

**2018**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
REPORT NO 5**

**REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2016-2017**

**Presented by  
Mr Andrew Barr MLA  
Chief Minister**

## **Introduction**

On 26 October 2017, the Assembly referred the annual and financial reports for calendar year 2016 and financial year 2016—2017 to Assembly committees for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in April 2018.

The following annual reports, or sections of annual reports were referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services (the Committee):

- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – Sport and Recreation Services, Environment Protection Authority;
- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate – Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change, Heritage, ACT Heritage Council, Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Report on the Operation and Administration of the *Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012* for 2015-16, Land Management – Parks and Conservation and Public Land Management Plans;
- Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment; and
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate - Information services; Waste and Recycling; Land Management; Regulatory Services; Capital Linen and Sustainable Transport, Roads ACT, ACTION, ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, Animal Welfare Authority, ACT Veterinary Surgeons Board, Land Management – Urban Land Management; Design and Development and Yarralumla Nursery.

## **Response to Committee Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

3.11 The Committee recommends the ACT Government continues to support women's sport.

#### **Government Response - Agreed**

The ACT Government, and specifically Sport and Recreation within Enterprise Canberra, remains committed to supporting women's sport. The ACT Government has committed \$500,000 to making sports infrastructure more female friendly with an upgrade of the Gowrie and Southwell Park sports pavilions already completed in that vein. With ACT Government Support, a new Active Portal has been launched on the HerCanberra website to promote participation opportunities for women and girls.

Performance fee agreements have been executed with two premier Canberra women's sporting teams, the Canberra Capitals and Canberra United. The 2018 Sport and Recreation Grant Program also offered \$100,000 towards initiatives to support leadership and participation for women and girls.

### **Recommendation 2**

3.22 The Committee recommends the Minister for Sport and Recreation reports further to the Committee during its 2017-18 annual report hearings on the current and developing status of the Request for Tender process for Boomanulla Oval.

#### **Government Response - Agreed**

### **Recommendation 3**

3.27 The Committee recommends the Environment Protection Authority restructures the way it presents noise complaint data to better align the number of complaints received with the number of actions taken. This may include, but is not limited to, including fields for the number of one-off complaints with multiple complaints, the number of ongoing complaints, the number of complaints with multiple actions and the average number of actions per complaint. The data should be structured in a way that clearly identifies the varying time frames and approaches taken to different types of noise complaints.

#### **Government Response - Noted**

In July 2017, Access Canberra introduced the Complaints Management Team (CMT) and Complaints Record Management (CMT) to deal with all Access Canberra complaints, including ones for the EPA.

The EPA will only be reporting on complaints which have been referred from the CMT for further action during the year. These will be reported in a different format in the 2017-2018 Annual Report, taking into consideration the recommendations from the Standing Committee.

#### **Recommendation 4**

4.12 The Committee recommends that the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and the individual actions to be implemented be published regularly by EPSDD to provide full detail on progress made in implementing and monitoring the Strategy by the Adaptation Working Group. The Committee also recommends that actions taken be regularly notified as updates to the Committee.

#### **Government Response - Agreed**

The Minister for Climate Change reports on progress of the Adaptation Strategy every year in the annual report. Monitoring of actions occurs through regular meetings of the Climate Change Steering Committee (which covers the work previously undertaken by the Adaptation Working Group as well as assisting the development of the new strategy).

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment prepared an Independent Implementation Status Report of Action Plan 2 (AP2). This report demonstrated excellent progress in implementation of actions and provided suggestions for improvement which government endorsing and adopting all but one of its recommendations. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate provided an update on actions under AP2 in August 2017.

#### **Recommendation 5**

4.15 The Committee recommends that the National Multicultural Festival cooking oil recycling program continue as it has now evolved, and that regular reports on the program outcomes be provided on the EPSDD website.

#### **Government Response - Agreed**

The Actsmart Public Event program will continue to support the National Multicultural Festival with their recycling efforts, including recycling of cooking oil. Actsmart Public Event program outcomes are published in the annual report each year, both in hard copy and online.

#### **Recommendation 6**

4.21 The Committee recommends that decisions and announcements of successful applicants for the community garden grants be made in time for the start of the spring season.

#### **Government Response - Noted**

Further funding for Actsmart (including community gardens grants funding) will be decided in the 2018-19 budget. EPSDD has noted the Committee's recommendation.

#### **Recommendation 7**

4.26 The Committee recommends that the EPSDD ensures that it is providing consistent and clear advice, across all platforms, including its A-Z recycling website, that coffee cups can be recycled.

### **Government Response - Agreed**

ACT NoWaste and ActSmart meet on a regular and consistent basis and will continue to coordinate and collaborate enabling clear advice across all platforms, including coffee cup messaging. The coffee cups entry has been reviewed and is correct.

### **Recommendation 8**

4.27 The Committee recommends that EPSDD review and update its A-Z recycling website to provide clearer, straightforward, simpler advice on what can and cannot be recycled.

### **Government Response - Agreed**

A review and update will be undertaken in 2018-19 in consultation with TCCS Communications and Access Canberra, who are the website administrators for public facing material. The A-Z guide will be renamed the "Recyclopadeia" with the intent to provide an improved interface for customer consumption.

### **Recommendation 9**

4.36 The Committee recommends that the current kangaroo management program continue to be closely and regularly detailed to the community, and reported in detail in the Annual Report for the Directorate.

### **Government Response - Agreed**

Information on the Kangaroo Management Program is provided to the community via a media release and website update every year prior to its commencement. A detailed breakdown on the particulars of the program including information on the sites and numbers of kangaroos culled is provided at the completion of each program via the same media channels. A bi-annual independent veterinary audit and the government's response to any recommendations are made publicly available on the website. Details of the program are provided in the Annual Report for the Directorate.

### **Recommendation 10**

4.41 The Committee recommends that water-sensitive urban design practices be embedded across Canberra city design.

### **Government Response - Agreed in principle**

A draft Territory Plan variation is currently being prepared to update and improve water sensitive urban design provisions in the Territory Plan.

### **Recommendation 11**

4.51 The Committee recommends the Minister for the Environment and Heritage report to the Committee during its 2017-18 annual report, and update the Committee, on the progression of assessments and decisions within ACT Heritage and meeting of statutory requirements under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

### **Government Response - Agreed**

From 2017 to date, the ACT Heritage Council has made the following decisions:

- one nomination dismissed;
- five nominations accepted;
- three decisions to provisionally register;
- 13 decisions not to provisionally register;
- and four decisions to register.

### **Recommendation 12**

5.9 The Committee recommends that TCCS prioritise the removal of graffiti by consistent 'taggers', similar to how it prioritises the removal of offensive graffiti.

### **Government Response - Agreed**

To ensure the efficient use of resources, graffiti vandalism is removed at the time of inspection of high use public assets, this includes the removal of graffiti by consistent taggers. Reported graffiti is removed within five days of notification, whereas offensive graffiti is removed in two days. The shorter timeframe for offensive graffiti is based on the risk of harm and it is prioritised above other forms of graffiti due to its potential to offend or humiliate members of the community. In addition to reactive and programmed removal, graffiti hotspots are targeted for monitoring by the use of CCTV, with the cooperation of ACT Policing, in order to identify offenders, in particular consistent taggers.

### **Recommendation 13**

5.13 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to investigate all reports of odour coming from the Mugga Lane Landfill and Resource Management Centre, to continue to seek to reduce any odours, and to continue to keep the public informed, especially nearby residents.

### **Government Response - Agreed**

### **Recommendation 13a**

5.17 The Committee recommends that TCCS Directorate prioritise enforcing and educating residents about the bans on smoking at public transport stops in the short term and ensure that periodic targeting of public transport stops continues into the future.

### **Government Response - Noted**

Access Canberra and ACT Health are responsible for coordination and enforcement of legislation associated with establishing a framework for compliance and enforcement of smoking in, or within close proximity to, ACT Public Transport zones.

### **Recommendation 14**

5.18 The Committee recommends that the Directorate install more 'butt bins' in areas of known congregations of smokers or where there is significant cigarette butt litter.

**Government Response - Noted**

Public bins designed for the butting out and disposal of cigarettes are installed in high use areas. Places where smokers congregate are generally associated with workers or customers of businesses and as such, the businesses are encouraged and supported to provide the necessary facilities. Where there are particular areas of concern Transport Canberra and City Services contact the businesses to address littering issues and may also take education and compliance action under the *Litter Act 2004*.

**Recommendation 15**

5.22 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with major retailers and suburban centres to ensure there are sufficient and accessible trolley bays located throughout the shopping centres and carparks.

**Government Response - Noted**

In accordance with the *Litter Act 2004*, retailers are required to have a containment system to manage their trolleys and prevent them from leaving their shopping precinct. The Act does not mandate which containment system must be installed and it is up to each retailer to select a system which is most appropriate.

Operating and maintaining a trolley containment system, such as the coin-lock system is one method retailers have implemented to meet these requirements. As most trolleys bays are located on private leased land and it is the responsibility of the relevant Centre Management to ensure there are sufficient and accessible trolley bays located throughout their shopping centres and carparks. TCCS will continue to advise shopping centre management of complaints and suggestions received from members of the public and provide advice as required.

**Recommendation 16**

5.26 The Committee recommends that Transport Canberra and City Services implement the proposed treatments of Tillyard Drive as set out on their website and that the Minister for Transport and City Services report to the Assembly on progress of the project by the final sitting day in 2018.

**Government Response - Agreed**