Government Response to the Report of the Select Committee on Estimates 2018-19 on the
Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2018-2019 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019

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Treasurer
August 2018
INTRODUCTION

The 2018-19 Budget is growing services for our growing city.

We are delivering on our commitment to return the ACT Budget to balance, while stepping up our delivery of services and infrastructure across the Territory.

We are building new schools and delivering more places for local students at our existing ones. We are investing in more elective and emergency surgeries, more staff and resources for our Emergency Departments, and more hospital beds so Canberrans can access the high quality healthcare they need more quickly. We are also working to deliver better public places across our city and suburbs, with new investment in road and pedestrian infrastructure, parks, waterways and local ovals.

We are investing in the services and infrastructure that will keep Canberra moving and protect our liveability as the city grows.

The ACT Government is positioned to step up this investment now because we have returned the Budget to balance and the Territory’s economy has been growing at the fastest rate of any Australian jurisdiction.

The Government’s efforts to buffer Canberra’s economy from economic and fiscal shocks and diversify our economic base have supported local businesses and industry to thrive. Strong economic growth has continued to attract skilled workers to the secure, well-paying jobs on offer in our city, and this is giving rise to sustained growth in our services exports, construction and household consumption sectors.

This year’s fiscal update confirms the Budget is back in balance and will remain there across the forward estimates. At the same time, it reinforces the Government’s commitment to job creation, the delivery of high-quality services, and long-term infrastructure investment that will meet our city’s needs in the years to come.


The Government values the role played by the Committee in scrutinising the Budget, and we have endeavoured to respond fully to the many questions asked during the Estimates process.

We note that the Committee engaged the services of Pegasus Economics in undertaking an independent and detailed study of the Territory’s Budget. The Pegasus Report addressed a wide range of issues relating to technical components of the Budget. The ACT Government has already provided a response to the Chair of the Select Committee on Estimates 2018-19 regarding the matters raised in that report on 5 July 2018. For ease of reference, the Government’s response to the Pegasus Report is presented at Attachment A.

The Government thanks the Committee for its Report, which has made 226 recommendations on a wide range of issues across all Government portfolios. In our response, the Government has:

- agreed to 113 recommendations;
• agreed in principle to 44 recommendations;
• agreed in part to eight recommendations;
• noted 55 recommendations; and
• not agreed to six recommendations.

The Government’s response to each of the individual recommendations of the Committee is detailed in the following pages.
RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission look into issues around how to track donations from companies, and their subsidiary companies, and seek advice from interstate Commissions who have found solutions for such issues.

Government response
Noted.
This is a matter for the ACT Electoral Commissioner to consider.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission advise as to when electoral returns from third-party campaigners would be best due, in order to inform an improved process.

Government response
Noted.
This is a matter for the ACT Electoral Commissioner to consider.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission urgently investigate the issue of external campaigners and undue influence in the social media landscape to identify:

- the risks of influence from parties outside the ACT
- how those risks could be mitigated

and report to the Assembly as soon as practicable.

Government response
Noted.
These are matters for the ACT Electoral Commissioner to consider
RECOMMENDATION 4
The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission pursue discussions with the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) and the Australian Cyber Security Centre to ensure relationships with big social media operators can facilitate swift action against third-party campaigners if they are found to be operating maliciously via social media platforms.

Government response
Noted.
This is a matter for the ACT Electoral Commissioner to consider.

RECOMMENDATION 5
The Committee recommends that the Office of the Legislative Assembly make the after-hours door at the public entrance to the Legislative Assembly building an entry door during the day.

Government response
Noted.
The Government considers that matters which potentially impact on the security and operations of the Legislative Assembly building are a matter for the Clerk or Speaker of the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 6
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish an integrity commission.

Government response
Agreed.
The ACT Government tabled an Exposure Bill in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 31 July 2018 for referral to the Select Committee on Independent Integrity Commission 2018. The ACT Government has provided funding in the 2018-19 Budget for the Integrity Commission’s operations.

RECOMMENDATION 7
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the structure and specific goals of the Policy Innovation Team by the end of November 2018.

Government response
Agreed.
The Minister for Regulatory Services will provide this information to the Assembly.
RECOMMENDATION 8
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly on specific procedures taken to safeguard the privacy of personal information when it is transferred between any of: the ACT Government and its agencies; the Federal Government and its agencies; and businesses.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government will report to the Assembly on the procedures taken to safeguard the privacy of personal information when it is transferred between the ACT Government and its agencies, the Federal Government and its agencies, and businesses within the current calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION 9
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish clear guidelines for the participation of ACT Government employees in public consultation run by the ACT Government which recognise their human right to participate in public life.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

There is already an existing document called the Guidelines for Officials – Participation in Legislative Assembly and Other Inquiries which outlines some of these requirements. The Government will look to strengthen these Guidelines to cover submissions by ACT Government employees into Legislative Assembly and other inquiries and promote these Guidelines to ACT Government employees.

RECOMMENDATION 10
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the number and nature of entry level and apprenticeship positions in each directorate.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

This data is currently reported at a whole of government level in the State of the Service report. Consideration will be given to including a breakdown of data by Directorate in the 2018-19 State of the Service report.
RECOMMENDATION 11
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on all voluntary redundancies accepted by ACT public servants in 2017-18, including the level of employment, and the reasons for each redundancy, and the reasons why each employee could not be redeployed elsewhere in the public service.

Government response
Agreed.

Some of the data sought on redundancies is not centrally collated. The data has been sought from Directorates and will be reported when practicable, and in a manner consistent with privacy considerations.

RECOMMENDATION 12
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clearly publishes the processes involved in suspension of driver licences for medical reasons, including avenues of appeal.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government will update publicly-accessible materials, including relevant websites.

RECOMMENDATION 13
The Committee recommends that Access Canberra provide clearer public advice about what Fix My Street is for, to assist in directing requests for capital works to the appropriate location.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government will update publicly-accessible materials, including relevant websites and written guides.

RECOMMENDATION 14
The Committee recommends that, while the Asset Management System is being established, Access Canberra and Transport Canberra and City Services work on interim measures to improve communication with a customer when a call or job is closed or completed.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government will explore the most suitable interim measures to improve customer communication in this context.
RECOMMENDATION 15
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update the data on mobile speed cameras on www.data.act.gov.au.

Government response
Agreed.
The relevant data will be updated as soon as practicable.

RECOMMENDATION 16
The Committee recommends that licence plate recognition data be made available on www.data.act.gov.au in a similar way to data for mobile speed camera visits.

Government response
Agreed.
The relevant data will be made available when practicable.

RECOMMENDATION 17
The Committee recommends that Access Canberra introduce a service standard for providing regular, brief updates to complainants on building and planning compliance matters.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
Internal procedures will be updated to provide for Access Canberra customers to be updated on complaint progress for building and planning compliance matters every four weeks.

RECOMMENDATION 18
The Committee recommends that Access Canberra introduce an accountability indicator once a service standard has been introduced.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
Access Canberra is reviewing its accountability indicators in light of the recent Auditor-General's report, ACT Government Strategic and Accountability Indicators Report No 2/2018. This recommendation will be considered as part of that review.
RECOMMENDATION 19
The Committee recommends that the Minister for Economic Development table in the Assembly the guidelines for the Priority Investment Program, when they are complete.

Government response
Agreed.
The Minister will table these guidelines when practicable.

RECOMMENDATION 20
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a review into the research partnerships identified in the Business Development Strategy, *Confident and Business Ready: Building on our Strengths*, to determine the effectiveness of the current approach and any changes in the priority sectors for the Priority Investment Program.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
The partnership approach articulated in the Business Development Strategy identified a small number of sectors where industry development would be focused, but where there existed a critical mass, unique capability and commitment and leadership from the sectors to work in partnership with Government. Given the strategy was released in 2016 and that research partnerships take time to develop and deliver outcomes, the Government will undertake reviews in future years. Experience to date and any new sectoral opportunities will also be taken into account in developing the guidelines for the new Priority Investment Program.

RECOMMENDATION 21
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review whether, in light of increased tourism demand from China, there is more that could be done to make the city friendly for Chinese tourism, for example improved signage and translated government material.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
Many activities already occur that support growing the Chinese experience in Canberra with available budget committed to increasing demand and growing industry capability. The ACT Government, through VisitCanberra, works closely with Tourism Australia to deliver translated content through their platforms to reach this important inbound tourism market.

VisitCanberra supports Chinese visitors through a number of initiatives including:

- translated destination content on Australia.cn (Tourism Australia’s Chinese website);
- translated brochures for visitors;
• translated brochures and resources for the travel trade in China;

• partnering with organisations on a number of education and information sessions on the China market for Canberra-based tourism businesses, including the China Now workshop with CIT, China digital workshop by ChinaConnex and ChinaMax workshop with Australia Tourism Export Council (ATEC);

• partnering with Tourism Australia to deliver the Aussie Specialist Program, a training program for retail travel agents in China;

• (along with Canberra tourism operators) participating in various business-to-business trade engagement events including the Australia Tourism Exchange, Greater China Travel Mission, and the ATEC Meeting Place;

• cooperative marketing campaigns in China with Singapore Airlines; and

• hosting familiarisation visits for media and travel trade from China, and employing interpreters to assist on these visits.

In addition, VisitCanberra is currently working with Tourism Australia to provide an online visitor map featuring some of Canberra’s export-ready products and services. This will be translated into 10 languages, including Chinese, and will be available to consumers globally via Australia.com and Australia.cn. The map will be also be accessible for visitors when they are in Canberra.

The ACT Government, through VisitCanberra, will continue to evaluate existing programs and new ways to reach and engage with the Chinese market.

Over the next 12 months opportunities will be explored to:

• develop a China strategy as part of an overall international market plan;

• leverage the strong education links with the Chinese market through tertiary education sector;

• build business education and capability;

• work in partnership with Canberra’s national attractions; and

• invest cooperatively in visitor servicing products with other state and territories as well as local industry.
RECOMMENDATION 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government better harness cycling tourism opportunities related to mountain biking.

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Cycle Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, released in June 2018, adopts a whole-of-government approach to ensure that key decisions relating to marketing, events, venues, infrastructure, transport, parks and forests and strategic land-use planning are all working collaboratively to strengthen the cycling opportunities.

Implementation of the strategy adopts a long-term perspective, with clear actions that are staged over time from 2018-2030. The initiatives included in the action plan have several benefits to the ACT economy, including:

- repositioning Canberra as a cycling destination of choice, generating positive economic outcomes for the ACT through increased visitation, duration of stay and spend;
- enhancing infrastructure that supports and increases participation in cycling by ACT residents (preventive health, social and environmental benefits);
- encouraging greater private sector investment in supporting services and products; and
- enhancing the sustainable transport brand of Canberra.

Planning and designing mountain bike trail networks will be a key component of future work.

In addition, VisitCanberra is investing in a content partnership with CycleLifeHQ to develop a dedicated CBR Cycle Guide to promote Canberra as a cycling destination of choice, domestically and internationally. The ACT Government anticipates that the mountain bike community will benefit from this investment.

RECOMMENDATION 23

The Committee recommends that, once the consultants have finalised the Floriade 2017 accounts, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events inform the Assembly what the final overspend was, how it will be funded and whether any probity or integrity issues were uncovered.

Government response

Agreed.

Protiviti conducted a financial review of the Floriade 2017 budget which commenced on 15 May 2018. The final report was presented on Friday 13 July 2018. Protiviti’s final estimate of the overspend for Floriade 2017 is $1,254,971.
Additional revenue achieved from Floriade 2017 and Enlighten 2018 has partially offset the overspend on Floriade 2017. The balance was funded internally within CMTEDD’s total appropriation.

While this review was not a forensic investigation designed to identify potential fraud, Protiviti has noted that, during the review, it did not find any indication of fraudulent activity.

RECOMMENDATION 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the forensic accounting report regarding the finances of Floriade.

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Government is currently assessing whether the report can be posted on the open access website, in line with relevant legislation.

RECOMMENDATION 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the number and value of invoices relating to Floriade 2017 that were paid in (a) less than 30 days, (b) between 30 days and 90 days, (c) between 90 days and 180 days and (d) greater than 180 days.

Government response

Not agreed.

Collating this information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

RECOMMENDATION 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government keep key stakeholders and the Assembly updated on what is happening at Kingston Arts Precinct.

Government response

Agreed.

Updates will be provided regarding the Kingston Arts Precinct where possible, noting the need to observe the probity requirements of the sales process.

RECOMMENDATION 27

The Committee recommends the ACT Government work with Kulture Break to determine the best funding sources for their programs.

Government response

Agreed.
The Government has an ongoing relationship with Kulture Break in the context of administering funding provided to the organisation in prior budgets.

RECOMMENDATION 28

The Committee recommends the ACT Government recognise that many community organisations deliver results that are multi-disciplinary and government funding models should be able to cater for that approach.

Government response

Agreed.

The Government is committed to stimulating and fostering a range of positive economic, social and community outcomes for the Canberra region and the Territory’s population through the broad range of assistance it offers, and acknowledges the significant efforts of local individuals and organisations that help in achieving these goals.

The Government regularly seeks opportunities to engage community organisations and service providers in the co-design of programs and services and associated funding arrangements. An example of this is the extensive work undertaken with providers on refreshing the Territory’s Emergency Relief and Financial Support program.

Organisations seeking assistance are invited to review the programs that are available through the ACT Government grants websites (such as https://www.grants.act.gov.au/) to identify a program that could potentially address their particular needs or circumstances.

The Government is also keen to engage with local peak-body entities to gain an understanding of their views regarding funding allocations or grant assistance within the context of the efficient allocation of the Government’s resources. The Government always seeks to obtain the best value for money in the benefits and returns for the community for the dollars that we invest.

RECOMMENDATION 29

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, in consultation with the arts sector, review arts funding and the adequacy of CPI as a funding growth factor for key arts organisations.

Government response

Agreed.

CMTEDD is currently reviewing arts funding through the development of a new ACT Arts Funding Plan, in consultation with the arts sector.
RECOMMENDATION 30
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the former Woden CIT site is used for either community facilities or employment generating facilities.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government is working on both a short-term facilities management plan for the former Woden CIT site and a longer-term strategy for the site. The longer-term strategy will consider the planning context of the Woden district, and will assess what type of community and employment generating facilities would be best suited to the site.

RECOMMENDATION 31
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue a focus on balancing the budget.

Government response
Agreed.

Achieving a balanced budget position is one of the key objectives of the Government’s fiscal strategy, as stated in 2018-19 Budget Paper No. 3, page 45. The Budget is now in balance and is projected to remain in a positive position across the forward estimates.

RECOMMENDATION 32
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue a focus on diversifying the economy.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government’s economic strategy continues to focus on growing and diversifying the ACT’s economy. Increased diversity will support economic growth, improve our productivity and create more employment opportunities for Canberrans.

The Government seeks to diversify the Territory’s economy through an investment strategy that is focused on creating the right environment for business to both invest and grow, providing a simple regulatory environment with frameworks that promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The Government also considers that international engagement – in terms of exports, higher education students, skilled migration and inbound foreign investment – are critical factors in the sustained development of our local economy.
RECOMMENDATION 33
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase economic activity in the ACT not reliant on the Commonwealth.

Government response
Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget committed an additional $19.9 million over four years to support innovation, diversification and the continued growth and development of our private sector economy. The Government fosters a collaborative business environment for our higher education and research institutions across key sectors including space, spatial and satellites, cyber security, sports technology, health innovation, information and communication technology, e-government and agri-tech, and environmental sciences.

A key driver of recent economic growth was the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services sector, which expanded by over a third in 2016-17 and is forecast to continue to underpin growth going forward.

Service exports grew by 6.5 per cent in 2016-17, bringing their contribution to our economy to almost $2 billion. Of this, the tertiary education sector was the strongest performer, growing by 24.4 per cent and contributing over $750 million.

Sectors within our visitor economy are also being strengthened through our vibrant events program, with the ACT Government continuing to work towards our goal of growing the ACT’s overnight visitor expenditure to $2.5 billion by 2020 – this will support our local tourism industry which employs over 16,000 Canberrans.

RECOMMENDATION 34
The Committee recommends that the ACT Budget papers publish the percentage of the capital works budget expended in the budget year.

Government response
Noted.

This information is not available at the time of publication of the Budget papers, as reporting for the prior financial year is not finalised at that point in time.

Detailed breakdowns of the Territory’s capital works expenditure are provided through the quarterly updates to the Capital Works Program within the relevant financial year. These updates are routinely published on the Treasury publications page (https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/publications).

RECOMMENDATION 35
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the ACT Budget papers clearly publish the total value of large scale generation certificates.

Government response
Noted.
The 2018-19 Budget presents a breakdown of revenue and expense movements since the 2017-18 Budget Review associated with the Large-scale Generation Certificates (refer to Table 2.2.3 on page 41 of Budget Paper 3).

A detailed discussion of the Government’s treatment of the Certificates is also provided on pages 43 and 44 of Budget Paper 3.

The Government notes that we do not individually itemise the total value of each ACT asset in the Budget Papers. These documents are intended to provide a summary and analysis of the Territory’s fiscal position, not an itemised breakdown of the Territory’s holdings.

RECOMMENDATION 36
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government finalises and implements updated accountancy standards for trees.

Government response
Noted.

The ACT Government already has a policy on accounting for trees which is in accordance with current accounting standards.

RECOMMENDATION 37
The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to focus on delivering the services for a growing city.

Government response
Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget reflects the many and varied services that the ACT Government provides to the Territory’s population. Our economy is rapidly growing, and our rate of population growth is amongst the highest in Australia. We are attracting highly skilled professionals who recognise the many benefits that Canberra has to offer: well-paid jobs; world-leading study and research opportunities; a supportive community that welcomes new people, new ideas and new ways of doing things; and a diverse economy that supports innovation and new businesses.

In response to this growth, we are continuing to invest in the core services we need now and will need into the future: great local schools, accessible and effective healthcare, and transport infrastructure and networks that get us where we need to be, without fuss. Looking ahead, projects such as light rail will cater for the transport needs of our future population so we can avoid daily gridlock, and enjoy a city with better air quality with less impact on our environment.

We understand that ACT Government services and infrastructure will have to keep pace with Canberra’s growth if we are to retain our status as one of the world’s most liveable cities.
RECOMMENDATION 38
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake broader analysis of the effects of recent changes to the rates and land tax regime in the Territory, and publish the results of that analysis, before the end of the 2018-19 financial year.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The Public Accounts Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into general rates and land tax for strata residences. The Government will consider the analysis and recommendations presented by the Committee when it reports later this year. The Government’s response to the Committee’s report – which will be tabled before the end of the 2018-19 financial year – will include further analysis as necessary.

Stage two of the tax reform process is due to be completed in 2021-22. As part of preparations for stage three, which will commence in 2022-23, the Government will analyse the impacts of the stage two reforms. This analysis is expected to be published no later than the 2020-21 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION 39
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release an updated Supplementary Budget Paper “Socio Economic Analysis on Taxation and Concessions Policy” every year, using consistent household types from year to year, and incorporate commentary on this information into the ‘Cost of Living’ statement as a spreadsheet.

Government response
Noted.

The Government will continue to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of concessions policy and the impact of tax reform (and other tax changes) on Canberra households through the Cost of Living Statement which is included in the Budget papers. Under Section 11(1)(f) of the Financial Management Act 1996 the Territory provides a statement on the effect of Territory taxes and fees on households and the concessions that offset these taxes and fees.

RECOMMENDATION 40
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release the 2018-19 Supplementary Budget Paper “Socio Economic Analysis on Taxation and Concessions Policy” in spreadsheet format.

Government response
Agreed.

This spreadsheet has been made available on the Budget website and also provided to members of the Committee.
RECOMMENDATION 41

The Committee recommends that the adjustment of a property’s unimproved value should occur automatically following a variation to the lease without requiring any action from the lessee.

Government response

Not agreed.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Land Titles Office advise the ACT Revenue Office of changes to leases that could affect the unimproved value of a property for rating purposes. This does not remove obligations on taxpayers to disclose matters to the Revenue Office that are relevant to their tax affairs. Nor does it remove the right of the Revenue Office to apply tax assessments retrospectively where new information is presented.

RECOMMENDATION 42

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider potential long-term risk arising from non-payment of availability payments on late public private partnership projects and take effective measures to manage such risk.

Government response

Agreed.

Management of all projects risks is a shared responsibility between Government and providers under the ACT’s public private partnership arrangements. The project partners take proactive steps to manage financial and payment risks including:

- the Project Board or Executive Steering Committee already reviews this risk as part of its regular review of project risks;

- the Government has taken active measures to manage the consequences to the Territory of late commencement of services for both its Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects resulting from delays by the construction contractor;

- the costs of these measures are offset by availability payments not commencing until after the commencement of services, with no subsequent make-up of the availability payments not made during the period of delay;

- the risk of late project delivery rests primarily with the construction contractor, in that its subcontract with the PPP project company contains provisions for the payment of liquidated damages for delay, such that the delay has no significant financial impact on the PPP project company or its financiers and hence does not have any significant effect on the financial sustainability of the project; and

- the Government is monitoring actively the financial health of the construction contractors for both PPP projects and is confident that they are capable of paying these liquidated damages.
RECOMMENDATION 43
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government introduce Accountability Indicators covering breaches of environmental regulations for all Output Classes that procure and supervise construction work.

Government response
Noted.

Directors-General of directorates, and Chief Executive Officers of prescribed territory authorities (chief executives), and ultimately the Government, are responsible for delivering outcomes and for the provision of outputs on behalf of the Territory. On this basis, chief executives are responsible for the development of appropriate, meaningful and useful performance indicators to enable the effective reporting of their activities (ie those of their respective organisations) against the accountability requirements of the Government and the community.

In light of the Committee’s recommendation, each chief executive may wish to consider the development and/or inclusion of Accountability Indicators to address the Committee’s concerns, as appropriate, noting that not all ACT Government entities will have responsibility for construction-related activities.

RECOMMENDATION 44
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government extend the workplace health and safety Accountability Indicators to all Output Classes that procure and supervise construction work.

Government response
Noted.

Please refer the response provided for Recommendation 43.

RECOMMENDATION 45
The Committee recommends the ACT Government undertake, and make public, a thorough analysis of the regulatory impact to infrastructure projects as a result of proposed changes to the Work Safety legislation and government procurement policy.

Government response
Noted.

The Government notes that there are already mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness/impact of the reforms in question. Specifically, the enabling legislation for procurement requires that a detailed formal review be commenced within two years of the Bill’s start date, and completed within six months of commencement. For the Work Health and Safety reforms, it is noted that the tripartite Work Safety Council and its construction industry dedicated sub-committee are tasked with advising on the operation of the legislation.
RECOMMENDATION 46
The Committee recommends the ACT Government develop an indicative plan of major long-term infrastructure priorities to ensure confidence in the construction industry.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government is currently in the process of updating its *ACT Government Infrastructure Plan 2011-2021* to cover the period to 2028.

The Government also provides an annual update to the *ACT Government Infrastructure Plan 2011-2021* for each financial year (the most recent being the 2017-18 update). These publications jointly serve to provide the ACT community, the construction industry, and other sectors with an overview of the potential pipeline of projects that the Government has either initiated or is considering.

RECOMMENDATION 47
The Committee recommends the ACT Government continues to invest in vocational training and trades in the building industry.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue our investment in vocational education and training, through the Canberra Institute of Technology and the Australian Apprenticeships and Skilled Capital initiatives. The identification of skills needs in the ACT allows support through these programs to be targeted in the areas of highest need, and trade qualifications are routinely prioritised.

The ACT has a strong record of increasing Australian Apprenticeship commencements in recent years against a national decline, and signing up to the new Skilling Australians Fund demonstrates a strong focus on continuing to build commencements. Projects have also commenced through the Women in Trades Grants Program to fund activities that support more women getting into trades. These activities will continue to be complemented by the funding provided by the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority, which provides funding for the training of eligible workers and for the development of skills identified as being in short supply in the building and construction industry.

RECOMMENDATION 48
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a policy for when peppercorn rents will be offered to community groups leasing ACT Government property.

Government response
Agreed.
ACT Property Group supports the implementation of Recommendations 48 and 49. The policy, guidelines, and systems in relation to the current and future peppercorn arrangements – including the development of a public register – will be developed in consultation with the Community Services Directorate and the community sector. It is expected that this work will be completed by 30 June 2019, with progress reported in the next Budget Estimates process.

RECOMMENDATION 49
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop and publish new guidelines, systems and policies in relation to peppercorn rental agreements, and create a public register of those organisations who benefit from peppercorn rental arrangements during each financial year.

Government response
Agreed.
See response to Recommendation 48.

RECOMMENDATION 50
The Committee recommends that Icon Water publishes a complete version of its services contract with ActewAGL on its website by the last day of September 2018.

Government response
Noted.
Icon Water is an unlisted public company owned by the ACT Government. As a Territory-owned Corporation, Icon Water has commercial interests and is separate from the direct functions of government. An independent Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of Icon Water and its controlled entities.

As stated in Icon Water’s responses to previous Assembly questions and recommendations, the service contracts contain information that is confidential between the contracting parties for legal and commercial reasons.

As a shareholder in Icon Water, the Government has previously requested Icon Water to make available as much information as can be practically released about the service contracts.

In response to the Government’s request, Icon Water has made available significant details via its website, including in relation to the history of related arrangements dating back to 2000.

The Treasurer tabled copies of the information released by Icon Water relating to the two contracts on 20 February 2018.

Information about the contracts that is not confidential and redacted copies of the service contracts are available on Icon Water’s website at www.iconwater.com.au.
RECOMMENDATION 51
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government and Icon Water publish the results of the audit into the Shared Services Agreements between ActewAGL and Icon Water.

Government response
Agreed.

A report is being prepared on the findings of Icon Water’s management audit of the services contracts with ActewAGL. Icon Water forecasts that the audit will be completed by the end of August 2018 and will then be presented to Icon Water’s Risk and Assurance Committee. Once the report has been finalised, Icon Water will publish the results of the audit on its website.

RECOMMENDATION 52
The Committee recommends that Icon Water should undertake an independent market appraisal of the value of the services provided in the Service Agreements with ActewAGL.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

Icon Water has commenced consideration of options for ongoing service requirements, in preparation for the 2023 expiry of the service contracts.

Analysis of future service requirements and a sourcing strategy will be developed to determine whether to insource, outsource or apply a hybrid model for each of the services to best meet its business requirements.

RECOMMENDATION 53
The Committee recommends that Icon Water publish the cost of terminating the Service Agreements with ActewAGL.

Government response
Noted.

As set out in the response to Recommendation 50, the information is confidential and cannot be publicly released.
RECOMMENDATION 54

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure staff and clients at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children are adequately consulted before any changes are made to current governance arrangements for nursing and midwifery structures, and that consideration is given to the separate and distinct purposes of the birth centre and the birthing suite as part of this process.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Health Division of Women, Youth and Children engaged in widespread stakeholder consultation regarding the governance arrangements for nursing and midwifery structures at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.

A review of the Models of Care for continuity of midwifery care is currently being undertaken. Stakeholder consultation will also occur, with consideration given to the distinct purposes of the birth centre and the birthing suite. This is expected to be finalised by the end of 2018.

RECOMMENDATION 55

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine the risks associated with expanding the home birth program to the northside catchment (through Calvary Hospital).

Government response
Agreed.

This work will be done through the planning stages.

RECOMMENDATION 56

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing report to the Assembly on the implementation of the ‘single point of entry’ for maternity services.

Government response
Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.
RECOMMENDATION 57
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details of scheduled works, costs and timelines for the:

- Surgical Procedure Interventional Radiation and Emergency project; and
- upgrades to the Centenary Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

Government response
Agreed.
The Government will provide updates on these projects as planning and tendering arrangements progress.

RECOMMENDATION 58
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider bringing forward the completion of the upgrades to the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, and construction of the Adolescent Mental Health Unit.

Government response
Noted.
The Government will consider this within the planning and operational constraints of these projects.

RECOMMENDATION 59
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table a detailed report of the Upgrade and Maintain ACT Health Assets (UMAHA) Program including the following:

- the individual projects that comprised the program when it began, including the contractor, scope, estimated cost, and timeline for each project;
- subsequent changes made to any elements in the details provided in part (a);
- the details of any projects added to the program after it began, including the contractor, scope, estimated cost and timeline for each project; and
- whether and to what extent the UMAHA budget was increased to allow for any changes or additions outlined in parts (b) and (c).

Government response
Noted.
A progress update can be provided on the overall UMAHA program however, some specific project cost details may be subject to Commercial-in-Confidence requirements.
RECOMMENDATION 60
The Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing table the business case for Upgrade and Maintain ACT Health Assets (UMAHA) stage 2 and the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
A high level overview can be provided for both the UMAHA Stage 2 Business Case, and the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION 61
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement a process that ensures transparency in contractual negotiations and dealings with contract panel members.

Government response
Noted.
ACT Health currently undertakes all procurement activities and contract negotiations in accordance with the requirements of the ACT Government’s Procurement Act 2001 and Procurement Regulation 2007 to ensure appropriate transparency and adherence with guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION 62
The Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing table the report on the system-wide data review, which was provided to the ACT Government prior to consultation with the Health Directorate. The Committee further recommends that the report on the system-wide data review, post consultation be tabled, noting any amendments between the two versions.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
The final System-Wide Data Review Outcomes Report will be tabled during the August 2018 sittings of the Legislative Assembly, and will reflect a further round of consultation undertaken within ACT Health.

RECOMMENDATION 63
The Committee recommends the ACT Government undertake work to consider the viability of moving cystic fibrosis clinic to Canberra Hospital to ensure Canberrans with cystic fibrosis are able to access the full suite of tests and allied health professionals they require.

Government response
Agreed.
The Division of Medicine within the ACT Government has reviewed this issue previously and does not currently have the clinical space to run such a clinic at The Canberra Hospital Campus. However, this arrangement in no way impacts on patient access to a range of health professionals required to manage their condition. ACT Health will continue to review opportunities to relocate the current clinic at Canberra Hospital and Health Services.

**RECOMMENDATION 64**
The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with Cystic Fibrosis ACT to improve support for people in the ACT living with cystic fibrosis.

**Government response**
Agreed.
The ACT Government supports this recommendation and will continue to work with Cystic Fibrosis ACT as the major stakeholder for this service.

**RECOMMENDATION 65**
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a framework, including for maintaining prisoner health records, to ensure coordinated treatment between Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services and ACT Health.

**Government response**
Agreed in principle.
The working model regarding the delivery of care and record management between Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services (Winnunga) and ACT Health continues to be established.

It is not anticipated that Winnunga and ACT Health will share access to each other’s records, instead a handover process would occur. The systems regarding this handover process continue to be developed.

The group undertaking this work is aware of the requirement to develop a framework that maintains detainee health records in accordance with the Health Records Privacy Act, while still ensuring coordinated treatment for detainees occurs between Winnunga and ACT Health.

**RECOMMENDATION 66**
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government address the need for a centralised facility or adolescent step up, step down program.

**Government response**
Agreed in principle.
The ACT Government has already committed to building a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit. Planning for this unit has commenced.

In relation to the provision of services in the community, ACT Health has two northside Step Up Step Down facilities, one for adults (18-65 year olds) and one for adolescents (12-18 year olds). ACT Health also has one existing facility on the south side for young people aged 18-24 years, and a second facility for adults to be established with funding provided in the 2018-19 Budget. The build is expected to be complete in 2020-21.

In addition to facility-based Step Up Step Down programs, ACT Health also funds non-facility based outreach Step Up Step Down services through the Transition to Recovery program for 18-24 year olds and adults. This may suit those people who are not able to attend the north or south facilities. A further outreach support for the ‘Step Down’ component is the Wayback Support Program for suicidal crisis after care which is also non-facility based so it is suitable for ACT-wide access.

Step Up Step Down facility and non-facility based supports are an evidence based, effective and contemporary model of care, and are a key component of the stepped care approach to mental health treatment.

The relocation of any of these services has interdependencies with the availability of purpose built facilities elsewhere in the ACT. The addition of any further facilities would need to be subject to collaborative development of shared sector priorities arising from the Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, currently in development.

**RECOMMENDATION 67**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to support pill testing and consider future opportunities to run pill testing at events and locations across the ACT.¹

**Government response**

Agreed.

The pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo Canberra in April 2018 provided proof of concept that pill testing can be conducted at events in the ACT as a harm reduction measure. The ACT Government maintains a supportive policy environment for third parties to conduct pill testing at future events in the ACT with appropriate oversight and safeguards.

**RECOMMENDATION 68**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government sponsor an independent review of the pill testing trial, including legal, health and effectiveness issues and present this review to the Assembly.

**Government response**

Noted.

¹ Mr Wall MLA and Ms Lee MLA did not support this recommendation.

The ACT Government would support the conduct of an independent evaluation of pill testing services offered at future events.

**RECOMMENDATION 69**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government dedicate funding to determining why sexually transmitted infections are generally trending up.

**Government response**

Agreed in principle.

ACT Health supports additional research into the epidemiology of sexually transmissible infections in the ACT. Targeted research projects could investigate whether increased transmission of sexually transmissible infections is occurring in the community, and identify emerging trends and risk factors to inform the development and implementation of more targeted prevention and promotional activities. This research will be considered as part of future planning.

**RECOMMENDATION 70**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with partner agencies like Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, Aids Action Council, youth organisations and advisory committees to develop more targeted sexual health awareness campaigns to address the increase in STIs.

**Government response**

Agreed in principle.

ACT Health currently provides funding to non-government organisations including the AIDS Action Council of the ACT, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, and Hepatitis ACT to undertake a range of services related to prevention of sexually transmissible infections and promotion of safe sex. ACT Health has and will continue to work closely with these groups to develop targeted sexual health awareness campaigns based on known risk factors and emerging disease trends or issues in the ACT.

**RECOMMENDATION 71**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate making free condoms available at more Government health centres and publish information on its websites about where free condoms are available.

**Government response**

Agreed.
Free condoms are already available at many Government health clinics and non-government organisations, including the Canberra Sexual Health Centre, the Tuggeranong, Phillip and Belconnen Health Centres, the ACT Alcohol and Drug Service, the AIDS Action Council of the ACT, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, and Hepatitis ACT. ACT Health supports investigating the feasibility of other services which could provide free condoms, including the ACT Health Walk-in Centres. ACT Health will collate information about current sources of free condoms and make this available on the ACT Health website.

RECOMMENDATION 72
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider reporting on sexual health including outcomes in public sexual health as part of the Budget Papers and include further statistical information as part of Annual Reporting.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

ACT Health will explore the production of publicly available annual reports of public health data related to sexually transmissible infections.

RECOMMENDATION 73
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with Arthritis ACT and other interested parties on an arrangement for maintaining appropriate and affordable access to hydrotherapy pools on the southside of Canberra.

Government response
Agreed.

The Canberra Hospital rehabilitation pool will close with the opening of the new facility at University of Canberra Hospital. Stakeholders including Arthritis ACT have requested continued access to the pool at Canberra Hospital. This relates to the availability of hydrotherapy facilities on the south side of Canberra.

ACT Health has entered into an agreement with Arthritis ACT to continue access to the pool at Canberra Hospital until June 2019. ACT Health does not intend to keep the pool at Canberra Hospital open past that time, nor do we anticipate providing access to other groups. There are other options for hydrotherapy in the south side of Canberra, as outlined in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private South side Hydrotherapy Pools (heated to 33°C or greater)</th>
<th>South side ACT Government Public Schools with Hydrotherapy Pools (heated to 33°C or greater)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hughes Hydro – Hughes</td>
<td>Malkara Special School – Garran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings Calwell – Calwell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings Swim – Deakin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary John James Pool – Deakin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECOMMENDATION 74

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details of the hydrotherapy pool at the Mt Stromlo aquatic centre, including specifications, associated equipment, costs, timelines, details of the hydrotherapy services to be provided, who will provide those services, and whether the pool will be available exclusively for hydrotherapy service.

Government response

Noted.

The current design of the Stromlo Leisure Centre (SLC) includes a multi-purpose program pool/learn to swim pool which can cater for some types of aquatics based hydrotherapy and gentle exercise offerings. There is no dedicated hydrotherapy pool.

The size of the program pool/learn to swim pool is 20 metres by 10 metres and a depth of 1.1 metres. The pool will be heated to 31-32°C.

There will be lane ropes and anchor points to enable the program/learn-to-swim pool to be divided into various configurations. A beach (zero depth) entry is also provided via the leisure pool, which is adjoining the program/learn-to-swim pool, with an aquatic wheelchair to assist mobility impaired in entering the pool.

Three accessible change room facilities are also provided at the SLC, one with an electric hoist and adult change table (similar to what is provided at the Gungahlin leisure Centre).

The cost of the warm water program/learn-to-swim pool is included in the total cost of the SLC. The total budget for the SLC is $36.6 million.

Construction of the SLC is due to commence in September 2018 and be completed in early 2020.

Once an operator has been engaged by the Territory to manage the SLC, hydrotherapy service providers will be able to negotiate hire of the program pool/learn-to-swim pool with the operator. The operator of the SLC may also offer targeted programs. ACT Property Group aims to commence the tender process for the management of the SLC in the latter half of 2018-19.

RECOMMENDATION 75

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government arrange for representatives of the Little Company of Mary to attend hearings of future Legislative Assembly estimates committees and Legislative Assembly committee hearings for annual reports on a basis similar to the Australian Federal Police.

Government response

Noted.

ACT Health will work with Calvary to discuss this moving forward.
RECOMMENDATION 76
The Committee recommends that the Health Directorate publish in each annual report a full account of (a) the money it receives from the Commonwealth government and (b) what the payments were for.

Government response
Agreed.

The Local Hospital Network Financial Statements already provide (a) the amount of funding received from the Commonwealth and (b) the detail on what the funding is for, described in the notes to the Financial Statements (for 2016-17, see pages 377 and 385 note 5 respectively).

RECOMMENDATION 77
The Committee recommends that relevant officials from the Health Directorate provide the Assembly with all the reasons for the downgrade in the accreditation status for the radiology department.

Government response
Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.

RECOMMENDATION 78
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a detailed plan to the Assembly on measures being implemented to ensure the radiology training accreditation moves back to an A grade accreditation rating within the next 12 months.

Government response
Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.

RECOMMENDATION 79
The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide advice to the Assembly on the current status of accreditation for ACT public hospitals and for each of the separate divisions and accreditation of services by individual medical colleges, including the anticipated dates for future accreditation inspections.

Government response
Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.
RECOMMENDATION 80

The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with Epilepsy ACT to develop clear sustainable funding options for the organisation.

Government response

Agreed.

ACT Health will engage with Epilepsy ACT and assess their proposal once it has been received. ACT Health is always interested in proposals which look to improve health outcomes for consumers, improve the health system, and help Canberrans to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the community.

RECOMMENDATION 81

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish details of the Restorative Justice program, including funding, relations with external participants and advisers and others (such as universities), including evaluation of the program.

Government response

Agreed.

The Restorative Justice Scheme has been operating since January 2005. For eleven years the scheme remained in phase one, involving referrals for juvenile offences of a less serious nature.

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government announced funding of $2.058 million over four years for the expansion of Restorative Justice to include serious offences and offences committed by adults as well as juveniles. The expanded staffing included four new positions (three convenors and an admin/court liaison worker) and funding to provide professional supervision of convenors and training to build the Restorative Justice Unit’s capacity to manage domestic and family violence and sexual offences matters which will become eligible in 2018.

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Government announced funding for a second ASO6 Indigenous Guidance Partner who could assist with the increase in referrals following the expansion of the Restorative Justice Unit. The introduction of the Redress Scheme sees the Restorative Justice Unit playing a role on behalf of the ACT Government in providing the Personal Direct Response process for eligible matters in relation to ACT Government institutions where Personal Direct Response is identified as an important component of a redress package. A full-time equivalent convenor to manage extra workload is being recruited currently.

The Restorative Justice scheme allows restorative justice conferencing options for victims and offenders to be integrated into the formal criminal justice system at appropriate points, maximising potential for formal and informal justice outcomes. Referring entities in the ACT’s Restorative Justice scheme include the Restorative Justice Unit itself, ACT Policing, Child and Youth Protection Services, Director of Public Prosecutions, the Courts, ACT Corrective Services, the Sentence Administration Board and the Victims of Crime Commissioner.
A recent study of phase one of Restorative Justice by the Australian National University and the Australian Institute of Criminology was commissioned by Justice Planning and Safety Programs, in the Legislation, Policy and Programs Branch. While acknowledging the difficulties of finding significant outcomes for research conducted outside randomised control conditions the results revealed that for juvenile offenders, participation in RJ conferences extended the timeframe for subsequent recidivism.

As a victim centric conferencing scheme, Restorative Justice’s core business is to meet the unmet justice needs of victims and does not provide a dedicated offender rehabilitation service. In practice, however, RJ conferencing creates experiences of deeper accountability that can promote ‘intersections of opportunity’ for offender engagement in targeted criminogenic programs for medium to higher risk offenders. Restorative Justice can in this way be seen as an important component in an interconnected justice system that works together in a timely and coordinated manner to bring accountability for victims and reduce harmful behaviours in the community.

Restorative City Project

In June 2018, it was announced that as part of the 2018-19 Budget, $187,000 would be funded from the Confiscated Assets Trust to develop Canberra as a restorative city. The funding will primarily support the provision of a full-time equivalent AS06 Restorative Engagement Officer who will support the Restorative Communities Network. This position will be responsible for the planning and coordination of workshops and events that bring people together to consider and support Restorative initiatives across sectors. This position will sit in the Justice Planning and Safety Programs. It will report on workshop initiatives and outcomes to the government including a final summary report, provide secretariat support to the Restorative Communities Network and will assist to link restorative communities or agencies with interested community members. The recruitment process to fill the Restorative Engagement Officer position is currently underway.

A sum of $50,000 is allocated to the Australian National University to promote the sustainability of restorative initiatives: $25,000 is allocated to the Conflict Resolution Service to support the training of Conflict Resolution Service staff to provide restorative justice and practice in their service delivery; $10,000 will support the delivery of three workshops across the 2018-19 financial year; and $9,000 will support the ongoing development of the Restorative Community Network’s website as a site for shared learning and development.

RECOMMENDATION 82

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the results of the last review of juror payments, and also address issues of juror payment where prolonged and demanding attendance and attention is required in the case of long trials.

Government response

Agreed in principle.
The 2008-09 Budget provided additional funding for increases in payments made to persons attending the Supreme Court for jury service through an increase in jury fees, establishment of a flat travel allowance and provision of lunch where service extends over a lunch period. This budget initiative better aligned the payments made to jurors in the ACT with those provided in NSW.

Consideration was given to reports at the time that reviewed a range of issues impacting on juries and juror payments, including:


Arrangements are already in place for the regular payment of jurors involved in long trials. These arrangements will be enhanced with the implementation of the new jury management system which has been funded in the 2018-19 Budget. The ACT Courts and Tribunal will consider whether there are other issues relating to jury payments in long trials and how they might be addressed.

**RECOMMENDATION 83**

The Committee recommends that the process used to appoint the new Director of Public Prosecutions be made public.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The position, including an appointment guideline detailing the process for appointment and selection criteria, was advertised on the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate website on 27 July 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION 84**

The Committee recommends that the announcement for the appointment for the new Director of Public Prosecutions be made as soon as possible.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The recruitment process to fill the Director of Public Prosecutions role is presently underway and the outcome of that process will be announced when an appointment has been made.
RECOMMENDATION 85
The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate prepare a list of Auslan interpreters to ensure availability in the event of hearing impaired people being called up for jury duty.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Courts and Tribunal will maintain a list of Auslan interpreter providers. Booking Auslan interpreters through recognised providers is preferable to establishing a list of individual Auslan interpreters. This is because providers are better placed to establish and maintain a large pool of Auslan interpreters and to provide an assurance that the interpreters have the requisite qualifications and training.

RECOMMENDATION 86
The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate works with registered training organisations including the Canberra Institute of Technology to ensure an adequate skill base for Auslan interpreters to service the courts.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The Directorate will liaise with the Chief Minister’s Treasury and Economic Development Directorate about the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and other relevant registered training organisations providing adequate Auslan interpreter skills based training in order to provide interpreter services in courts.

The directorate notes that CIT is currently not offering any courses relating to Auslan or other interpreter services in courts.

RECOMMENDATION 87
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare a detailed review on the age of criminal liability in the Territory, including an analysis of current offenders and the consequential impacts throughout the justice system and present this review to the Assembly.

Government response
Noted.

The ACT Government is intending to undertake a consultation process on the age of criminal responsibility in 2018 to consider whether reform is appropriate and amendment required to the Criminal Code 2002. As part of this community consultation process, an analysis of current offenders and the consequential impacts throughout the justice system may be required.

The consultation will need to include consideration of any model of care reforms required as a consequence of any changes to the age of criminal liability.
RECOMMENDATION 88
The Committee recommends that the topic of the age of criminal liability be raised with the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General as a matter for national consideration, and the results of this action be included in the review to be prepared for the Assembly.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government notes that any consideration of change to the age of criminal responsibility should reflect a nationally consistent approach. The Attorney-General will raise the issue with the Council of Attorneys-General for national consideration once community consultation is underway in the ACT to inform the ACT Government’s position on this issue.

RECOMMENDATION 89
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government formally engage with those currently calling for changes to the age of criminal responsibility, in order to give this issue a thorough and robust hearing.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government will conduct a public consultation process on the age of criminal responsibility to inform the ACT Government’s position and any future reform.

RECOMMENDATION 90
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare a detailed plan for the development and implementation of a Drug and Alcohol Court for the ACT for the Assembly, including firm deadlines for its implementation.  

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government will continue the development work on the design for the court, including the model of operation and policies and procedures, which will assist in finalising costs of establishing and running a Drug and Alcohol Court in the ACT.

ACT Health will work actively with JACS as they develop the implementation plan for the Drug and Alcohol Court.

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2 Ms Orr MLA and Ms Cheyne MLA did not agree to the inclusion of a timeline. It is their view that the evidence given by officials indicated that a firm timeline would be unhelpful.
RECOMMENDATION 91
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that ACT drug and alcohol rehabilitation services are adequately resourced to respond to demand, including any increased demand expected from the opening of the Drug and Alcohol Court.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

ACT Health is working with the Alcohol and Other Drug treatment service providers, the majority of whom are non-government organisations, to understand current demands on the treatment system and the impact the proposed Drug and Alcohol Court will have on services, and to identify solutions and mitigation strategies.

RECOMMENDATION 92
Given the delays to the new courts building, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with a revised timeline on the completion of the new court building and the Assembly be informed of any further variations to that completion date.

Government response
Agreed.

Based on advice from the contractor, it is currently anticipated that completion of Stage 1 will be achieved in September 2018. Stage 2 can only commence once Stage 1 is completed and the contractor advises that the Stage 2 works will take approximately 40 weeks. Accordingly, completion of Stage 2 is expected to be achieved in mid-2019. The Government will inform the Legislative Assembly of any variations to this completion timeline.

RECOMMENDATION 93
Given the delays to the new courts building, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare an estimate of the consequential costs and impact, including delayed trials or use of alternative venues, and present it to the Assembly on a quarterly basis in conjunction with building updates.

Government response
Agreed in part.

Under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract arrangements, Juris Partnership assumes full risk for the time it takes to complete the works. Accordingly, the contractor is not entitled to any additional payments due to completion being later than the dates set out in the contract.
Payments to Juris Partnership do not commence until completion of Stage 1 has been achieved and, as the end date of the contract is fixed, the 25-year operational phase of the PPP contract is truncated to the same extent as the delay to completion. This results in a saving to the Territory compared to the payments that would have been made had the project been completed on time. These savings are greater than the project management and other costs incurred as a direct result of the prolonged period of construction.

The 2018-19 Budget estimates include adjustments associated with the revised project completion timeline for the Courts PPP project. This includes estimated impacts of material consequential costs and the overall savings returned to Government.

The Government will provide a report on the consequential costs and other impacts of the delays in the new courts building following completion of Stage 1.

**RECOMMENDATION 94**
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government appoint an eighth magistrate as a priority.

**Government response**
Agreed.

The Government announced the appointment of Louise Taylor as the ACT’s eighth permanent Magistrate on 10 August 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION 95**
The Committee recommends that details of the new caseload management program for courts and tribunals be published in the next Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual reports to show expenditure on the program to date and be updated in future estimates and financial statements form the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

**Government response**
Agreed in part.

The 2017-18 JACS Annual Report will include a description of the new integrated courts management system and details of its implementation.

The financial statements published in the JACS Annual Report do not include detailed reports on individual capital projects such as the implementation of the new integrated courts management system. However, ACT Treasury publishes a quarterly report on all capital projects with a budget greater than or equal to $10 million which includes details of the expenditure on the new integrated courts management system. A copy of the reports can be obtained from the Treasury’s web site at https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/publications.
RECOMMENDATION 96

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government analyse the factors contributing to the 18 per cent increase above target in custody days at Bimberi Youth justice centre and report findings to the Assembly.

Government response

Agreed.

Variance in custody days is influenced by the offences committed, court practices, and the opportunity for young people to engage with diversion and early intervention services. Since 2011, the impact of reforms under the Blueprint for Youth Justice 2012-2022 has reduced the number of young people in custody. However, this figure can fluctuate due to the relatively low number of young people in custody in the ACT.

The target for custody days at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre was reviewed and adjusted from 7,500 to 5,000 following a recommendation (Recommendation 125) by the Select Committee on Estimates 2016-17, to better reflect the occupancy of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

The ACT Government has committed to providing the Legislative Assembly with a regular update on Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including outcomes against headline indicators. The last update was provided in March 2018.

The Blueprint Taskforce, established in August 2017, will report to the Government shortly on its findings and recommendations for actions to be prioritised for the next five years of the Strategy. A key focus of the Blueprint is to continue to reduce the number of young people who are in contact with the youth justice system.

RECOMMENDATION 97

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table the Human Rights Commission’s review into practices at Bimberi Youth justice Centre, along with its response, as quickly as practicable.

Government response

Agreed.

The Human Rights Commission ‘Commission Initiated Consideration’ of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is yet to be finalised. The Human Rights Commission will release the report on completion. The ACT Government will table the Human Rights Commission report and the government’s response, noting that identifying client information and information that could potentially impact the safety and security of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre will not be released.
RECOMMENDATION 98

The Committee recommends that a program for public consultation and input into the Victims of Crime Charter of Rights be developed and publicly promoted to ensure the community (especially victims and those affected by crime) are given the best opportunity to have input into drafting the final documentation.

Government response
Agreed.

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) is currently implementing a comprehensive public consultation process in relation to the development of an ACT Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime.

JACS is running a series of community engagement forums, providing opportunity for input via the ‘Your Say’ website and meeting with individual community members and stakeholders who wish to make submissions. Public consultation is focusing on engaging with people who have been impacted by crime and diverse groups who are more vulnerable in the justice system.

The Victims of Crime Commissioner has also made direct contact with Victims who have received support from Victim Support in recent years to inform them of the consultation and offer support to individuals who wish to participate in the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION 99

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide regular updates to the Assembly on the outcomes of negotiations with the United Firefighters Union relating to planned capital works at the Ainslie Fire Station.

Government response
Agreed in part.

The United Firefighters Union has formally raised the planned capital works at Ainslie Fire Station as a dispute. As this matter is currently being heard in the Fair Work Commission, it would be inappropriate to provide commentary on this matter on this matter. However, the Government will provide an update to the community before any works start.

RECOMMENDATION 100

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures transition areas are included in the design and planning for all new fire stations in the ACT, and that where possible, these areas are retrofitted into existing stations to limit contamination and maximise safety for firefighters.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
The ACT Emergency Services Agency will ensure that the design of all future new and upgraded fire stations maximises the safety of firefighters. Appropriate building design for fire stations is one of the factors that can be used to limit any potential contamination of firefighters following exposure to smoke and other toxins encountered at emergency incidents. Other factors include decontamination procedures implemented prior to departure from the incident and the cleaning methods used for personal protective clothing. The use of a transition area, such as those installed at West Belconnen, South Tuggeranong, and Belconnen Fire Stations, may not be the most appropriate solution at other locations.

RECOMMENDATION 101
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide and update to the Assembly on the expected release date of ACT Policing Futures Program – Policing for Tomorrow’s ACT.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

ACT Policing will continue to provide updates on achievements by the ACT Policing Futures Program to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. As the ACT Policing Futures Program is a program of continual development and improvement, it will be implemented over a period of time with no single release date for the program in its entirety. The Government will keep the Canberra community informed through the usual means.

RECOMMENDATION 102
Given the increase in outlaw motorcycle gang activity, and comments from the Chief Police Officer, the Committee recommends the ACT Government consider further initiatives to address organised crime.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing. The ACT Government remains committed to working with ACT Policing to identifying practical and effective responses to organised crime that also respect the ACT’s human rights framework. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.

ACT Government will also continue to work with jurisdictional partners in support of a national approach for combating organised crime.
RECOMMENDATION 103
The Committee recommends that the Minister for Emergency Services and ACT Policing work with industry to improve the success rate for laying charges for fuel theft compared to the number of fuel theft offences reported.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services and ACT Policing will continue working with industry and explore if anything more can be done in relation to this matter. ACT Policing investigates petrol drive-offs as ‘theft’ offences. In addition to investigating reports of petrol drive offs, ACT Policing engages with petrol station owners about measures they can take to help prevent this crime type.

RECOMMENDATION 104
The Committee recommends that the Chief Police Officer work with the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) to ensure that the survey of police satisfaction is appropriate and asks the right questions relating to women’s safety.

Government response
Agreed.

The Chief Police Officer for the ACT will continue working with all relevant partner agencies including ANZPAA to ensure the National Survey of Community Satisfaction remains an accurate and appropriate method of surveying community perception of safety and policing satisfaction.

The Government is committed to improving safety and promoting gender equality. The 2018-19 budget commits additional funding to improve actions under the ACT Women’s Plan. This plan sets out the following strategies in relation to women’s safety:

- Promote the use of Women’s Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government;
- Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning;
- Review the ‘Crime Prevention through Environmental Design General Code’ from a safe and inclusive communities perspective (with a focus on women) and review language used in this Code;
- Determine the process by which women’s perspectives can be incorporated into Master Plans, Territory Plan reviews and urban design processes;
- Include women, and in particular young women aged 15-21, in the planning and design study of local centres. This study will identify resilience, liveability and accessibility at the local level and provide a comparative basis to test planning and design responses in line with national best practice; and
- Conduct lifestyle analysis of women customers (to improve transport options for women).
RECOMMENDATION 105
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide regular updates to the Assembly on the progress of implementing the Winnunga Nimmityjah Model of Care in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

Recommendation 5 of the Moss Report is the integration of Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service (Winnunga) to provide a holistic approach to health care at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) in a culturally safe way. On 22 June 2018, a contract between the ACT Government and Winnunga was signed which enables Winnunga to provide 24/7 health care to detainees at the AMC. Work has commenced on the implementation of the Winnunga health services model of care at the AMC and a Commissioning Working Group has been convened to oversee this. The Minister will provide an update on the implementation of the Winnunga model of care at AMC to the Assembly in early 2019.

RECOMMENDATION 106
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly what strategies are being considered to cope with the growing detainee population at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Government response
Agreed.

A number of options to address the increased demand at the Alexander Maconochie Centre are being considered. Once a position has been finalised the Minister for Corrections will update the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION 107
The Committee recommends that the Government extend the application period for funding from the greyhound industry transition package for an additional few months, noting that a number of individuals and organisations were expecting to make applications but none had been received very close to the end of the financial year.

Government response
Not agreed.
The 30 June 2018 deadline for applications for greyhound industry transition support was advertised consistently and extensively. Potential applicants were also provided with an opportunity to express an interest in support prior to the 30 June 2018 deadline, and complete a formal application in the week following the deadline. Applications to support individuals, a business and to support greyhound re-homing were received, and are being considered by Woden Community Service and the Greyhound Industry Transition Taskforce. Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria, these applications will be processed and support packages provided by 30 September 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION 108**

The Committee recommends that the Government, in its review of the gambling code, review the ACAT appeals process for matters under the Gambling Code of Conduct to ensure complainants and those with lived experience of gambling harm are given opportunities to participate in the process.

**Government response**

Noted.

As part of its review of the *Gambling and Racing Control (Code of Practice) Regulation 2002*, JACS will consider a broad range of options to strengthen the Territory’s gambling harm minimisation framework. JACS will also be considering the manner in which disciplinary issues for gaming machine licensees come before the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and how complainants and those with experience of gambling harm are able to participate in those proceedings.

**RECOMMENDATION 109**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government, as part of the Housing Choices review, give particular attention to ensuring diversity in housing options to meet the needs of Canberra’s ageing population.

**Government response**

Agreed.

This recommendation for ensuring diversity in housing options to meet the needs of Canberra’s ageing population is already included as an important consideration in the Housing Choices project, which is currently underway.

**RECOMMENDATION 110**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government continues to engage with People with Disabilities ACT on its commitment to make sure all new public housing accessible.

**Government response**

Agreed.
Where Housing ACT constructs dwellings it aims to build them so that they meet the Class C adaptable standards or Gold Liveable Guidelines. These dwellings are suitable for people with disabilities and provide flexible housing options and accommodation where tenants can age in place. Housing ACT does purchase dwellings; however, these properties are not typically accessible. Housing ACT does have a program of making modifications to its properties to support people with disabilities, from ramps, grab rails and changes to bathrooms, laundries and kitchens to make them accessible to people with disabilities. In 2017-18, around $1.7 million was spent on modifications.

**RECOMMENDATION 111**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government establish an access advisory group to advise on planning/housing.

**Government response**

Noted.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will consider options for establishing an ACT Government access advisory group to provide advice on planning/housing matters.

**RECOMMENDATION 112**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise the work of the billboards working group and ensures community views are considered, given considerable community interest and the number of months since the ACT Government provided its response on this issue to the Assembly.

**Government response**

Noted.

The working group is continuing to meet and prioritise the implementation of the Standing Committee’s recommendations on billboards, and to consider community views.

**RECOMMENDATION 113**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with FrogWatch ACT to develop sustainable funding options for the program.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The ACT government will provide funding of approximately $65,000 to the FrogWatch program in the 2018-19 financial year to deliver a number of projects.
Frogwatch will assess frog numbers and habitat as a bio-indicator of urban wetland health and help to build complexity and resilience in our urban environments. Also, Frogwatch volunteers are investigating how climate change is impacting on frog breeding seasons. Both these projects will assist us to better understand the value of frog populations as an indicator of catchment health. In addition, EPSDD will further consider sustainable funding options for the Frogwatch program including investigating integrating it with the Waterwatch program.

**RECOMMENDATION 114**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government identify key projects to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, in conjunction with former workers at the tracking station, and allocate funding to ensure a comprehensive commemoration in July 2019.

**Government response**

Agreed in part.

Government has already identified funding in the 2018-19 budget through the *Ngunnawal to NASA* initiative which will look to commemorate the anniversary in Namadgi National Park in the following way.

The focus of this project is on highlighting the locations of the three space tracking facilities in the park, with a focus on Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral as walking trail hubs. These infrastructure improvements will support on site commemorative events in 2019.

The Government has already commenced engagement with former workers at both tracking stations which will be ongoing throughout the design and development phases of the project.

**RECOMMENDATION 115**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government action heritage recommendations outlined in the report on the *Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018*.

**Government response**

Not agreed.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate has assessed the merits of this recommendation and determined that it does not accord with the criteria for effective, accurate and appropriate accountability indicators as per the ACT Audit Office’s *ACT Government Strategic and Accountability Indicators Report No.2*. 
RECOMMENDATION 116

The Committee recommends that a small amount of operational support is provided to the National Trust to allow it to continue its representative role for the heritage sector, which could be a small annual grant or in-kind support (for example free storage and meeting space).

Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government acknowledges the valuable contribution of community heritage organisations promoting and conserving heritage places and objects in the ACT, as well as the many other community and not for profit organisations that provide valuable services, and note the challenges affecting their activities.

The Trust is one of many heritage interest and volunteer groups who promote and conserve heritage in the ACT.

While the ACT Government is unable to fund the operational expenses of every community organisation, the Trust is able to make a community pre-budget submission. The ACT Government has encouraged this before and provided advice on how to develop a stronger business model.

The ACT Government will continue to work collaboratively and meet regularly with the National Trust to provide advice and assistance to ensure any business cases, heritage grant application and pre-budget submissions are appropriate for consideration.

The Trust has also been encouraged to explore the range of other funding sources available to the community in addition to ACT Government funding through private sector foundations, grants and sponsorship.

RECOMMENDATION 117

The Committee recommends, in the short-medium term, the ACT Government focus on eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from transport and natural gas.

Government response

Agreed.

With the move to 100 per cent renewable electricity, transport and natural gas will represent more than 80 per cent of the Territory’s emissions by 2020. So, these sectors will be central to future action.

The Government is considering policy options to reduce emissions from these and other sectors as part of the development of new climate change policy leading to emission reductions in line with recently announced interim emission reduction targets for 2025, 2030, 2040 and net zero emission by 2045.
RECOMMENDATION 118

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore further options for reducing natural gas in new developments, including further ‘all electric’ suburbs such as Ginninderry stage 1.

Government response

Agreed.

The Government has agreed to support a pilot demonstration project of an all-electric area in Stage 1 of the Ginninderry precinct. The pilot project will include the first 350 residences where gas will not be connected. The pilot project will be jointly managed by Evoenergy, the ACT’s electricity network operator, the Ginninderry Joint Venture, the ACT Government and Reposit Power. The results of the pilot will inform government consideration of future energy infrastructure and planning policies.

RECOMMENDATION 119

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government facilitate the development of zero emissions buildings, including high density residential and commercial buildings.

Government response

Agreed.

The Government will work with the property industry to help facilitate zero emissions buildings. The Climate Change Minister recently issued a challenge to the property sector to build the ACT’s first zero emission high density residential or commercial building.

The Government is considering policy options to reduce emissions from the building sector as part of the development of new climate change policy as well as through a refresh of the planning strategy and the demonstration housing project.

RECOMMENDATION 120

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should ensure all new/infill estates/developments are compatible with a zero emissions future, prioritise sustainable transport, and emphasise living infrastructure to adapt to a warmer climate.

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Government agrees and is investigating policy options to reduce emissions from new developments and to make them fit for purpose in a warming climate with more intense weather events. Some of the measures being considered are improved “climate wise” building specifications and enhanced provision for living infrastructure.

Transport Canberra and City Services are currently progressing a review of their transport strategy, Transport for Canberra. The prioritisation of sustainable transport will be a key theme of the new strategy, and the importance of public transport and sustainable travel links to new developments is recognised.
The ACT Planning Strategy Refresh 2018 is considering how strategic land-use planning of
the city can support the achievement of the Government’s zero emissions future,
promote sustainable transport options and design in living, green infrastructure in urban
to

RECOMMENDATION 121

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government set a milestone date by which time all
registered vehicles in the ACT will be zero emission vehicles.³

Government response

Noted.

The Government supports the transition to zero emissions vehicles and recently
published the ACT’s Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-2021 to guide
this process in the ACT.

The action plan contains a variety of measures to support enhanced uptake of zero
emission vehicles, including a Government commitment to a zero emission vehicle fleet,
new charging infrastructure, and incentives for consumers to purchase zero emission
vehicles.

The Government will give consideration to a milestone date by which all vehicles will be
zero emission vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION 122

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government:

- develop a strategy for transitioning its fleet (including buses) to be zero emissions; and
- explore partnering with the Commonwealth Government to transition fleet vehicles to
  be zero emission.

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT’s Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-2021 includes a
Government commitment to shift to a zero emission passenger vehicle fleet from

The Government is actively engaging with manufacturers of zero emissions vehicles,
including heavy vehicles. The ACT is also working with other jurisdictions, including the
Commonwealth, to investigate a range of complementary approaches to encourage
electric vehicles, including through joint procurement.

³ Mr Wall MLA and Ms Lee MLA did not agree with this recommendation.
RECOMMENDATION 123
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government produce and publish a plan for how the ACT electricity supply will cope with different scenarios of electric vehicle uptake.

Government response
Agreed.

In implementing the ZEV Action Plan, the Government continues to work closely with Evoenergy, the ACT’s electricity network operator, to model and monitor different scenarios of projected electric vehicle uptake. The ACT is also working closely with Evoenergy in planning the rollout of the 50 charging stations to ACT Government sites as announced in the 2018-19 Budget.

Through the ongoing implementation of the Government’s commitment to zero emissions, the Government will also be looking at how to continue to deliver 100 per cent renewable electricity.

RECOMMENDATION 124
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a complete breakdown of the makeup of energy costs, including investment in renewable energy, administrative costs and maintenance of infrastructure such as wires and poles.

Government response
Noted.


RECOMMENDATION 125
The Committee recommends that clearer advice on the delineation of work between the Suburban Land Agency and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is documented and made available to other directorates and future Assembly Estimates committees and Standing committees.

Government response
Agreed.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will work with the Suburban Land Agency to prepare a document which clearly delineates the work between the Directorate and the Agency.
RECOMMENDATION 126
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government complete work on the ‘expression of interest database’ to include requirements relating to on-sale of affordable properties.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

Restrictions on the resale of dedicated Affordable Home Purchase properties are being investigated as part of the development of a new ACT Housing Strategy and initiatives it is considering.

RECOMMENDATION 127
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify the rationale behind the targets for public housing and community housing site allocation and land release.

Government response
Agreed.

Detail on the rationale of the targets will accompany the publication of future housing targets.

RECOMMENDATION 128
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more ambitious targets to the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency for affordable housing, community housing or public housing targets.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

Targets for affordable, community and public housing are informed by the location, suitability and development potential of land made available through the Government’s Indicative Land Release Program.

The targets also need to consider the development capacity of the Community Housing Sector and Housing ACT, as well as the impact on broader ACT costs and benefits and budget.

RECOMMENDATION 129
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explains how the sites allocated to community housing providers will be allocated.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
The Government has been providing, and will continue to provide, advice to the Community Housing Sector on the allocation of sites through regular interaction with registered providers, including through the Community Housing Industry Association ACT Chapter.

**RECOMMENDATION 130**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adjusts its land release program so as to support Assembly motion of 11 April 2018 about the need for ‘growing social housing stock to at least maintain a minimum of 7.1 percent of the ACT’s housing stock’ over the long term and provide an increased supply of affordable rental housing.

**Government response**

Agreed in principle.

The Government recognises the need to continue to grow land supply in response to population growth and to grow social and affordable housing provision as the city expands. The setting of community, public and affordable housing supply targets within the Indicative Land Release Program will help grow the presence of these housing types, noting these targets will also be informed by the location, suitability and development potential of land as well as the development capacity of community and public housing providers.

**RECOMMENDATION 131**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provides sufficient capacity to Housing ACT to take on new land opportunities and have the capital to develop on that land.

**Government response**

Agreed.

Housing ACT delivers an annual Capital Program to realign and renew public housing stock so that it better meets the needs of tenants and responds to the changing needs of those in our community who need it most. In 2017-18, the capital program spent $50 million to provide housing to meet tenant needs. Work is underway to develop a plan for the strategic management of the public housing portfolio. *The Public Housing Asset Management Plan* will set the strategic vision for growth and renewal of the public housing portfolio and guide the development of our five year capital works program from 2019-20 to 2024-25.

**RECOMMENDATION 132**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reduce land tax for community housing providers.

**Government response**

Noted.
The Government is considering a range of measures to increase affordable rental opportunities for Canberrans on lower incomes as part of the development of the new ACT Housing Strategy.

This includes investigating possible incentives to encourage private landlords to rent their properties at affordable rental rates through the Community Housing sector to ensure that properties are well managed and made available to those most in need.

RECOMMENDATION 133

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertakes a comprehensive assessment of future growth areas for Canberra, in consultation with the community, as part of the current Transport for Canberra and Planning Strategy review processes.

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Planning Strategy Refresh 2018 is considering the long term future growth of Canberra. Studies currently underway to inform the strategic approach to the management and direction of Canberra’s future growth and will consider areas for infill and greenfield development and the services required to support these. This work is ongoing and is integrated with transport, housing, infrastructure and climate change considerations. There has been ongoing consultation (and current) with community on these topics.

RECOMMENDATION 134

The Committee recommends that the Government coordinate land release with light rail development so as to maximise the financial return to the Territory.

Government response

Noted.

The Government will continue to release land along the light rail corridor where appropriate. The timing and location of release will consider both financial and non-financial objectives in order to best respond to the growing needs of the Canberra community and to consider the optimum outcomes for accommodating growth.

RECOMMENDATION 135

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare and publish a policy for owners of properties with loose-fill asbestos that still own and live in a property beyond 2020.

Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government maintains its position that demolition is the only way to fully address the ongoing health, social, practical and financial consequences of living in houses contaminated with loose fill asbestos insulation.
The Dangerous Substances Regulation 2004 supports safe occupation in the medium term through the requirement to implement an Asbestos Management Plan.

It is expected that only a small number of contaminated properties will remain occupied beyond 2020. The Government will consider the circumstances of the remaining occupied properties and provide further support and advice to these owners.

**RECOMMENDATION 136**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government decide and announce whether properties with no current evidence of loose fill-asbestos will be allowed to be occupied beyond 2020.

**Government response**

Noted.

Loose fill asbestos fibres were originally pumped into the roof spaces of residential properties in the ACT as a form of insulation. Despite the remediation program conducted in the late 1980s through to the early 1990s, it is now known that these fibres migrated into the wall cavities and sub floors of these houses. For many properties, the fibres had also made their way into living areas.

Whilst sampling tests in an individual house may show no evidence of loose fill asbestos fibres in the living areas, the fibres still remain in the cavities of the structure and continue to present a health risk to occupants and visitors.

For this reason, all properties identified as contaminated with loose fill asbestos insulation will remain on the Affected Residential Premises Register, until they are demolished and appropriately deregistered.

As noted in response to Recommendation 135, the Government will consider the circumstances of the small number of properties expected to remain occupied beyond 2020 and provide further support and advice to these owners.

**RECOMMENDATION 137**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail how the balance of the Commonwealth loose-fill asbestos loan facility is currently being utilised.

**Government response**

Agreed.

All borrowing and loan proceeds are held as cash of the Territory Banking Account until being paid out of the Territory Banking Account in accordance with an approved budget appropriation. As at 30 June 2018, the total actual amount of budget appropriation drawn down from the Territory Banking Account for the Asbestos Eradication Scheme is $849 million.
RECOMMENDATION 138

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government put in place a mechanism to inform the community which blocks have dual occupancy rights due to them being in the loose-fill asbestos buyback concession scheme.

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will explore the most appropriate mechanism to inform the community which blocks in the Residential RZ1 Suburban Zone are part of the loose-fill asbestos buy back scheme and put this in place.

RECOMMENDATION 139

The Committee recommends that new accountability indicators be established to better reflect and measure the work performed by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

Government response

Noted.

The Commissioner does not agree that new accountability indicators need to be established to better reflect and measure the work performed by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. The current accountability indicators align to the main functions of the independent statutory role and its enabling legislation (Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993).

It is noted that the Auditor-General reviewed the accountability indicators in 2017-18 and made no specific recommendations in relation to the Commissioner’s indicators. If there were to be any changes made to the accountability indicators, these would be negotiated between the Commissioner and the Government.

The ability for the Commissioner to initiate her own investigations is the core of the independence of the statutory role and should not be diminished.

RECOMMENDATION 140

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government maintain an open and consultative dialogue with businesses in the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, particularly in relation to the extensive changes, such as is occurring with waste collection management, which are being undertaken to activate the rear laneways of these buildings.

Government response

Agreed.
The Government has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, extensive consultation with the owners and tenants of the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings. The City Renewal Authority has appointed a project officer to manage this engagement. The Authority will continue to engage with stakeholders to investigate ways that these iconic buildings, and their environs, can be redeveloped to achieve outcomes consistent with the Government’s Statement of Expectations of the Authority, and the Authority’s Precinct Renewal Program.

**RECOMMENDATION 141**

The Committee recommends that the City Renewal Authority publish a quarterly report detailing how the CBD improvements levy is being expended.

**Government response**

Agreed in part.

The Government will produce an annual report on the management of the levy (through the City Renewal Authority and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate) and a biannual report to levy payers in accordance with the Performance and Accountability Framework approved by the Authority’s Board.

**RECOMMENDATION 142**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish the minutes of the first three meetings of the Suburban Land Agency Board.

**Government response**

Noted.

The Suburban Land Agency Board has complied with the publishing expectations of Board Minutes since the receipt of an instruction from the Minister received in October 2017.

**RECOMMENDATION 143**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish its policy for how residential sales agencies are chosen for work undertaken for the Suburban Land Agency.

**Government response**

Agreed in principle.

Procurement of sales agents is undertaken in accordance with the Government Procurement Act 2001. The process of appointment is in accordance with the Act and business needs at the time of the procurement.

The Government agrees to the development of a policy specific to the Suburban Land Agency and will make this policy publically available.
RECOMMENDATION 144
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government always engage a sales agent independent of the valuer engaged, to minimise conflicts of interest.

Government response
Agreed.
The Suburban Land Agency is committed to ensuring that potential or real conflicts are addressed consistent with high standards of governance and probity.

RECOMMENDATION 145
The Committee recommends that the Budget papers include the Suburban Land Agency’s profit target as a percentage of total revenue from land sales.

Government response
Agreed.
The Suburban Land Agency’s Gross Profit Margin and Net Profit Margin is published in the Key Performance Indicators section of the Suburban Land Agency’s Statement of Intent.

RECOMMENDATION 146
The Committee recommends that the Suburban Land Agency ensure that all staff and members of the Suburban Land Agency have completed record-keeping training and undertake record-keeping refresher training every 12 months.

Government response
Agreed.
As part of the ongoing training program for staff, mandatory Records Management Information Sessions will be conducted.

RECOMMENDATION 147
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider what work can be done to extend the life of Chromebooks provided to students in order to minimise e-waste.

Government response
Agreed.
The ACT Government considered e-waste when planning its Chromebook initiative. In consultation with Google a three year lifespan for these devices has been set, which reflects the device manufacturing life.
The Government will explore options for donating devices which remain useable after this time. The ACT Government also has a process of recycling e-waste through Shared Services ICT.
RECOMMENDATION 148
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government create an early childhood educators’ Professional Development Fund to support the ongoing need for training of specialist educators in the early childhood sector.

Government response
Noted.

The ACT Government strongly supports professional development in the early childhood education sector. However, ultimately employers are responsible for meeting the cost of training and professional development among their workforce and should be prioritising this in their business model.

The ACT Government is considering how it can encourage continued professional development and increased professionalism among the early childhood educator workforce as part of its Early Childhood Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION 149
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a feasibility study into the cost of extending ACT preschool access to three year olds.

Government response
Noted.

The ACT Government has set a goal of incremental provision of free, universal early childhood education as a key part of the Early Childhood Strategy and has begun working towards how this can be achieved.

RECOMMENDATION 150
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that school playgrounds include substantial tree cover to provide shade and allow natural play spaces, particularly in light of the climate becoming hotter and drier.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government already has a tree planting program for government schools, with the goal of providing shade to students and, where feasible, to buildings. Deciduous trees have been planted as large specimens to provide cool shade during summer and to allow solar access during winter. This program is based on a review of shade in playgrounds and is coordinated with the building tuning and heat mitigation programs occurring through Public School Infrastructure Upgrade funding.
RECOMMENDATION 151
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an audit of existing government preschool and primary school accommodation to determine future capacity needs and the impact extending preschool to three year olds.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government is working towards the goal of free universal early childhood education as a part of its Early Childhood Strategy and has already begun considering issues associated with infrastructure capacity.

RECOMMENDATION 152
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop more accurate assessment tools to determine future enrolment demand in ACT Government schools in both existing and potential future suburbs.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government undertakes enrolment projection modelling for each ACT public school. The modelling is regularly updated for the latest available data from the schools census, land release and dwelling forecasts, birth data and ABS population estimates. Demographic experts are being engaged to refine the model as required.

RECOMMENDATION 153
The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with a wide range of appropriate, trained professional staff, including psychologists and allied health experts, to meet the increased demand for these types of services in our schools.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government provides a range of supports to meet the needs of individual students. The Future of Education Strategy will include a focus on the wider needs of students that enable educational access and participation.

Additionally the ACT Government has the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) initiative in place to meet the increased demand for psychology and allied health experts in schools.
CAMHS provides an early intervention program which is based in ACT primary schools and works with the whole school providing professional learning for teachers, whole class social and emotional wellbeing activities and a targeted group work program for children and their parents/carers to learn ways to support their child to better regulate their emotions and behaviour. CAMHS provides a school/vocational day program for up to two terms for young people aged 12-18 which aims to reduce severity of mental health issues and enhance school vocational engagement, social functioning and life skills.

RECOMMENDATION 154
The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider increasing its target of 20 school psychologists to keep up to demand with the growing enrolments in ACT Government schools and the increasing complexity of health and social issues, to work to achieving the ratio of 1 psychologist to 500 students.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
The ACT Government has funded its election commitment to provide an increase of 20 school psychologists. Need for further additional growth in school psychologists is being assessed as part of policy work already underway.

RECOMMENDATION 155
The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide updates in Annual Reports on the progress of recruitment of school psychologists and other trained professional staff with relevant allied health expertise.

Government response
Noted.
The Annual Report Directions already require the publication of workforce profile information.

RECOMMENDATION 156
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake an audit of all transportable buildings in use in ACT public schools to assess whether their continued use is best practice and the best, cost efficient, solution to changing enrolments in schools.

Government response
Noted.
Transportable classrooms are an appropriate response providing short to medium term expansion of a school during elevated enrolment demand.
RECOMMENDATION 157
The Committee recommends the ACT Government consult more closely with community groups, in both the health and disability sectors, affected by the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to assist them to identify future funding pathways.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue to work closely with community groups in both the health and disability sectors to assist them to identify future pathways, noting that market stewardship in an NDIS environment is the responsibility of the National Disability Insurance Agency.

RECOMMENDATION 158
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to provide adequate funding for advocacy for people interacting with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Government response
Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget committed funding for two years to fund increased advocacy support for people interacting with the NDIS. The Government will continue to monitor the demand for advocacy services as the NDIS moves towards full scheme in 2019-20.

RECOMMENDATION 159
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work closely with the Commonwealth Government to find a long-term solution for people with mental health issues that do not qualify under current National Disability Insurance Scheme guidelines.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT and Commonwealth Governments have finalised the Bilateral Agreement on the National Psychosocial Support Measure which will enhance funding for psychosocial support measures for people with functional impairment resulting from severe mental illness who are not found eligible for the NDIS, or who are otherwise not engaged with the NDIS.

RECOMMENDATION 160
The Committee recommends the ACT Government to explore what may be appropriate initiatives and support programs for children in the ‘middle years’, including extending adolescent support to eight-year-olds.

Government response
Agreed.
The ACT Government will explore options for initiatives to meet the needs of children between 8-12 years of age as part of the Future of Education Strategy’s implementation plan.

RECOMMENDATION 161

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop more consider additional mechanisms, both formal and informal, for consulting with the Territory’s diverse multicultural communities and better engage Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who do not participate in a particular multicultural community.

Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate has a range of formal and informal mechanisms in place for consulting with community members. The Directorate is working on a range of additional engagement mechanisms, both formal and informal, to ensure broad representation from the multicultural community in the upcoming Youth Assembly and the 2018 ACT Multicultural Summit. The strategy will include engagement through YourSay, face to face meetings, forums and written responses. The Multicultural Advisory Council will continue to provide a mechanism for consultation broadly with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In addition, processes such as the Housing Summit, the development of the Carer’s Strategy and the Family Violence Hub have specifically engaged Canberra from CALD backgrounds who do not necessarily identify with a particular multicultural community organisation.

RECOMMENDATION 162

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider developing performance indicators to measure the success of such consultation with multicultural communities and culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans.

Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will be undertaking a process during 2018-19 to review a number of the performance indicators to improve their relevance as a performance measure and the quality of information being provided through the indicator. Consideration will be given to a performance indicator that could provide a measure relating to consultation with multicultural communities and culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans.
RECOMMENDATION 163
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine whether existing budget indicators adequately measure young peoples’ engagement beyond youth justice and child and youth protection.

Government response
Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will be undertaking a process during 2018-19 to review a number of the performance indicators to improve their relevance as a performance measure and the quality of information being provided through the indicator.

RECOMMENDATION 164
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider developing and reporting specific performance indicators that focus on youth issues such as inclusion and engagement, health and mental health, employment, and so forth.

Government response
Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will be undertaking a process during 2018-19 to review a number of the performance indicators to improve their relevance as a performance measure and the quality of information being provided through the indicator.

The regular publication of ‘A Picture of ACT’s Children and Young People’ includes a range of indicators related to health, mental health, engagement with education and employment, lifestyles wellbeing and community engagement. ACT Health collects information and reports on a range of indicators relating to the health and wellbeing of the young people in the ACT. Some of this data is available in Healthy Canberra: ACT Chief Health Officer’s Report 2018 and on the HealthStats ACT website.

RECOMMENDATION 165
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the progress of the new job brokering service for asylum seekers and refugees, including numbers served and measurable outcomes.

Government response
Agreed.

Measurable outcomes, including the number of people benefiting from the program, are incorporated in the program’s twelve month monitoring and evaluation plan. This information will be reported in the 2018-19 Multicultural Framework Ministerial Statement.
RECOMMENDATION 166
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the progress of the expanded English language program for asylum seekers and refugees, including numbers served and measurable outcomes.

Government response
Agreed.

Measurable outcomes, including number of people benefiting from the two programs, form part of annual reporting on these activities. This information will be reported in the 2018-19 Multicultural Framework Ministerial Statement.

RECOMMENDATION 167
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with other States and Territories on ways to ensure reciprocal rights for seniors card holders.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue to participate in the Australasian Seniors Card Managers Network and promote reciprocal rights for seniors card holders, while also noting that the eligibility criteria to access the seniors card is determined by each state and territory government independently.

RECOMMENDATION 168
The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish application guidelines and approvals of Veterans’ grants.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Veterans Grants guidelines and the successful applications will be published and available publicly on the Community Service Directorate website.

RECOMMENDATION 169
The Committee recommends the ACT Government explore the viability of rental assistance or relief for office accommodation for Veterans’ groups.

Government response
Noted.

ACT Property Group manages community facilities for the ACT Government. There is an existing process for applications that is available for any group or member of the community. Rents are based on a cost recovery basis. ACT Property Group’s role also involves advising ACT Government on office accommodation requirements to support service delivery objectives, and accommodation is provided on a commercial basis.
RECOMMENDATION 170

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Women and the Chief Police Officer collaborate with the agency that delivers the National Survey on Women’s Safety to ensure the best methodology for the survey is utilised.

Government response

Agreed.

The Minister for Women, and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, regularly meets with the Chief of Police and will continue to do so to ensure Police are involved in the development of ongoing priorities across government to help make our whole community safer.

The National Survey on Women’s Safety is conducted by the Social Research Centre for the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) on behalf of Australian police jurisdictions.

The portion of the survey relating to women’s feelings of safety in public places is taken from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. The results of the survey are both used by policing agencies and published annually in the Report on Government Services (ROGs). The study aims to monitor levels of satisfaction with policing services and feelings of public safety of both men and women across Australian jurisdictions. Data collected via the survey is considered a key indicator of service quality and a source of information for jurisdictions to monitor community perceptions and levels of satisfaction with policing.

The survey commenced in 2000-01 and has an established methodology. The results from the survey are confirmed in other surveys including the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Personal Safety Survey.

RECOMMENDATION 171

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Women and the Chief Police Officer work together to identify ways to make women safer and feel safer.

Government response

Agreed.

The Minister for Women, and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, regularly meets with the Chief of Police and will continue to do so to ensure Police are involved in the development of ongoing priorities across government to help make our whole community safer.

The gendered nature of women’s safety is extremely complex, and cannot be addressed through local initiatives alone. Whole of community changes in attitude and behaviour take many years to achieve. That is why the ACT Government supports the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022, especially as it relates to the Bystander and Stop it at the Start Campaigns, which incorporate radio and TV advertisements, social media and community education initiatives.
The ACT Government’s Commitment to a coordinated response to family and domestic violence focuses on improving safety in the community. The Coordinator General for Family Safety and the Chief Police Officer meet regularly and have been working collaboratively to respond to systemic issues impacting on family safety, especially the safety of women.

Additionally, the ACT Women’s Plan 2016-26 and the corresponding First Action Plan 2017-19 is the ACT Governments Framework for addressing issues that impact women and girls in the ACT, including safety and perceptions of safety. The First Action Plan is currently underway. It is a whole of Government plan that was developed in consultation and has been committed to by all ACT Government Directorates.

All actions in the ACT Women’s Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan, will be implemented and reviewed by the end of 2019.

The Minister for Women and the ACT Office for Women regularly engages and coordinates reporting across the ACT Government and will continue to engage through this mechanism.

The ACT Government is committed to maintaining and improving community safety across the ACT as a whole. The Chief Police Officer for the ACT will work with the Office for Women and partner agencies to ensure that any initiatives to assist in making women safer (and feel safe) are identified and considered for implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION 172**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government facilitate a list of qualified Auslan interpreters, in conjunction with the languages register, that can be made available to the ACT courts in the event of hearing impaired people being called up for jury duty.

**Government response**

Agreed.

Information on qualified local and national Auslan interpreters will be provided to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate so that it can be accessed by the Courts in the event of hearing impaired people being called up for jury duty.

**RECOMMENDATION 173**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues efforts across the Community Services Directorate and ACT Health to provide suitable accommodation options for young people needing long term residential care.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The Office for Disability will continue in its efforts to support suitable accommodation options for young people with disability needing long term residential care in partnership with ACT Health and Housing ACT.
The ACT Government recognises the need for a range of supported accommodation options for people with a diversity of needs across our community. The 2018-19 Budget included $22.8 million to fund a range of supported accommodation options, some of which will be suitable for young people.

RECOMMENDATION 174
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to address funding needs to meet demand by frontline domestic violence and rape crisis services.

Government response
Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget committed additional funding of $1.68 million over four years from 2018-19 to boost provision of these frontline services. Funding beyond 2019-20 has been provisioned while the Government examines future expected demand.

RECOMMENDATION 175
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider providing performance indicators for domestic violence and rape crisis frontline services in order to track demand.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The demand pressures for Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) and Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) are ongoing and are expected to increase in the future.

The additional funding for CRCC and DVCS in this year’s budget is intended to respond to existing pressures.

Funding beyond 2019-20 has been provisioned while the Government examines future expected demand, with further assessment to be undertaken before the 2019-20 Budget based on a more comprehensive assessment of current and expected future demand. A series of existing measures will be used to assess this.

RECOMMENDATION 176
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish accountability targets for specific prevention and early intervention measures relating to family and personal violence and report on these to the Assembly regularly.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

Improving the evidence base around domestic and family violence in the ACT is a challenging and complex long-term process. It requires commitment from data custodians, cultural change, sufficient resourcing and system updates. The Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety is working to progressively improve the domestic and family violence evidence base in the ACT through a staged and focused process.
The Family Safety Hub is being established as the key innovation mechanism to facilitate long-term systemic transformation across the ACT, in order to prevent, intervene early, and address domestic and family violence and its impacts.

A Family Safety Hub Evaluation Framework (currently under development) will guide measurement of the outcomes and impact of each ‘Family Safety Hub Challenge’ and of the Hub itself.

Results and findings will be reported annually to the Legislative Assembly through the Ministerial Statement on Family Safety.

**RECOMMENDATION 177**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to support early intervention parenting support programs.

**Government response**

Agreed.


**RECOMMENDATION 178**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to engage with Marymead on the New Horizons program to ensure continuity and benefits for the Territory.

**Government response**

Noted.

The New Horizons program is currently funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to provide services to the ACT.

ACT Health is always interested in proposals which look to improve health outcomes for consumers, improve the health system, and help Canberrans to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the community.

**RECOMMENDATION 179**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the outcomes of the functional family therapy and the family group conferencing pilot programs.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will report on the outcomes of the Functional Family Therapy and Family Group Conferencing programs in the 2018-19 Community Services Directorate Annual Report.
RECOMMENDATION 180

The Committee recommends that, in light of comments by the Children and Young People Commissioner that she has no jurisdiction to advocate for parents or other carers, the ACT Government cease to recommend that parents/carers with concerns regarding child protection decisions direct their concerns to the Commissioner.

Government response

Not agreed.

It is noted that the Children and Young People Commissioner is also the Public Advocate. Child and Youth Protection Services receive requests from the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner for information regarding concerns that have been raised about Child and Youth Protection Services’ services, conduct and decision making. The Human Rights Commission investigates the matter and provides findings and recommendations to Children, Youth and Families for consideration. In addition, the Public Advocate may request information regarding child protection matters and has authority under the Children and Young People Act 2008 to advocate on behalf of children and young people, including in court processes. For specific information about the powers, process and purpose of the Children and Young People Commissioner, please contact the Human Rights Commission or view information about their services at http://hrc.act.gov.au/.

Child and Youth Protection Services will continue to provide this important information to parents and carers regarding avenues to address any concerns they might have with decision making, conduct or services provided by Child and Youth Protection Services.

Parents and carers will also continue to be provided with information about the Red Cross Birth Parent Advocacy Service or the advocacy support available from Carers ACT, as appropriate. Both of these services were funded under A Step Up for Our Kids specifically to ensure that parents and carers have an independent source of advice and advocacy.

RECOMMENDATION 181

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider recommendations from the Children and Young People Commissioner and preliminary suggestions from the Law Reform Advisory Council regarding the need to make more Child and Youth Protection decisions externally reviewable.

Government response

Noted.

ACT Government has committed, through the Glanfield Inquiry (Recommendation 12), to review what decisions made by Child and Youth Protection Services should be subject to internal or external merits reviews. Work on this recommendation is progressing, led by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, with the support of the Community Services Directorate. Consultation with a range of stakeholders will be considered in responding to the Glanfield Inquiry (Recommendation 12).
**RECOMMENDATION 182**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make sure that its forthcoming carers’ handbook provide clear and comprehensive information regarding all currently available pathways for review or the raising of concerns regarding care and protection decisions, and that this information be accurately reflected in communications with parents and carers from Child and Youth Protection Services.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The Carers’ Handbook will provide comprehensive information about the child protection and out of home care systems, and will include information about the available pathways for seeking review of decisions or raising a concern about decisions made by Child and Youth Protection Services.

**RECOMMENDATION 183**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table as quickly as practicable the joint Justice and Community Safety Directorate/Community Services Directorate paper regarding what care and protection decisions should be reviewable on their merits.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The discussion paper will be a publicly available document.

**RECOMMENDATION 184**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government:

- provide an update in the 2019-20 Budget Statement G on implementation of the new facilities management contract; and
- consider implementing additional performance indicators in future Budget Statements for Output 1.1 that measure delivery performance under the new Total Facilities Management Contract and client complaint levels.

**Government response**

Part 1 – Agreed in part.

An update of the implementation of the new facilities management contract will be provided in the 2018-19 Community Services Directorate Annual Report rather than the Budget papers. Under the ACT Government’s governance framework, updates on performance against budget priorities are reported in the Annual Report.

Part 2 – Agreed.

Consideration will be given to an appropriate performance indicator that could be included in the budget papers to measure performance of the new Total Facilities Management contract.
RECOMMENDATION 185

The Committee recommends that future ACT Budget Statements report on the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees to client service roles, both in the budget and Forward Estimates.

Government response

Noted.

The Estimated Employment Level (table 36 of Budget Paper G, page 35) is intended to provide a high level summary of Housing ACT’s staffing resources and requirements.

Detailed staffing data is published annually through the State of the Service report as well as in agencies’ annual reports.

RECOMMENDATION 186

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a reconciliation of the information in Estimates Question Taken on Notice 422 and evidence provided at the hearing of 27 June 2018 about the number of homelessness support and accommodation places. This reconciliation should provide a definition of support and accommodation places.

Government response

Agreed.

In 2018-19, the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector has been contracted to provide 942 support places and 347 accommodation places at any one time. This correlates with the information provided in Estimates Question Taken on Notice 422.

To ensure sector efficiency and data comparison, in 2016-17 outputs across the homelessness sector were standardised to the number of individuals/family units assisted ‘at any one time’. It is not possible to reconcile this number to individual bed places as the approach counts both families and individuals as a single unit. For example: one support placement could be one person for a month – or a family of six for three months; one accommodation placement could be one person in a one-bedroom unit, or a family of six in a four bedroom property.

Support means any form of general or specialist service(s) provided by an organisation to a service user, which helps to address their homelessness or the factors contributing to them being at risk of homelessness.

Accommodation means crisis accommodation and transitional housing places available in the ACT Specialist Homelessness sector.
RECOMMENDATION 187
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to address funding needed to make sure that Canberra’s crisis accommodation is not in a position where it needs to turn away people in need.

Government response
Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget has allocated $6.5 million over four years to provide further support to our frontline services. This includes $586,000 to OneLink to extend its operating hours and brokerage funds so that appropriate crisis support can be provided when it is needed.

OneLink, the ACT’s Central Intake Service for human services including the homelessness sector, operates under the principle of ‘No Wrong Door’ or ‘No Turn Away’. ‘No Turn Away’ means that OneLink assesses all requests for support (accommodation and services).

For clients seeking one-off assistance (eg a simple information request), OneLink will provide this immediately. For clients seeking access to the human services system, OneLink will assess and prioritise their needs before connecting them with support. Clients are connected with services based on OneLink’s assessment of their needs. As many of the clients on OneLink’s waiting list have complex lives and multiple needs, they will remain on the waiting list until all their needs are met.

RECOMMENDATION 188
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government funds additional crisis accommodation physical beds, as well as support services.

Government response
Agreed.

In 2018-19, the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector has been contracted to provide 942 support places and 347 accommodation places at any one time.

The provision of crisis accommodation and support services to people experiencing long-term homelessness requires specific expertise in addressing multiple complex issues to break their cycle of homelessness. Research continues to confirm that providing physical accommodation without appropriate wrap-around specialist support, can perpetuate these complex issues.

OneLink, managed by Woden Community Service, connects people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, with accommodation services in the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector. These services provide wrap-around case management and specialist support. The ACT Government will continue to support the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector to develop innovative models that address the root causes of homelessness.
RECOMMENDATION 189
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify if funding for older women’s homelessness services includes any new beds.

Government response
Agreed.

Over $1.7 million, over four years, will help establish support for older women who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The ACT Government will work with the community sector and service users over the coming months to design a new program, including the service model and form of support to ensure the funding meets their needs. The model will be designed to support older women across a range of tenures, for example some women will need supports to help them stay in their current home (out of crisis beds) while others will need short and medium supported accommodation and transitions to longer term affordable accommodation that meets their needs.

RECOMMENDATION 190
The Committee recommends that the percentage figures for the Community Services Directorate Strategic Indicator 1 be supplemented with a line showing the number of applicants or people in greatest need that were actually housed within three months in each financial year.

Government response
Noted.

The number of applicants or people in greatest need that were actually housed within three months in each financial year would not be available at the time when the Budget Papers go to print. The information, however, is published in the Community Services Directorate Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION 191
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise the finalisation of the Housing Affordability Strategy.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government is developing a new Housing Strategy for the ACT which will be released in 2018.
**RECOMMENDATION 192**
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the homelessness sector on how to spend the $100,000 allocated for staff training in the sector.

**Government response**
Agreed.

The ACT Government is working with ACT Shelter and Joint Pathways to develop a professional development and training framework for the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector. The Framework is scheduled to be finalised in 2018-19.

**RECOMMENDATION 193**
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop transitional housing with appropriate levels of support for people leaving Alexander Maconochie Centre in parallel with the throughcare program.

**Government response**
Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate is working in partnership with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to ensure people leaving the Alexander Maconochie Centre have access to appropriate accommodation pathways, with service support to sustain their ongoing participation in the community.

**RECOMMENDATION 194**
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to give priority to, and increase investment in, public transport and active transport.

**Government response**
Agreed.

The Government is currently developing an integrated transport strategy which will include investment principles to ensure ongoing priority is given to sustainable travel options. Some of the Government’s priorities over the coming years will include light rail and the new bus network, providing increased bus priority infrastructure, upgrading and expanding park and ride and park and pedal facilities and providing more cycling facilities in urban areas. The Government will also continue to investigate emerging technology that is sustainable and has the potential to serve the needs of our growing city.

The 2018-19 Budget provided $28.670 million over four years for walking and cycling initiatives, as detailed by the following table. (The majority of this expenditure is considered by the Keeping our growing city moving – Better infrastructure for active travel initiative presented in 2018-19 Budget Paper 3, page 166).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walking and Cycling Initiatives</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belconnen bikeway</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,450</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road rapid bike network</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active streets around schools</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age friendly suburbs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heysen Street cycle link</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuggeranong Town Centre</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOHEAT - World Health Organisation Health Economic Assessment Tool</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woden Town Centre</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>3,535</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>4,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Pialligo pedestrian upgrades</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More services for our suburbs – Best of Canberra mountain bike experience – design</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More jobs for our growing city – New tracks and trails at the National Arboretum</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footpath and cycle way upgrades (Better Infrastructure Fund)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>9,449</td>
<td>16,010</td>
<td>2,588</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>28,670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2018-19 Budget also provided $17.799 million for public transport related initiatives, as detailed by the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Transport Initiatives</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
<td>$’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Light Rail Network 2 – City to Woden early planning</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Better infrastructure for the Rapid Transport Network</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Flexible public transport</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Keeping off-peak concession travel free</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Mitchell light rail stop</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping our growing city moving – Light Rail Stage 1 – commencing operations</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus major component overhauls (Better Infrastructure Fund)</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus depot upgrades (Better Infrastructure Fund)</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Discrimination Act compliant bus stops (Better Infrastructure Fund)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>17,767</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECOMMENDATION 195
To enable the community to more fully understand the impact of the changes to the bus network, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government release modelling on:

- the difference in travel times between Gungahlin suburbs and Civic;
- the effects of cancelling some dedicated school bus services, including the numbers of children taking dedicated school buses to and from school, the number of children taking regular buses to school, and the traffic congestion impact of more parents choosing to drive their children to school;
- the difference in total travel times for current users of school bus services; and
- the difference in total travel times for current users of Xpresso services and the number of exiting users of these services.

Government response
Noted.

TCCS will have regard to this recommendation, noting:

- travel times will differ according to individual circumstances;
- timetables for the new network are yet to be developed, as timetable development is dependent upon the finalisation of routes, which is currently the subject of community consultation; and
- TCCS will need to compare actual usage of the final bus network with patronage in the new bus network once it is operational.

RECOMMENDATION 196
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that its procurement process for the next tranches of 40 buses encourages purchase of low emissions (e.g. electric or hybrid) buses.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government is currently trialling two electric buses and one hybrid bus. This trial will help to inform the procurement process for the next 40 buses. The ACT Government will seek to ensure that the purchase of new buses provides value for money taking into consideration a range of factors including operational costs, environmental performance, energy efficiency, sourcing, and disability accessibility compliance. This assessment will include the relative maturity of the electric/hybrid bus market in Australia, the challenges of introducing fully electric buses and the lessons learned from the alternative fuel trial currently underway compared with the ready availability of low emission Euro VI diesel buses.
RECOMMENDATION 197
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provides additional de-identified data from MyWay using the ACT’s open data portal. This data would include patronage on individual routes at specific times of day.

Government response
Agreed in principle.
TCCS will investigate increasing the range of patronage data published at www.data.act.gov.au.

RECOMMENDATION 198
The Committee recommends the ACT Government converts the current trial of free off-peak travel for concession card holders into a permanent change in fare policy.

Government response
Noted.
The Government has extended the trial for a further 12 months to 30 June 2019 and will consider further extensions in due course.

RECOMMENDATION 199
The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider providing free off-peak travel for school students whose parents/guardians are eligible for free off-peak travel, in addition to their usual student concession arrangements.

Government response
Noted.
The Government will explore this in the context of future Budget rounds.

RECOMMENDATION 200
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on proposed staffing numbers at transport interchanges, both currently and in the new network, broken down by time of day, as part of Annual Reports.

Government response
Agreed in part.
TCCS will publish the number of staff based at key transport interchanges in the TCCS annual report, from the 2018-19 financial year.
RECOMMENDATION 201
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to trial demand responsive transport services and report to the Assembly on the progress of any such trials on a quarterly basis.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services will provide periodic updates to the Assembly on the progress of any demand responsive transport services as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION 202
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release indicative plans for improving community safety around transport stops and interchanges, such as improved and increased lighting of streets and pedestrian pathways.

Government response
Noted.

The Minister for Transport and City Services will provide detail on the proposed infrastructure to support the new bus network once the bus network has been finalised.

RECOMMENDATION 203
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assure parents of student with special needs that the Special Needs Transport service will continue to be made available and the ACT Government meet the cost of the service until a resolution between the Australian Government and states and territories is determined.

Government response
Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue to provide the Special Needs Transport Program as an in-kind service for students with disability who meet eligibility requirements, until there is agreement at a national level about the future of supported transport under the NDIS.
RECOMMENDATION 204

The Committee recommends the ACT Government demonstrate transparency during the planning of Light Rail Stage 2, and:

- release advice received from the National Capital Authority related to the route of Light Rail Stage 2;
- when conducting future consultations on the light rail route, commit to publish submissions on the Transport Canberra and City Services website (and inform people of this before they make their submission to ensure their consent);
- release all costings for the proposed Light Rail Stage 2, including ongoing operating cost;
- provide full and accurate information about the time taken, frequency and stops for proposed routes; and
- provide full information on all alternative routes considered.

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government has and will continue to demonstrate transparency during the development of the project.

With respect to advice received from the National Capital Authority related to the City to Woden light rail route, advice may be released as appropriate and with the consent of the National Capital Authority. Early guidance provided by the National Capital Authority has been contained in the ACT Government’s Light Rail Update of June 2018, and in the submission made by the National Capital Authority to the Commonwealth Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Inquiry into light rail stage 2.

With respect to the ACT Government conducting future consultations on light rail, the ACT Government will publish submissions on the Transport Canberra and City Services website where it is appropriate to do so and where consent is provided.

As with the Gungahlin to City light rail project, the ACT Government intends to release City to Woden light rail costings and operating features.

The ACT Government has provided information regarding alternative routes and will continue to do so where appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION 205

The Committee recommends that with the rollout of Light Rail Stage 2, the ACT Government commits to continuing a public transport service from Tuggeranong and Woden to the City with equivalent journey times to the current Blue Rapid.

Government response

Noted.
The light rail route from Gungahlin to Woden via the City and Barton represents a different route to the current Blue Rapid bus service and provides benefits in excess of simple journey time. Furthermore, the ACT Government notes that current bus travel times will increase over time as traffic congestion worsens.

RECOMMENDATION 206
The Committee recommends the ACT Government ensures that Light Rail Stage 2 is designed with infrastructure and operational flexibility that allows for express bus and light rail services.

Government response
Noted.

The design of the future bus network to compliment light rail between the City and Woden is a matter for future consideration by the ACT Government.

RECOMMENDATION 207
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue working with the manager of the streetlight network to communicate where appropriate with nearby residents about the reasons for delay in situations when a streetlight cannot be repaired quickly and easily.

Government response
Noted.

The ACT Government is providing regular updates to the TCCS website on streetlight defects and is also working to improve Fix My Street to provide residents with information about existing defects to ensure the community is better informed of known issues.

RECOMMENDATION 208
The Committee recommends the ACT Government ensure all suburbs have adequate footpaths.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government recognises the importance of improving community paths and cycling facilities to provide safe and attractive routes in the ACT for people to use.

Community paths in Canberra have been built over many years to the design standards of the era in which they were built. The ACT Government is working to better connect existing path networks and create new connections.

This is a significant undertaking that needs to be approached strategically, which involves assessing and prioritizing requests for missing links or upgrades to existing facilities.
RECOMMENDATION 209
The Committee recommends the ACT Government re-consider the erection of metal chicanes, rails and similar barriers on or adjacent to footpaths.

Government response
Not agreed.
The metal chicane barriers (banana rails) on paths are no longer included in the TCCS design standards and have been replaced with national design standard treatment options using bollards where there is a requirement to prevent vehicle ingress onto paths. This change was implemented following considerable consultation with the cycling community.

RECOMMENDATION 210
The Committee recommends the ACT Government widen the standard width of footpaths.

Government response
Noted.
As part of the review and update of the Design Standards, path widths have been increased from a minimum 1.2 metres to a minimum of 1.5 metres, and widening the trunk shared path minimum from 2.5 metres to 3.0 metres.
Nominal path widths have also increased in relevance to its route type and usage, and this can be seen on the ACT Government’s “Active Travel Practitioners Tool” website which provides a blueprint for the path network. This, combined with the Practitioners Tool, provides guidance on the widths of new paths in Canberra.
Both the Design Standards and the Practitioners Tool have been, and will continue to be, applied on capital works projects and developments.

RECOMMENDATION 211
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore the feasibility of extending 40km per hour zones in Town Centres and high pedestrian areas.

Government response
Agreed.
TCCS has explored the feasibility of expanding the 40 kilometre per hour zones in town centres and will work to develop the extension to the town centre 40 kilometre per hour scheme with priority given to implementing an expansion to the 40 kilometre per hour zone in Belconnen.
RECOMMENDATION 212
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise community groups use of library meeting rooms. In doing so, the Government should not charge more for those groups who charge small or token membership fees. The Government should ensure that the cost to the community group does not exceed the marginal cost to the Government of their use of the room.

Government response
Noted.
Community groups already have priority on community rooms in libraries. Community groups who charge a small fee or membership fee are not charged more than other community groups. Fees are one of a number of considerations in establishing the level of charge. The average cost per hour of administering community rooms exceeds that charged in the case of most meeting rooms for community groups.

RECOMMENDATION 213
The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to identify and implement ways that waste generation in the ACT can be reduced.

Government response
Agreed.
The Waste Feasibility Study Roadmap sets a target of lifting resource recovery from the current 70 per cent to 87 per cent. ACT NoWaste will progress this through promoting better waste management behaviours, investigating the diversion of organics from landfill, facilitating market development for reuse and recycling of materials that are currently sent to landfill, and developing a waste-to-energy policy for the ACT.

RECOMMENDATION 214
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement initiatives to collect and process organic food waste from residential and commercial waste streams, to prevent it from entering landfill.

Government response
Agreed in part.
Scoping has commenced to establish a facility to process food and garden organics (FOGO) currently going to landfill from residential and commercial streams. This is in line with the recommendations of the Waste Feasibility Study Roadmap.
For households, the Roadmap recommends expanding the residential green bin collection service to accept food organics. At this stage, a food organics collection service for commercial waste streams is not in scope, however it is anticipated a FOGO facility will have capacity to accept commercial food waste.
Importantly, the Roadmap recommends community education to inform Canberrans about how to reduce food waste in the first place.

**RECOMMENDATION 215**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government progress options for processing organic waste, such as anaerobic digestion and composting, to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and improve environmental outcomes.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The government allocated $200,000 in the 2018-19 Budget to commence investigations into options for diverting organics from landfill. Scoping has commenced and ACT NoWaste is currently working on a business case for delivery of a Food Organics Garden Organics facility.

**RECOMMENDATION 216**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, as part of the Better Suburbs program:

- provide dedicated funding to the upgrading of playgrounds where many playgrounds are becoming older and less appealing; and
- provide specific funding to increase sun protection measures at existing playgrounds.

**Government response**

Noted.

The 2018-19 Budget, through the Better Infrastructure Fund, includes $1.9 million for community and neighbourhood priorities. Recommendations to allocate this funding will be identified through Better Suburbs program engagement activities, which includes targeting outdated playgrounds for upgrade and providing amenity improvements such as shade protection measures.

**RECOMMENDATION 217**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publicise to the community the process for triaging graffiti removal, including the response timeframes for different categories of graffiti, and circumstances in which there may be a delay in removal.

**Government response**

Agreed.

The timeframes for removing illegal/offensive graffiti from public open space is published on the Transport Canberra and City Services website. Further information will be included on the website detailing where there may be delays in removal, such as locations which are difficult to access or where safety issues arise.
RECOMMENDATION 218
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government formally document a policy for deciding sportsground upgrades in the ACT, including the criteria for prioritising one project over another.

Government response
Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government will prepare a guideline that details key considerations that relate to the prioritisation of sportsground upgrades and associated works.

RECOMMENDATION 219
The Committee recommends the ACT Government develop a webpage to provide the community with information about current and future upgrades to sportsgrounds and facilities.

Government response
Noted.

The ACT Government will provide details of projects that have been funded through the Budget process on the sport.act.gov.au website, noting this site already includes extensive information about sportsgrounds including booking information and planned maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION 220
Once the investigation is concluded into an incident in which a dog was euthanised on the June 2018 long weekend, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the outcomes of the investigation.

Government response
Agreed.

The Government will report on the outcomes of this investigation when practicable.

RECOMMENDATION 221
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government manage weed growth on median strips and verges as a priority.

Government response
Agreed.
Controlling weed growth on medians and verges is a priority and is undertaken on a programmed basis using a range of methods including chemical control, physical removal and use of mulch and planting to out-compete weeds. Weeds in such locations are primarily an amenity issue and allocation of additional resources for this purpose is undertaken with consideration of the need to address competing safety and risk priorities.

RECOMMENDATION 222
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government allocate resources to ensure abandoned vehicles are removed in a timely manner.

Government response
Noted.

TCCS is working to streamline the management of abandoned vehicles through improved coordination with other agencies and improved reporting systems. TCCS is also exploring options to outsource the management of abandoned vehicles and scoping is underway to identify further work required.

RECOMMENDATION 223
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should set a strong tree canopy target, and ensure all developments and redevelopments are climate-wise and adapted to a warmer, drier climate.

Government response
Agreed.

A draft ACT Living Infrastructure Strategy is being developed by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) in collaboration with TCCS. This Strategy will seek to enhance living infrastructure in the Territory, including targets for urban tree canopy cover.

TCCS is currently reviewing the Municipal Infrastructure Standard 25 Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects which will be informed by an ANU research project examining species suitability for future climate conditions. This project is being undertaking in collaboration with EPSDD.

RECOMMENDATION 224
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government makes public the criteria they will use to decide if the Southern Memorial Park will proceed, the level of Government capital investment and on-going financial commitment. This should include how the Government will decide if the park will be run by the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority or a private organisation.

Government response
Noted.
The market sounding process is underway. Once a decision about Southern Memorial Park has been made, information about how the decision was reached will be made available.

RECOMMENDATION 225
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to keep the community informed as Southern Memorial Park is progressed.

Government response
Agreed.

The community will be informed as progress is made on the Southern Memorial Park proposal.

RECOMMENDATION 226
The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise community consultation and legislation development for any tenure changes for burial plots.

Government response
Agreed.

Community consultation and legislation development is expected to commence during the current calendar year.
Attachment A

Government Response to Pegasus Economics’

Review of the ACT Budget 2018-19