest sources of ACT Government emissions are transport fuel use (60 percent of Government emissions) and gas use (40 percent of Government

emissions). The Strategy sets out to achieve these targets by establishing actions including:

- transitioning the leased passenger fleet to zero emissions (where fit for purpose);
 - ensuring the Social Cost of Carbon is integrated into government decision making;
 - developing a roadmap for transitioning Transport Canberra buses to zero emissions and a pathway to a zero-emissions health sector by 2040; and
 - ensuring new government buildings and leases are all-electric and replacing space and water heating at the end of their economic lives with electric systems (where fit for purpose).
- The 2020 Parliamentary and Governing Agreement sets out to reaffirm and expand on the commitments of the Strategy, including actions such as:
 - ensuring all new Government buildings (including leases) are fossil-fuel free;
 - all retrofits will have an aim of net-zero emissions post retrofit; and
 - implementing a pathway for the ACT to use only zero emissions public transport and garbage trucks by the mid-2030s, with no further purchase of non-zero emissions buses.
 - Emissions reduction activities reporting as required in the Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) Framework provides annual reporting of each Directorate's emissions against a five-year target. This provides accountability and transparency of Government progress towards the set targets. 2020-21 will be the first reporting period in which Directorates report progress towards their five-year targets.
 - To support progress toward the targets, the Government has implemented a Social Cost of Carbon at an interim price of \$20 per tonne of emissions to apply to Government operations. These funds are used to implement emissions reducing capital projects. This price will not be applied outside of Government, to business or to the community.
 - Key successes to date include:
 - Agreement to the Canberra Hospital Expansion being all-electric, a first for a major hospital facility in a cold climate.
 - Agreeing that all future schools will be all-electric including our first two all-electric schools.
 - Opening the Dickson Office Block, Canberra's first all-electric major office block.
 - 100% of new fit-for-purpose vehicle leases in 2020-21 were zero emissions. The ACT fleet now has more than 150 zero emissions vehicles and 100 electric vehicle charging points.
 - Committing to the purchase of a hybrid electric fire truck, a first in Australia.
 - Releasing the Zero-Emission Transition Plan for Transport Canberra and starting the process of purchasing zero emissions buses.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 28/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext:x79780
Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext:x75335
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Key Information

- The ZEG Fund is a no interest loan fund for Government agencies to finance emissions reduction activities. Loans are repaid using operational savings generated by the project. The loan fund has implemented 36 projects to the value of \$17 million since its creation.
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate, with support of the ZEG Fund, is piloting a hybrid fire truck that will be based at an all-electric depot. The truck will be operational from the second half of 2022.
- Key ACT Government Directorates have developed pathways to reach the 2025 emissions reduction targets. The Canberra Health Services pathway is currently under development.

Background Information

- The Social Cost of Carbon Fund will make funding available from the Better Infrastructure Fund to ACT Government agencies to undertake emissions reduction projects, such as the replacement of gas heating systems and a transition of the Government fleet to zero emission vehicles.
- The ACT Government saw a significant drop in emissions prior to the setting of the 2020 baseline with the successful implementation of 100% renewable electricity.
- Transport is now the largest source of emissions for the ACT Government, and this is primarily from the Transport Canberra bus fleet which represents over 50% of all Government emissions.
- The Government is considering options to embed the use of the social cost of carbon into decision making across Government.

Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**CESSATION OF THE SOLAR FOR BUSINESS TRIAL****Talking points:**

- The Solar for Business Trial Program was designed to assess barriers to business uptake of solar panels. Surveys had indicated that lack of information and up front financial costs were the main potential barriers.
- 93 small businesses and community organisations claimed a \$5,000 rebate to install rooftop solar systems under the trial. Most of these systems are under 15 kilowatts (kW) in size.
 - These 93 small businesses and community organisations received \$459,690 in rebates and installed 1402 kW of solar capacity.
 - These small businesses and community organisations saved a combined 1540 MWh in annual electricity consumption equating to around \$470,300 in annual electricity bill savings.
- A further 101 larger businesses received support with information and technical assistance only, often in relation to much larger solar systems. A number of these businesses have gone on to install solar systems, although we do not have detailed information on these outcomes.
- Evaluation of the program is currently being finalised and will assist with identifying potential ways to support solar uptake in future.
- Anecdotal feedback is that information and advice is extremely valuable; coupled with the rapid payback from solar panels provides strong support for business uptake.
- The experiences of businesses involved in the program provide the basis for case studies to encourage other businesses to take up solar. This experience is also integrated into advice provided to businesses under the Actsmart Business Energy and Water Program.

Background Information

- The Solar for Business Trial commenced in February 2019 and provided independent, tailored advice on the installation of rooftop solar to all businesses in the ACT.
- The Solar for Business Trial ended on 31 December 2020 with rebates ceasing on 30 June 2021 which allowed time for businesses to complete installations.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	14/02/2022	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext:62054742
Contact Officer name:	Ros Malouf	Ext:62075335
Lead Directorate:	EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

Talking points:

- In August 2020, the then Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability directed the Commissioner to conduct a special investigation into the ACT's Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Commissioner submitted the report 'Scope 3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the ACT – An Investigation of Current Scope 3 Emissions and Potential Future Reductions' on 28 September 2021. This report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 11 November 2021.
- The ACT Government is considering a response to the recommendations of the report and the response is due this month.
- Scope 1 emissions are emissions produced directly in the ACT. When we drive our petrol or diesel cars, when we burn gas to heat our offices or homes, and when organic waste in our landfills degrades, this releases greenhouse gas emissions for which we are clearly and directly responsible. The ACT Government continues to focus on reducing these emissions, especially through developing our gas transition plan and promoting the switch to zero emissions vehicles.
- Scope 2 emissions are those emissions produced in making the electricity we consume. We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to reach zero emissions in electricity.
- The Commissioner provided twelve recommendations for ACT Government to account for and reduce Scope 3 emissions.
- The recommendations focus on strengthening the ACT Government's leadership on climate action; changes for ACT Government operations; actions for households; and reducing emissions from the construction industry.
- The recommendations aim to effectively account for and reduce Scope 3 emissions in the Territory.
- These recommendations will be carefully considered by government and a response will be provided within six months.

Key Information

- In accordance with the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*, reports must be presented to the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of the Minister receiving the Submission. If agreed to by Cabinet, the Submission will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Government must formally respond within 6 months of the Submission's presentation to the Legislative Assembly.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 28/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 79780
Contact Officer name: Daniel Harding Ext: 77533
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

[RETURN TO INDEX](#)

Background Information

- The Terms of Reference established by the then Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability were:
 - By September 2021, the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will consider:
 - Methodologies for measuring scope 3 emissions;
 - Effective ways to reduce scope 3 emissions;
 - Appropriate targets for reduction; and
 - Recommendations for short and long-term action in this area.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**WATER QUALITY (BLUE GREEN ALGAE)****Talking points:**

- Water quality of ACT lakes, ponds and waterways is dependent on the condition of the catchments and levels of nutrient or other chemical pollution in those catchments.
- The ACT Government is committed to continually improving the health of the ACT's urban waterways and lakes. The Healthy Waterways Program and review of water governance arrangements are key parts of its strategy.
- The Bushfire Response and Recovery Program was established by the ACT Government to assist in the natural recovery of the ACT's water storage catchment areas impacted by the devastating Orrol Valley bushfires in 2019-20.
 - The program has several priorities including safeguarding the ACT's water supply.
 - Implementation of this program is continuing but landscape recovery of this magnitude will take many years.
- The quality of drinking water is managed by Icon Water to Australian standards.

Key Information:Lake and Waterways Closures

- As of 18 February 2022, the following sites have been closed for swimming (primary contact recreation):
 - Lake Ginninderra – Bimbi and Bargang beaches due to elevated bacteria levels.
 - Lake Tuggeranong – Tuggeranong Town Park, Nguru and Ngadyung beaches due to blue green algae.
 - Paddy's River (Murray's Corner) due to elevated bacteria levels.
 - Lake Burley Griffin – Weston Park East due to blue green algae. All other sites remain open.
- Lake and river closure information can change rapidly. For up-to-date information on all waterways except Lake Burley Griffin see:
https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/news/water_quality_in_our_lakes_and_ponds
 - The Environmental Protection Authority monitors lake water quality for blue-green algae.
- For information on Lake Burley Griffin, visit [The Swim Guide](#), press **Go to Map** and zoom in to the lake. Also see the [NCA website for this waterway](#).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 11/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ryan Breen Ext: 78268
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- Blue-green algae outbreaks occur due to a combination of high temperatures, high nutrient levels and calm weather conditions. These conditions commonly occur in a number of lakes across the ACT; in particular, in Lake Tuggeranong during the warmer months.
- Blue-green algae blooms are naturally occurring but urban run-off contributes excessive nutrients to the lake which increases the frequency and duration of algal blooms.
- Bacteria (Enterococci) levels are known to become elevated after rainfall due to run-off from stormwater pipes, grazing land and upstream water bodies. The ACT Health Protection Service conducts water testing for bacteria (Enterococci).

Measures to Improve Water Quality

Healthy Waterways Program:

- In February 2021, the ACT Government announced an additional \$1.5 million to plan Stage 2 of ACT Healthy Waterways. Planning activities are underway and expected to be completed by March 2022.
- A further \$5 million was committed by the ACT Government in October 2021 to the *Expanding Healthy Waterways* initiative. This comprised \$1.6 million in capital works and \$3.4 million in expenses.

ACT Water Governance:

- The ACT Government committed through the Parliamentary Agreement to consider the best administrative arrangements to manage new water programs and provide a holistic and coordinated approach to water programs and policy.
- The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate has commenced an independent review of current governance arrangements for water management in the ACT. This review will provide the foundation for improvements to support the ACT Government's water and catchment management agenda.

Stormwater management:

- The ACT has over 6,000 km of stormwater pipes, as well as other stormwater infrastructure. Stormwater operations and maintenance have an important role in restricting flooding of public roads and private properties, protecting these and other assets from water damage. However, this can come at a cost of poorer water quality in receiving waters, which is the reason for stormwater improvement programs like Healthy Waterways.
- The Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate operates and maintains the stormwater network to assist in minimising the risk of blue-green algae blooms through activities such as cleaning gross pollutant traps, desilting sediment basins, unblocking and monitoring the stormwater network, and litter pickup around waterways.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 11/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ryan Breen Ext: 78268
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**WATER SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY****Talking points:**

- Long-term water security is critical to the continued growth and prosperity of communities within the ACT region.
- The ACT Government has strengthened its resolve to future-proof our region. EPSDD are considering the best administrative governance arrangements to provide a holistic, coordinated approach to water programs and policy, and to reinforce future water security planning and management.
- Having full water storages (such as at present) is only one aspect of water security and does not allow for complacency. Permanent Water Conservation Measures will remain in force and the ACT Government is continuing to examine measures to improve water use efficiency.
- The ACT Government works closely with Icon Water, as the ACT's supplier of water and sewerage services, in planning for water security under current and future climate scenarios.

Key Information:Water availability

- Water storage levels in the ACT are at 100% (as at 21 February 2022). The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal forecast indicates a continuation of above median rainfall and temperatures for February to April 2022.

Water security planning and management

- Icon Water regularly reviews the ACT's water supply, which is determined by storage levels and other factors including predicted demand, climate outlook, regional water availability and catchment conditions.

Icon Water has conducted a series of community forums to seek views on future water supply options. These views are informing a review of their Source Water Strategy (2018) and drought management planning. The Source Water Strategy sets out how Icon Water will meet service expectations for water supply.

- The ACT Government-initiated 'Water Security Workshops' in 2020 provided stakeholder insights into the major challenges and issues around long-term water security and water governance for the region.
- Under the ACT Water Strategy 2014–44, Icon Water is required to maintain water security such that the current water supply system should meet unrestricted demand for the ACT and Queanbeyan 95% of the time until at least 2030.
- Icon Water currently provides urban water for a combined Canberra and Queanbeyan population of approximately 450,000 residents.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 10/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ryan Breen Ext: 78268
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**HEALTHY WATERWAYS****Talking points:**

- A pilot H2OK public education campaign has begun that targets household management of grass clippings and leaf fall in yards and in bordering suburban streets. The aim of the campaign is to minimise the amount of plant matter ending up in drains. The pilot kicked off in late January 2022 and includes a number of [Facebook posts](#) and a [sister website](#), with videos still to come and cross-posting on other social media platforms.
- The floating wetland in Lake Tuggeranong has now twice broken its anchors in storms and is being re-deployed further out in the lake, away from the constricted bay where the force of the flows can be quite violent. This may reduce the effectiveness of the wetland at preventing algal blooms from forming in the bay. It is important to bear in mind that this deployment is a trial and that Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) are learning useful lessons from.
- A 2021-22 mid-year budget bid to secure the remaining funding for the \$30 million *Expanding Healthy Waterways* program, as per the commitment in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement (PaGA) for the 10th Legislative Assembly, has been submitted.

Background:

- ACT Healthy Waterways aims to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution of ACT lakes and waterways, and the problems that the pollution causes like algal blooms.
- ‘Stage 1’ of ACT Healthy Waterways, begun in 2014 as a \$94 million joint initiative of the Australian and ACT Governments. It was completed in June 2021. Stage 1:
 - Designed and built 19 large water quality assets—raingardens, ponds, wetlands and channel restorations—according to ‘water sensitive urban design’ (WSUD) principles.
 - Carried out a major riparian restoration.
 - Conducted a public education/behavioral change program, known as *H2OK: Keeping our Waterways Healthy*.
 - Performed research into pollution, blue-green algal blooms and control methods.
 - Monitored and modeled ACT waterways to facilitate improved management.
- The ACT Government commenced ‘Stage 2’ of ACT Healthy Waterways in the 2019-20 mid-year budget with an investment to fix a malfunctioning gross pollutant trap at the bottom of Village Creek, where the stormwater enters Lake Tuggeranong and construct a Canberra first floating wetland. This was delivered in March 2021 when the Minister for Water launched the wetland.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ralph Ogden Ext: 72207
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- This is the first large-scale deployment of a floating wetland in the ACT and is a two-year trial. The aim is for the wetland to compete with blue-green algae for nutrients and light, preventing algal blooms in the bay that then spread to the lake.
- In February 2021, the ACT Government committed \$1.5 million to begin planning for a broader program of work in Stage 2 of ACT Healthy Waterways, aligned to the *Expanding Healthy Waterways (\$30 million over 4 years)* commitment in the PaGA for the 10th Legislative Assembly.
- The focus of *Expanding Healthy Waterways* is on preventing stormwater pollution from occurring in the first place, using street-scale WSUD infrastructure and new approaches to managing green space within suburbs.
- In October 2021, a further \$5 million was committed to *Expanding Healthy Waterways* to:
 1. Design and build in 2021-22:
 - Two floating wetlands are being deployed in Yerrabi Pond (April 2022).
 - Three bioretention swales are being built to replace existing grass swales draining the Kambah Playing Fields, which have been detected leaking nutrients into stormwater (March 2022).
 2. Plan five water quality ‘treatment trains’ — a series of assets in a drainage line that aim to reduce pollution below a target level — in the following catchments:
 - Village Creek
 - Fadden Pond and downstream drainage
 - Tuggeranong Creek
 - Kippax Creek
 - Emu Creek, Belconnen.

These catchments were chosen on the basis of 1) feasibility to explore innovative options, 2) strong community demand, while extending Healthy Waterways activities across Canberra.
- The actual construction of treatment train assets is subject to further funding.
- The remainder of the \$5 million in funding is being used to:
 - Investigate the source of pollutants in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment, so that water quality infrastructure can be well targeted.
 - Run H2OK public education campaigns targeting grass clippings and leaf fall in yards and bordering suburban streets.
 - Prepare catchment plans for several urban lakes and ponds.
 - Enhance EPSDD’s water quality modelling capability, to underpin the catchment planning process.
- The focus of water quality research and modelling in 2021-22 is on water quality in the Lake Burley Griffin catchment, pollution sources in the Lake Tuggeranong catchment, and the response of blue-green algae in both lakes.
- Modelling of Lake Burley Griffin and its catchment has informed EPSDD’s response to the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed upgrade to the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ralph Ogden Ext: 72207
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT****Talking points:**

- The Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) has proposed construction of a new treatment plant to upgrade the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant (QSTP).
- It is estimated that the existing QSTP has about 3-5 years of effective service life remaining.
- The proposal is currently going through the environmental impact statement (EIS) process. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provided comment on the EIS in March 2021. A revised EIS is being prepared by the proponent and is due in September 2022.
- There is no question that upgrades to the QSTP are required to service the current demand and a future population of up to 75,000.
- Concerns have been raised about whether the draft EIS adequately addressed the range of issues associated with the new plant's impact on the receiving waters of Lake Burley Griffin (LBG). These include impacts on water quality, aquatic biodiversity and public amenity.
- Further information and analysis of impacts has been requested by EPSDD to ensure the best possible outcome for LBG water quality. These comments will need to be addressed by the proponent in the revised EIS.
- Other considerations include the need for potential upgrades or development of treatment plants at Fyshwick and Lower Molonglo.

Key Information

- The existing QSTP is estimated to have a design capacity for 34,500 Equivalent Persons (EP) but currently services about 52,000 EP.
- Although the plant is meeting the existing effluent licence conditions, there is a risk that it would be unable to meet more stringent discharge criteria that are required to protect the lake's values. It is also unlikely that the plant would continue to meet the existing criteria under the projected population growth in Queanbeyan.
- The catchment of LBG includes the headwaters of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan rivers. This means that LBG receives discharges from the QSTP, which (in addition to urban and rural runoff) contribute to regular blue-green algae outbreaks in LBG.
- Since construction in the 1960s, LBG has been afflicted with major blue-green algae blooms. Major blooms were common in the late 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. However, the recent trend has been an increasing incidence of blue-green algae blooms, particularly over the last five years (NCA data).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Jasmyn Lynch Ext: 54815
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- Surveys have indicated that the majority of the community perceives that LBG has poor water quality and the full amenity value of the lake is not being realised. Regular closures of LBG to primary contact recreation is likely to support an ongoing perception in the community that the lake has poor water quality.
- In March 2021, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment was directed to undertake an investigation into the state of lakes and waterways in the ACT. The timeframe for this report was recently extended to May 2022. This report will inform strategic direction to manage water quality of LBG.
- A 2012 report by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment estimated that continued deterioration in the quality and reliability of LBG as a sporting venue creates an annual economic cost to the ACT and region of around \$25 million per annum.
- Nutrient discharge from the QSTP also can impact negatively on aquatic species because it contributes to poor water quality. While the nutrient load from the QSTP is high, the degree to which existing, or future, discharge is impacting on aquatic values is yet to be fully evaluated.

Background Information

- The existing QSTP was built in the mid-1930s and is located within the Jerrabomberra district of the ACT. The plant processes sewage from NSW and Oaks Estate (in the ACT) and discharges treated effluent into the Molonglo River.
- A study commissioned in 2011 recommended a major upgrade to the plant, but those upgrades were not carried out. Since 2011, the condition of the QSTP has continued to deteriorate while the local population has increased. This has resulted in exceedance of the design capacity of the plant.
- Section 123 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* identifies assessment of the proposal as Impact Track requiring an EIS. Specifically, the proposal includes activities identified in Schedule 4 of the Act which triggers an EIS: “*construction of a sewage treatment plant that will be less than one kilometre from the boundary of a residential block and will be able to treat each day more than 2500 EP*”.

Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction
Environment

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government strongly supports the Catchment Groups and our community volunteers and is delivering on its commitment to volunteering made in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement.
- The ACT Government oversees a range of volunteer programs including ParkCare and Waterwatch, that support successful environmental initiatives through significant community effort.
- Volunteers provide in excess of 50,000 volunteer hours a year to assist with the implementation of key environment and conservation objectives.
- The Ginninderra Catchment Group, Southern ACT Catchment Group, and the Molonglo Conservation Group are peak community groups that play a key role in volunteer coordination and provide critical services to the ACT.
- The Catchment Groups will be receiving significant funding for the 21-22 financial year:
 - \$395,000 for community engagement in relation to:
 - Strong community stewardship of urban waterways
 - Measurable improvement in community ‘stormwater literacy’
 - Reducing stormwater pollution, especially nutrient pollution, coming from suburbs
 - A more resilient and nature-connected community
 - Ecological and social fire recovery.
 - \$270,000 for coordination of community Waterwatch volunteers.
 - \$87,000 for coordination of community Frogwatch volunteers.
 - \$220,000 in successful 2021-22 ACT Environment Grants.
- In the 2019-20 midyear budget review and the 2021-22 budget, the ACT Government provided additional ongoing support to community volunteers through increased funding for the ParkCare Ranger Program.
- In the 2021-22 budget, the ACT Government provided:
 - \$103,000 to ACT Wildlife to support the rescue and care of injured wildlife;
 - A \$115,000 increase in the ACT Environment Grant funding to bring the total grant funding to \$315,000; and
 - An additional ParkCare Officer position to support community volunteers.

- The Waterwatch program is a successful citizen science program which has significant community support and provides vital water quality monitoring information. It was funded for \$539,000 per annum, of which a large portion of the funding goes directly to the Catchment Groups for volunteer coordination.

Background Information

- In the lead up to the 2020 ACT Election, election commitments were made to fund a number of initiatives undertaken by the three Catchment Groups. This included base funding to the three groups, Waterwatch and Frogwatch funding, increases to the ACT Environment Grant funding pool and increased support to ParkCare.
- The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement offers an increase in funding for local environmental volunteer-based organisations of \$3.2 million over 4-years at item 17.5, however, it does not provide the details of which organisations will be funded.
- EPSDD is currently developing a new environment volunteering policy and supporting IT system that will significantly assist in managing and supporting environmental volunteers.

Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**ACT Water Strategy Report Card****Talking points:**

- The 2021 ACT Water Strategy Report Card (Report Card) provides a snap shot of activities undertaken to deliver Implementation Plan Two (IP2) of the ACT Water Strategy (the Strategy) and is published on the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) website.
- Water management within the ACT is a shared responsibility. The 2021 Report Card celebrates the contributions from multiple agencies and the community towards achieving the outcomes of the Strategy. A selection of activities reported include:
 - continuation of the Healthy Waterways Program
 - the Waterwatch Catchment Health Indicator Program report
 - works to rehabilitate high country bogs and fens following the Orroral Valley wildfire
 - Icon Water’s work on drought management planning and community education.
- The 2019-20 bushfires and responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency has presented challenges for implementing IP2 of the Strategy.
- Improving water governance arrangements, the delivery of the Healthy Waterways Program and facilitating greater integration of traditional knowledge and practices within water policy and planning has been a focus for the Directorate in 2021-22. The benefits from this work will be showcased in the 2022 Report Card.

Key Information

- The Strategy’s Implementation Plan sets the outcomes, targets and indicators necessary to achieve the Strategy, while recognising that priority activities may need to be adjusted as new information emerges.
- The 2021 Report Card indicates that the ACT is on track towards achieving the targets for outcomes one (*healthy catchments and waterbodies*) and three (*a community that values and enjoys clean, healthy catchments and waterways*). Further information is required to ascertain progress against the target for outcome two (*a sustainable water supply used efficiently*).

Background Information

- The ACT Water Strategy 2014-44: Striking the Balance was launched in August 2014 along with Implementation Plan One (2014–18).
- The ACT Water Strategy Implementation Plan Two 2019-2023 was released on 20 June 2019.
- The 2021 Report Card is published at: [ACT Water Strategy - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate - Environment](#).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Nigel Dears Ext: 58535
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Portfolio/s: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**Murray Darling Basin Water Reforms****Talking points:**

- The Murray-Darling Basin Plan provides a framework to guide the sustainable management of water resources in a way that balances the needs of the environment, communities and industry.
- Implementing the Basin water reforms is a collaboration between Basin governments. These reforms provide the appropriate scale of management, across State and Territory borders, to respond to our climate emergency and safeguard the long-term security of our water resources.
 - The poor health of the upper Murrumbidgee River is a testament to the importance of cross-border collaboration on water management.
 - We are working with NSW water managers to establish arrangements that protect our native fish populations and avoid future instances, such as in 2019, where the Murrumbidgee River ceases to flow.
- We are in negotiations with the Commonwealth Government on the next stage of funding to support the implementation of a suite of reforms relevant to the ACT and surrounding region.
 - Commonwealth funding proposed to support the implementation of Murray-Darling Water Reforms within the ACT during 2020-2024 is approximately \$2.5 million.
 - The ACT is also working with the Commonwealth to design bespoke arrangements for the implementation of water efficiency measures. These measures are important for building a water secure city.

Key Information

- Priorities for water management reform within the ACT over the 2020-24 period include:
 - contemporising water governance arrangements to support integrated policy and program delivery
 - advancing the water interests of Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians
 - climate vulnerability and water security planning to build resilience in the environment and community of the ACT and surrounding region
 - enabling ACT-NSW water trading to support environmental, cultural, and regional economic development
 - facilitating improved community engagement on the Basin Plan implementation and review within the upper Murrumbidgee region

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 59027
Contact Officer name: Ryan Breen Ext: 78268
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- delivering water for the environment by returning at least 4.9 gigalitres to the basin through a suite of water efficiency measures.

Background Information

- The Basin Plan was established in 2012 under the *Water Act 2007* (Cwlth). The key objectives of the Plan (s5.02) are:
 - to give effect to relevant international agreements (environmental) through integrated water management
 - establish a sustainable, long-term adaptive management framework for the Basin water resources
 - optimise social, economic and environmental outcomes in the national interest
 - improve water security for all water users.
- Programs developed to implement the Basin Plan are scheduled to conclude by 2024. This includes measures under the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism.
- The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is required to conduct an evaluation of the Basin Plan implementation by 2024 and a review of the Basin Plan by 2026.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**COVID 19 IMPACTS – CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY****Talking points:**

- COVID-19 creates new challenges for our community.
- The top priority for the government will always remain the health and safety of our citizens and guests.
- Following announcement of an ACT lockdown on 12 August 2021, due to COVID-19, the Program delivery to businesses, schools, households and community switched to online delivery.
- Program delivery is now gradually transitioning to a hybrid model of online and in-person delivery as public health restrictions ease. Staff and contractors are adhering to robust approved COVID-19 safety protocols for in-person delivery.
- There continues to be a focus on addressing the challenges of climate change. The Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly includes next steps on climate action as its first set of priorities.
- Due to social distancing requirements and other responses to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the ACT Government is using new delivery methods where needed to continue to support the community. This includes delivery of virtual energy, solar, water and waste assessments for businesses, and virtual ‘in-home’ assessments for households.
- Contractors across the program delivery space are providing alternative and modified delivery to ensure the community continues to be supported.
- Work to install efficient heating and cooling infrastructure is on hold, recognising that many family budgets are likely to be particularly vulnerable this year.
- The ACT Government has also announced a number of measures to reduce energy bill stress, including energy bill support for households and businesses, rate reductions and an enhanced utilities hardship fund.
- In-home installations and in-home energy assessments have recommenced with contractors following approved COVID safety protocols.
- The ACT Government is also taking actions to make sure we are hearing the needs of the community during this time, ensuring we remain agile and helping to support viable solutions.

Key Information:

- All program delivery will continue in a digital form, where suitable, to support those still in workplaces and planning with stakeholders for the for the return to normality is underway.
- Connections to community groups including community partners will continue via digital communication and/or in-person (where COVID safety protocols allow).
- While most events, including EPSDD events and other public events have been postponed, work on how these can be supported when they return is underway.

Background Information:

- The Climate Change and Energy Division supports the community through the delivery of programs to the Household, Schools, Business, Government and Community sectors.
- The Division designs and delivers policy on energy, climate change, adaptation and living infrastructure. This work continues to support ACT Government objectives including the commitment to 100 percent renewable electricity.

Portfolio/s: Sustainable Building and Construction
Planning and Land Management
Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

LIVING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (including DV369)

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is committed to achieving sustainable development outcomes that meet the needs of the growing population, while retaining the values, features and landscape setting that make Canberra unique.
- The ACT Government recognises that population growth, urban densification and climate change pose challenges for how we achieve this outcome.
 - Continued urban expansion puts pressure on the valued natural resources that surround the city such as our bushland and grasslands, landscape setting and connectivity of ecosystems.
- Urban densification introduces new challenges for which innovative and ecologically sustainable urban development solutions will need to be considered and adopted.
- The ACT Government is committed to planning for connected open space networks and sufficient tree canopy cover for public spaces and to mitigate against the loss of tree canopy cover, permeable surfaces and planting area as a result of urban intensification.
- *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City* outlines the ACT Government's commitment to addressing urban heat, primarily by protecting and improving living infrastructure within urban Canberra.
- Living Infrastructure helps to make our city 'climate-wise', enhancing its capacity to cope with the impacts of urban densification and climate change by reducing urban heat island effects, increasing access to shade, and safeguarding urban landscape function and health.
- The Living Infrastructure Plan has established targets of 30 percent tree canopy cover (or equivalent) and 30 percent permeable surfaces by 2045 within the built environment footprint. They are an important element of achieving the sustainability and resilience objectives for our city set out in the *ACT Planning Strategy 2018*.
- Achieving the Plan will rely on collective and collaborative efforts across Government, community and the business sector.
- Current action being undertaken by the ACT Government includes:
 - Planting of 54,000 trees in Canberra between 2020-21 and 2023-24 to contribute to the 30 percent canopy cover (or equivalent) target for Canberra's urban footprint.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: Carolyn Goonrey Ext: 76858
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- The Development of an Urban Forest Strategy to support the long term strategic management and growth of the urban forest. The final Strategy was released on 30 March 2021.
- Demonstration projects such as the Whitlam Display Village which trials innovative living infrastructure solutions such as passive irrigation, permeable driveway surfaces and advanced street tree planting.
- Introducing changes to the Territory Plan requirements, notably to the draft Territory Plan Variation 369 – Living Infrastructure in Residential Zones which are outlined below -
 - These requirements don't go all the way to achieving the Plan's targets, but they significantly strengthen the contribution that residential developments make to tree canopy and green infrastructure.
 - Further amendments to planning processes in the future will be introduced to support the ACT reaching its targets by 2045.

DV369 – Living Infrastructure in Residential Zones

- This draft Variation proposes higher requirements for the minimum planting area, along with new requirements for planting of trees for blocks with a residential zoning.
- DV369 also introduces new site coverage requirements for different sized residential blocks, introduces a new definition for deep soil zone and strengthens the definitions for site coverage and planting areas.
- Changes to the recommended version respond to community feedback that living infrastructure should be embedded across private and public land. These included adjustments for small blocks to enable an appropriately sized home to be built while providing planting area on the site.
- The recommended version of DV369 and associated consultation report were made available to the public on Friday 29 October 2021 on the Legislation Register and EPSDD website.
- The Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services advised that an inquiry into DV369 will not be conducted at this time.
- Industry information sessions on the changes proposed with DV369 are anticipated to be held during the week of 21 February 2022.
- The variation once approved is anticipated to be tabled in the Assembly in the March sitting week.

2020 Tree Canopy Cover Estimate

- Updated Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) analysis has allowed us to more accurately estimate current tree canopy coverage and provides us with a better picture of our living infrastructure in Canberra.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: Carolyn Goonrey Ext: 76858
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- Canberra's Total Canopy Cover (TCC) in 2020 was estimated to be 22.5 percent of Canberra's urban footprint.
- This provides a new baseline and helps identify areas where canopy cover is low so planting efforts can be prioritised.

Key Information

- In 2017, the ACT Government commissioned CSIRO to study Canberra's urban heat island effect. The research found that Canberra's summer land surface temperatures can be up to 10 degrees Celsius hotter than surrounding rural areas.
- Common measures to reduce urban heat include trees, watered grass, shading structures, wetlands, green walls and appropriate building and surface materials.

Background Information

- The Plan was released in September 2019. Canberra currently has an estimated 22.5 percent TCC, although this is not evenly distributed across the city.
 - This latest estimate has been prepared using LiDAR data captured in 2020 and represents the most recent analysis of TCC in urban Canberra.
- The urban heat island effect occurs when urban areas are warmer than surrounding rural areas. This is often due to buildings, roads and pavements (built environment) absorbing heat, which is then slowly released, leading to higher temperatures at both day and night.

2020 Tree Canopy Cover Estimate

- On 28 October 2021, the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA, released new estimates for tree canopy cover in Canberra.
- The estimates were prepared by staff in both EPSDD and TCCS using an updated methodology and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data collected in April 2020.
- The new estimate replaces the previous estimate using 2015 LiDAR data that was found to be unreliable due to inaccuracies in the data and the time of year the data was collected. Consequently, direct comparisons between the current 2020 estimate and the previous 2015 estimate should not be made.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**COMMUNITY ZERO EMISSIONS GRANTS PROGRAM****Talking points:**

- The Government has committed \$600,000 over 4-years in the 2021-22 Budget to continue the Community Zero Emissions Grants Program.
- This funding will continue to support community-led projects that help the ACT reach its target of net zero emissions by 2045 and increase our community's resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Round five of the program opened on 1 February 2022 with \$150,000 of grant funding available.
- Grant applications up to \$50,000 available per single application and \$75,000 for joint applications.
- The program priority areas for round five are reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and natural gas use as well as supporting the community to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including more extreme heat waves, bushfires, droughts and storms.

Key Information:*Previous funding under the Community Zero Emissions Grants Program*

- The Government's 2021-22 Budget commitment builds on previous funding of \$550,000 over 4-years (2017-18 to 2020-21).
- This funding delivered projects and activities that aimed to:
 - develop and implement innovative solutions and generate new knowledge and information to support a community transition to net zero emissions by 2045;
 - assist the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT; and
 - drive greater community awareness of and engagement in the transition to net zero emissions.
- Four rounds were delivered through the Government's previous funding commitment, with a total of 23 funded applications.
 - Under each round, a maximum of \$25,000 (excluding GST) was available to eligible individual applicants and up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) for joint applications.
- The most recent round (Round Four) provided a total of \$127,424 in funding to support five successful applications.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

Background Information:

- In Round One, 19 grant applications were received and assessed, with six applicants successful, sharing \$117,910 in grant funding.
- In Round Two, 16 grant applications were received and assessed; with seven applicants successful, sharing \$167,528 in grant funding.
- In Round Three, 20 grant applications were received and assessed; with seven applicants successful, sharing \$160,117 in grant funding.
- In Round Four, 16 grant applications were received and assessed; with five applicants successful, sharing \$127,424 in funding.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**RENEWABLE ENERGY AND STORAGE PROGRAMS****Talking points:**

- The ACT has reached 100 percent renewable electricity 'on and from' 2020, with eleven large feed-in tariff supported projects completed.
- The renewable auctions also leverage more than \$500 million over 20-years in local investment.
- The \$25 million Next Generation Energy Storage (Next Gen) program has supported the installation of over 2,048 energy storage systems, or 9.6 megawatts (MW) of sustained peak output, to date.

Key Information:

- Around 26,000 Canberra households and businesses have installed rooftop solar, totalling around 125MW. With our large-scale solar farms, there is already over 165 MW of solar capacity in the ACT.
- The renewable energy auction held in November 2019 will deliver new supply to cope with forecast future demand growth as our city's population increases. Two projects were secured through the auction to deliver 200MW of renewable electricity to the ACT – Global Power Generation's Berrybank wind farm in Victoria and Neoen's Goyder wind farm in South Australia. The Goyder wind farm and Berrybank 2 wind farm are both in construction stage.
- The Government has published a methodology on how the renewable electricity target will be measured over time. Progress was reported in December 2020 and will be reported every year following.
- The \$25 million Next Gen program is supporting the installation of up to 36 MW of distributed energy storage in the ACT.
 - Eight installers have been accepted as providers under Round 5 Submission Period 2. Deeds have been finalised with Mondiaux, Stored Solar, Reposit Power, Sunbank Solar, Stag Electrical Solar & Refrigeration, Select Electrical & Solar Solutions, Lighting and Energy Conservation Australia and Photonic Solar Solutions.
 - They join the seven installers (Solar4Life, Solargain, ECG Electrical, Solarhub, Solahart Canberra, Ron Burrell Electrical and SunStak) that were successful under Round 5 Submission Period 1.
 - Photonic's deed has been terminated due to not meeting the terms in the deed. Discussions took place and the installer is understanding and comfortable with the steps taken.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: Ros Malouf Ext: 75335
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

- The panel now comprises of 14 installers which provides the ACT Community with a wide range of options.
- The Australian National University's Battery Storage and Grid Integration Project is supported by \$5 million from the ACT's Renewable Energy and Innovation Fund (REIF) and continues to deliver its milestones. The project has entered its 4th year.
- REIF Direct Grant Round 2 recipients who received in total \$1.1 million, continue to deliver upon their milestones. Two of the seven projects have been completed and the remaining projects continue to make progress.

Background Information:

- The Next Gen Program was established to:
 - stimulate the rollout of distributed solar energy storage in the ACT;
 - assist the development of ACT-based energy storage industry, research and training; and,
 - extend ACT's national leadership position in renewables.
- The Next Gen program won the Cities Power Partnership Renewable Energy Achievement Award in August 2019.

Portfolio: Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction**ENERGY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT****Talking points:**

- The safe, secure and reliable provision of energy services is critical to the functioning of the ACT economy and to the safety of the community.
- The ACT Energy Emergency (Coordination) Plan (the Plan) is a supporting plan of the ACT Emergency Plan. It provides a framework for a coordinated approach to an actual or imminent event relating to the supply of electricity, gas and/or liquid fuel, locally and nationally. The Plan was reviewed during 2019 and 2020, and an updated plan was approved by the ACT Emergency Services Agency Commissioner in July 2020.
- On 8 October 2021 the ACT Government participated in a national emergency exercise that tested the Plan in scenarios that included electricity and gas supply shortages.
- As the responsible Minister, a number of pieces of ACT legislation provide me with emergency powers to manage or ration the supply of energy in the event of an emergency.
- The ACT Energy Emergency Plan was not activated in 2021, and has not been activated so far in 2022.
- The ACT Energy Emergency Plan was activated three times in 2020, in response to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) advising a shortage of electricity supply reserves in the NSW region of the National Electricity Market.
 - In all instances severe heat conditions led to increased electricity demand and the subsequent low reserve conditions. The incident on 4 and 5 January 2020 was further complicated by bushfires impacting electricity transmission infrastructure. ACT residents were requested to voluntarily reduce electricity consumption during these emergency events.
 - Thankfully, on all three occasions there was no need for further action or use of emergency powers.

Key Information

- The AEMO operates the National Electricity Market and coordinates national gas network infrastructure.
- In the event of an energy emergency, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) seeks advice from AEMO and advises the ACT Government on an appropriate response to the situation.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 54752
Contact Officer name: James Priestley Ext: 72092
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

RETURN TO INDEX

CORPORATE BRIEFS	
1	EPSDD Controlled Financial Report EPSDD Statement of Performance EPSDD Territorial Annual Report – Incorporating OCSE
2	Output Costing
3	Advertising Costs
4	Single select procurement contracts – Notifiable contracts
5	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategies
6	Staffing Profile

FINANCIAL REPORT - EPSDD

Talking Points

- As at 30 June 2021, the Directorate's net operating result was a deficit of \$163.6 million, or a \$81.3 million higher deficit than the original budgeted operating deficit of \$82.3 million, and a \$134.5 million higher deficit than the 2019-20 financial year net operating deficit of \$29.1 million.

Background

Income

- Income overall was \$1.4 million lower than budget, with lower Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) and sales revenue offset by higher grants and other revenue.
- CRP was lower than budget during the year (\$139.7 million actual, \$153.4 million budget), due largely to funding not being required in 2020-21 under the Loose Fill Asbestos Scheme, with some property purchases being delayed until 2021-22. There were also several programs which were not delivered to expected levels within the year due to the challenges associated with COVID-19.
- Gains (\$22.4 million) were significantly higher than budget (\$14.2 million), due mainly to changes in the provisions held for Asbestos Response Taskforce future costs. The program was deemed to cost less than expected and a gain was recognised.

Expenses

- Expenses overall were \$79.9 million higher than budgeted, due mainly to expenses associated with the Large-Scale Generation Certificates and Assets Transfers and Write Offs, partly offset by lower grant payments.
- Large-Scale Generation Certificates were \$71.9 million higher than budget, primarily due to the creation of provision for Large-Scale Generation Certificates and an increase in the estimated fair value movement in the asset.
- Asset Transfers and Write Offs were \$21.2 million higher than budget, primarily due to the write off of capital works in progress.
- Grants were \$8.9 million lower than budget largely due to lower grant payments being made within the Asbestos Response Scheme. This is associated with lower activity in the scheme than originally budgeted.

Assets

- Assets in 2020-21 were \$30.8 million lower than budget. This is associated with lower Capital Work in Progress, offset by higher cash budgets.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

[RETURN TO INDEX](#)

- Cash and cash equivalent was \$16.7 million higher than budget due to the increased funds held under the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme. This cash will be returned to the government.
- Capital works in progress was \$31.3 million lower than budget due to capitalisation of assets constructed and expensing of other costs as projects have been completed.

Liabilities

- Liabilities increased significantly during the year, due mainly to the creation of the provision for Large-Scale Generation Certificates.

Future Trends

- The net cost of services in the 2021-22 year is expected to decrease by \$158.3 million compared to the 2020-21 budget. This is due to one off costs recognised in 2020-21 which should not occur in 2021-22 including the cost of write off and transfer of assets and the creation of a provision for Large-Scale Generator Certificates.

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
 Operating Statement
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2021**

	Note No.	Actual 2021 \$'000	Original Budget 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
Income				
Revenue				
Controlled Recurrent Payments	4	139 712	153 362	135 597
Sales of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers	5	8 609	11 806	8 301
Grants and Contributions	6	10 360	7 643	6 893
Interest		201	91	394
Right to Receive Large Scale Generation Certificates	7	71 867	70 158	70 906
Other Revenue	8	8 114	5 380	5 211
Total Revenue		238 863	248 440	227 302
Gains				
Gains on Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication		15 899	14 192	10 053
Other Gains		6 489	-	21 129
Total Gains	9	22 388	14 192	31 182
Total Income		261 251	262 632	258 484
Expenses				
Employee Expenses	10	77 499	72 226	72 951
Superannuation Expenses	11	12 013	11 573	10 761
Supplies and Services	12	60 289	74 589	69 412
Depreciation and Amortisation	13	9 925	5 823	7 419
Grants and Purchased Services	14	12 639	21 515	13 364
Borrowing Costs		25	44	32
Large-Scale Generation Certificates	15	157 137	85 269	91 752
Asset Transfers and Write Offs	16	77 707	56 459	6 171
Other Expenses	17	2 929	3 120	7 087
Transfers to Government	18	14 717	14 333	8 618
Total Expenses		424 880	344 951	287 567
Operating (Deficit)		(163 629)	(82 319)	(29 083)
Other Comprehensive Income				
Other Movements		-	6 468	-
Increase in Asset Revaluation Surplus		1 364	-	21 624
Total Other Comprehensive Income		1 364	6 468	21 624
Total Comprehensive (Deficit)		(162 265)	(75 851)	(7 459)

Cleared as complete and accurate:
 Cleared for public release by:
 Contact Officer name:
 Lead Directorate:

17/02/2022

Executive Group Manager
 Stuart Wall
 Environment, Planning and
 Sustainable Development

Ext: 76322
 Ext: 50760

RETURN TO INDEX

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2021

	Note No.	Actual 2021 \$'000	Original Budget 2021 \$'000	Restated Actual 2020 \$'000
Current Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	19	43 651	26 964	35 761
Receivables	20	7 891	7 263	7 366
Inventories		82	55	55
Land Held for Sale				
Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme	21	12 205	9 261	35 646
Other Assets		2 245	1 078	1 078
Total Current Assets		66 074	44 621	79 906
Non-Current Assets				
Receivables	20	4 047	5 529	5 319
Land - Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme	22	-	-	7 697
Property, Plant and Equipment ²	23	264 283	274 591	312 374
Intangible Assets	24	60 763	71 521	85 887
Biological Assets	25	27 148	25 494	25 494
Capital Works in Progress	26	14 107	45 428	36 340
Total Non-Current Assets		370 348	422 563	473 111
Total Assets		436 422	467 184	553 017
Current Liabilities				
Payables	27	15 556	11 200	10 946
Lease Liabilities	28	552	810	810
Employee Benefits	29	27 006	26 649	25 596
Other Provisions	30	84 073	6 657	28 545
Deposits Received in Advance	31	374	1 175	514
Total Current Liabilities		127 561	46 491	66 411
Non-Current Liabilities				
Lease Liabilities	28	866	719	719
Employee Benefits	29	1 560	1 540	1 494
Other Provisions	30	-	-	1 908
Total Non-Current Liabilities		2 426	2 259	4 121
Total Liabilities		129 987	48 750	70 532
Net Assets		306 435	418 434	482 485
Equity				
Accumulated Funds		206 194	319 557	383 608
Asset Revaluation Surplus		100 241	98 877	98 877
Total Equity		306 435	418 434	482 485

²The comparative amount have been restated for the change in accounting policy set out in Appendix A: Impact of Change in Accounting Policy.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

[RETURN TO INDEX](#)

Statement of Performance - EPSDD

Talking Points

- EPSDD achieved 65 percent of performance measures for the year (24 of 37 indicators).
- This compares to 59 percent of performance measures achieved for 2019-20 (23 of 39 indicators).
- EPSDD's Statement of Performance is provided on pages 293 to 307 of the annual report.
- The Audit Office issued one audit finding in relation to the Statement of Performance relating to Expenses on Behalf of the Territory (Office of the Commissioner for Sustainable and the Environment). The two indicators were:
 - Undertake Ministerial initiated investigations in accordance with the Minister's direction
 - Undertake complaints generated investigations in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- EPSDD is working at establishing new indicators which will replace these.
- The second part of the finding related to EPSDD not having a performance indicator for Public Housing Renewal Taskforce. Under the *Financial Management Act 1996*, it is implied that each reported output must have a performance indicator. This output related to a program which would be completed during the year, and therefore no performance measures were identified in the budget.

The full Statement of Performance is included in this brief following the talking points.

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 1:	PLANNING				
Output 1.1:	PLANNING DELIVERY				
Description:	Facilitate and manage growth and change within the ACT through development assessment and leasehold management, with the overarching objective of promoting and facilitating economically productive, sustainable, attractive, safe and well-designed urban and rural environments in the ACT.				
		2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
	TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$21,608	\$17,593	(19%)	The variance resulted from a review of the allocations of support activities required to undertake the outcome.
	CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$17,282	\$13,337	(23%)	The variance is primarily related to the expenditure variance above.
Accountability Indicator					
	Development application processing times:				
a.	- average processing time in working days	45	61	(36%)	Average and median timeframes were impacted due to the determination of a large number of older development applications.
	- median processing time in working days	30	42	(40%)	Timeframes may be extended while awaiting further information from an applicant, or where an applicant decides to amend a proposal. Significant proposals also often require additional time to resolve complex assessment matters.
b.	Percentage of development application decisions made within statutory deadlines	75%	55%	(27%)	<p>During the reporting period the Directorate determined a number development applications where applicants did not provide further information in a timely manner or had complex assessment issues to resolve.</p> <p>The Directorate also directed resources to prioritise s165 applications (satisfying conditions of approval) lodged to enable current construction projects to continue or commence operations during the economic downturn.</p> <p>In addition, with the remaining processing capacity, there has been a significant increase (from 778 in 2019-20 to 1183 in 2020-21, 52%) for the exemption declaration applications (single dwelling approvals). 93% of these applications were determined within the statutory timeframe.</p>
c.	Percentage of development application appeals resolved by mediation in relation to development proposals	35%	64%	83%	The Directorate supports the use of mediation whenever this is offered by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Seven (7) of the eleven (11) decisions were consented decisions through mediation. The variance reflects the small sample size but also reflects the Directorate's willingness to work with developers/applicants avoiding full hearing where possible.
d.	Percentage of ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) decisions which uphold the Directorate's original decision	85%	90%	6%	Twenty (20) ACAT decisions were handed down during the reporting period. Eighteen (18) of these supported the Directorate's position.

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 1:	PLANNING				
Output 1.2:	PLANNING AND BUILDING POLICY				
Description:	Provision of high quality professional services in strategic land planning; administering the Territory Plan; planning for land release and development; developing policies for high quality urban design; and policies for buildings, building services, equipment and appliances, and the building and construction industry. Continue the ACT Planning System Review and Reform project.				
	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)	
TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$16,572	\$11,431	(31%)	The variance is mainly associated with delays of a number of initiative projects into the 2021-22 financial year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic response.	
CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$14,878	\$12,020	(19%)	The variance is primarily related to the expenditure variance above as the Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) are not drawn down until expenses are incurred.	
Accountability Indicator					
a.	Number of Environment and Planning Forums held during the year to assist in community consultations	6	7	17%	One additional meeting was held to focus on the Planning System Review and Reform Project, as part of a series of three dedicated meetings to this project.

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development



**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 2:	ENVIRONMENT				
Output 2.1:	ENVIRONMENT				
Description:	Help protect the ACT's natural environment through:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the implementation of programs responding to natural resource management as part of the Commonwealth's National Landcare Program; manage, review and implement legislation/action and plans to better protect and conserve critically endangered grasslands, woodlands and associated fauna and key waterways; sustainable use of water, best practice approaches to water management through water sensitive urban design, water security and catchment management including through implementation of Striking the Balance, the ACT's Water Strategy; establish and support an ACT and region catchment management governance framework; administer the annual funding of the ACT Environment Grants Program; promotion and involvement of the community in caring for the ACT's natural environment; and develop, review and implement legislation, policies, strategies, plans and standards to protect the natural and built environment. 				
		2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
	TOTAL COST (\$'000)¹	\$75,946	\$82,162	8%	The variance is mainly related to the increased expense of the ACT Healthy Waterways program.
	CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$15,378	\$12,389	(19%)	The variance is primarily related to the expenditure variance above as the Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) are not drawn until expenses are incurred.
Accountability Indicator					
a.	Submit twice yearly progress reports to the Commonwealth for the <i>National Landcare Program</i>	1	1	0%	
b.	Prepare and submit National Environment Protection Measure jurisdictional reports to the National Environment Protection Council within agreed timeframe	Sep-20	Mar-21	(100%)	The Commonwealth did not call for jurisdictions to contribute towards the 2019-20 National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) Annual report. The reports sent were therefore initiated by the Directorate.
c.	Prepare a public report on the implementation of the ACT Water Strategy	Jun-21	Jun-21	0%	
d.	The conservator of Flora and Fauna to finalise Action Plans for matters listed under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> , within six months following public consultation	100%	N/A	N/A	During 2020-21 financial year there was no requirements to complete any Action Plans as no matters arose under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> that required the completion of an action plan.
e.	Implementation report on the <i>Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-23</i> to be publicly released ²	Jun-21	Jun-21	0%	
f.	Prepare a public report annually on the Conservators actions to protect ACT flora and fauna ³	1	1	0%	

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

1. The 2020-21 Target of the total costs has included transferring of ACT Healthy Waterway assets to TCCS for \$57,860,000.

2. The result for this indicator reports the 2019-20 implementation report that was published in the Directorate's 2019-20 annual report.

3. The result for this indicator reports the 2019-20 report that was published in the Directorate's 2019-20 annual report.

Lead Directorate:

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 2:	ENVIRONMENT			
Output 2.2:	Conservation and Land Management			
Description:	Planning and management of the ACT's parks, reserves, unleased public land and plantations, including associated community infrastructure. The land manager role includes management of land for recreational use; conservation management; including management of national parks, nature reserves; fire management; and pest and weed control as well as the management of the Territory's softwood plantation and oversight of rural production areas. Conservation includes partnering with Traditional Custodians to proactively manage the ACT's natural and cultural environment.			
	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$58,113	\$73,077	26%	The variance is related to increased spending on Biosecurity/weed responses in response to recent weather patterns, as well as higher expenses for capital works projects related to planning and support activities.
CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$47,450	\$58,114	22%	The variance is mainly related to cash drawdowns associated with the actual expenditure as detailed on the total cost.
Accountability Indicator				
a.	Customer satisfaction with the Management of protected areas (Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Namadgi National Park and Canberra Nature Park)	90%	76%	(16%) The variance is mainly caused by closure of the Namadgi National Park for part of this reporting period due to fire recovery and flooding, reopening on 4 April 2021. The survey questions are interpreted by respondents in different ways. There was a 91.7% of visitor satisfaction in relation to the question "Thinking about your most recent visit, how would you rate your overall experience?"
b.	Implement fuel management activities – grazing – as identified under the approved EPSDD Bushfire Operational Plan	100%	100%	0%
c.	Implement fuel management activities – physical removal – as identified under the approved EPSDD Bushfire Operational Plan	100%	84%	(16%) In certain specific areas, the elimination or reduction of fire fuels through physical removal is undertaken by either hand or machinery. A combination of weather and contractor availability due to the focus on fire and storm recovery resulted in this work not being completed.
d.	Implement fuel management activities – slashing – as identified under the approved EPSDD Bushfire Operational Plan	100%	100%	0%
e.	Implement fuel management activities – burning – as identified under the approved EPSDD Bushfire Operational Plan	100%	90%	(10%) The 2020-21 prescribed burning program was vastly different from the 2019-20 season but still full of challenges. The spring program was hampered by high fuel moisture in all areas and weather conditions outside of the acceptable parameters. The heavy rain in August and October effectively stopped all spring prescribed burns. The restrictions that COVID-19 placed on Parks and Conservation Service meant that the large gatherings of staff required to undertake prescribed burning wasn't possible. A short window of weather and fuel moisture presented itself in April.
f.	Implement access activities – as identified under the approved EPSDD Bushfire Operational Plan	100%	79%	(21%) A combination of weather and contractor availability due to the focus on fire and storm recovery contributed to lower than expected results.

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 2:	ENVIRONMENT			
Output 2.3:	HERITAGE			
Description:	Administration of the heritage provisions of the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> and assistance in the conservation of the ACT's heritage assets to ensure their recognition, registration and conservation. The area provides administrative and operational support to the ACT Heritage Council and its projects, support for the National Trust in the delivery of its programs, and administers the annual funding of the ACT Heritage Grants Program, the annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival and Capital Works projects as they relate to heritage conservation works. A key function is also the promotion and education of the community regarding heritage assets of the ACT.			
	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$2,763	\$2,129	(23%)	The variance is mainly because Heritage related programs postponed to 2021-22 financial year as a result of reprioritisation of the business activities.
CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$2,131	\$2,041	(4%)	
Accountability Indicator				
a.	Notification on the legislation register of Heritage Council Decisions within 5 working days of the decision	100%	100%	0%
b.	Development application advice issued within 15 working days of referral by the ACT Land and Planning Authority	90%	83%	(8%) ACT Heritage Council advice timeframes have been affected by a sustained increase in demand for heritage advice and approvals. In the past 7 years, advice issued by the ACT Heritage Council has increased by 122%, from 436 to 971 per year.
c.	Decisions about heritage registrations by the ACT Heritage Council made within statutory timeframes	100%	100%	0%

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development



**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 3:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY				
Output 3.1:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY				
Description:	Develop policy and provide advice in relation to:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ACT's climate change agenda as outlined in the ACT Climate Change Strategy and the Living Infrastructure Plan; investments in renewable electricity to achieve the government's 100% renewable electricity target and delivery of local industry development strategies; policies and programs to encourage and transition to zero emission vehicles in the ACT; frameworks to ensure the ACT's energy systems (electricity, fuel and liquid fuels) are reliable, sustainable and affordable; measures to help households, businesses, schools, and transport manage their energy better to reduce emissions and costs, including administration of the Actsmart programs; the ACT Zero Emissions Government framework; and administration of the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Scheme. 				
		2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
	TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$114,467	\$185,412	62%	The variance is primarily due to the creation of a provision for Large-Scale Generation Certificates and the revaluation of the current certificates downwards.
	CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$18,306	\$16,073	(12%)	The variance is due to technical issues, with electric vehicles charging program that led to delays in expenditure. There was also lower consultancy costs and higher staff vacancies during the year.
Accountability Indicator					
a.	Number of households assisted by the Household Low Income Program	1,100	1,214	10%	The number of households supported through community information sessions exceeded expectations, despite the presumed impact from COVID-19. This was achieved through digital delivery and new opportunities within public housing complexes.
b.	Number of businesses supported by energy, water and waste programs	750	554	(26%)	During 2020-21 COVID-19 has reduced the number of businesses seeking support, and also impacted the teams accessibility to some businesses. During the pandemic, virtual energy and water assessments and re/accreditations were conducted where possible.
c.	Oversee the actions of the ACT's Climate Strategy to a Net Zero Emissions Territory:				
	- publish an annual greenhouse gas inventory for the ACT	Dec-20	Dec-20	0%	
	- publish an annual report on actions to achieve the ACT Government's target of net zero carbon emissions in the ACT by 2050, at the latest and in Government operations by 2020	Dec-20	Dec-20	0%	

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 4:	LAND STRATEGY AND URBAN RENEWAL				
Output 4.1:	LAND STRATEGY				
Description:	Provide strategic, policy and planning direction and support, including preparation of the four-year Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP). The ILRP sets out the Government's intended program for land release and seeks to facilitate housing diversity, provide affordable housing, stimulate economic activity, and meet the demand for land in the Territory and support a competitive land development and construction market. An element of this includes undertaking due diligence for land that contributes to the ILRP.				
	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)	
	TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$2,581	\$4,570	77%	The variance is due to work required for the Indicative Land Release Program.
	CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$2,426	\$4,902	102%	The variance is primarily related to the expenditure variance above.
Accountability Indicator					
a.	4-year Indicative Land Release Program published	1	0	(100%)	Ordinarily, the 4-year ILRP is published for the full 4-year period. Due to Covid, the Government decided to publish a single year (2020-21) of the 4-year ILRP and to publish as part of the August EFU.
b.	Publish the annual affordable, community and public housing targets	1	1	0%	

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development



**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 4:	LAND STRATEGY AND URBAN RENEWAL				
Output 4.2:	URBAN RENEWAL				
Description:	Urban renewal delivers projects that involve multiple policy outcomes. This work includes the identification of key precincts and individual projects, prioritisation of projects based on community need, undertaking feasibility studies and due diligence, and project delivery including demolition and minor works. This work seeks to integrate urban renewal opportunities across Government around defined urban renewal precincts, including within town and group centres and within pockets of established suburbs, such as local centres.				
		2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
	TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$16,556	\$16,424	(1%)	
	CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$15,903	\$9,987	(37%)	The amount of Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) recognises the work undertaken during the year. A number of expenses did not require cash during the period, leading to a lower CRP requirement.
Accountability Indicator					
a.	Demolish and remediate the former Woden Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)	Sep-20	Sep-20	0%	

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development



**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 5:	LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION ERADICATION				
Output 5.1:	LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION ERADICATION Scheme				
Description:	The Asbestos Response Taskforce delivers the Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme safely, compassionately and efficiently. It provides support and advice to affected homeowners, the Canberra community, industry and Government.				
	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)	
TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$31,026	\$27,395	(12%)	Variance relates to the timing for Cost of Goods sold for properties that were remediated and held ready for sale during the period. This includes properties transferred to Housing ACT. Further settlements were delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic.	
CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$14,287	\$5,528	(61%)	The Asbestos Response Taskforce used Controlled Recurrent Payments (CRP) as required to complete the activities. Based on the properties and the work required a lower amount of CRP was requested during the period, with larger sales funding available to pay for expenses.	
Accountability Indicator					
Buy-Back and Demolition Program:					
a.	Purchase affected dwellings	6	8	33%	The variance from the target is primarily due to the easing of COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions in the ACT, resulting in removal of external barriers to remaining homeowners engaging in the property market that existed in the initial period following the declared public health emergency. This allowed homeowners more freedom to interact with the property market and transition to new living arrangements, resulting in some homeowners bringing forward their planned surrender date to the 2020-21 financial year.
b.	Demolish affected dwellings	10	8	(20%)	Many variables can impact the timing of completion of demolitions, including the number and timing of property surrenders, receipt of all necessary authorisations and resolution of complexities associated with non-standard properties. The 2020-21 year saw good progress in preparing a number of properties for demolition, but only resulted in the actual demolition of eight affected dwellings.
c.	Deregister affected properties post demolition and soil validation	16	13	(19%)	The deregistration of affected properties can only occur following demolition and soil validation. As the timing of the demolition is subject to change for a range of reasons, such as delay in property surrender, changes in private demolition arrangements, or delays in resolving authorisation for complex properties, the deregistration target will be subject to variance each year.
Sales Program:					
d.	Sale of remediated and deregistered blocks	63	65	3%	

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Output Class 6:	PUBLIC HOUSING RENEWAL TASKFORCE			
Output 6.1:	PUBLIC HOUSING RENEWAL TASKFORCE			
Description:	The Public Housing Renewal Taskforce is delivering 1,288 replacement public housing dwellings that will better meet the needs of tenants, now and into the future, as part of the ACT Government's public housing renewal program. This program supports the renewal of Canberra's urban areas as the Public Housing Renewal Taskforce works with Urban Renewal, the City Renewal Authority and Housing ACT, to support the sale of older multi-unit public housing properties that are no longer fit for purpose.			
	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
TOTAL COST (\$'000)	\$5,319	\$4,687	(12%)	The program ceased during the year, with expenses reflective of cost of completion.
CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS (\$'000)	\$5,321	\$5,321	0%	
Accountability Indicator				
Nil				

Notes

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The delivery of Public Housing renewal was completed in 2019-20. As the renewals were completed all accountability indicators were discontinued. The output was continued to finalise the programs outcomes in 2020-21.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development



**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
 STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

EBT:	OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT				
EBT 1:	OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT				
Description:	Publication of the State of the Environment Report, investigation of complaints by Ministerial direction, or where a Territory agency's actions may have a substantial impact on the environment.				
		2020-21 Targets	2020-21 Result	% Variance	Explanation of Material Variances (+/- 5%)
	TOTAL COST (\$'000)¹	\$1,552	\$1,515	(2%)	
	PAYMENTS FOR EXPENSES ON BEHALF OF THE TERRITORY (\$'000)¹	\$1,535	\$1,160	(24%)	Payments on behalf of territory is recognised when cash is required. During the year there was an increase in the unpaid liabilities compared to budget. Less cash was drawn and future payments will be required when liabilities are paid.
Accountability Indicator					
a.	Report on the uptake of recommendations on the ACT State of the Environment and special reports as part of the annual report	Dec-20	Dec-20	0%	
b.	Undertake Ministerial initiated investigations in accordance with the Minister's direction	100%	100%	0%	
c.	Undertake Commissioner initiated investigations in accordance with the Terms of Reference	100%	N/A	N/A	There have been no Commissioner initiated investigations raised or active in the reporting period.
d.	Undertake complaints generated investigations in accordance with the Terms of Reference	100%	100%	0%	
e.	Report on complaints about the management of the environment by the Territory or a Territory agency as part of the annual report	Dec-20	Dec-20	0%	

Notes:

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments measures were not examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management (Statement of Performance Scrutiny) Guidelines 2019*.

The Accountability Indicators were examined by the ACT Audit Office in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The variance is based on the Jun 2021 actual against the Jun 2021 Target.

1. Total cost (\$1.552 million) and payments for expenses on behalf of the Territory (\$1.535 million) are in relation to the Office of The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. The costs and payments for expenses on behalf of the Territory in the Statement of Income and Expenses on Behalf of the Territory also includes Environment Grants and Heritage Grants in addition to the Office of The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 17/02/2022
 Cleared for public release by: Executive Group Manager Ext: 76322
 Contact Officer name: Stuart Wall Ext: 50760
 Lead Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

