



To:	Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Tracking No.: 24/45350
From:	Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy	
Date of meeting:	Tuesday, 11 June 2024	
Subject:	ACT Climate Change Council meeting 57 – 11 June 2024	

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 03/06/24

Purpose of the meeting

To engage with the ACT Climate Change Council (Council) at its meeting on Tuesday, 11 June 2024. Key items for discussion include Council advice on targets, a post 2025 Climate Change Strategy and adaptation scenarios.

Recommendations

That you **note** the meeting brief and suggested talking points at [Attachment A](#).

Noted / Please Discuss

Shane Rattenbury MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

Signatory Name: Fiona Wright

Phone: 6207 9780

Action Officer: Mark Shorter

Phone: 6207 8805

Purpose of the meeting:	This is a routine Council meeting. Discussion topics and suggested talking points are detailed in <u>Attachment A</u> below. The draft agenda for the meeting is provided at <u>Attachment B</u> .
Out of scope	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Background:	You last met with the ACT Climate Change Council at Meeting 56, on 2 April 2024. You attended this meeting online. Items discussed were the Council's views on what a potential, post 2025 climate change strategy should consider; the briefing on the cancelled April 2024 CASC presentation "future challenges and opportunities for Climate Change in the ACT"; and recent legislative changes to allow two additional council members with Aboriginal heritage. The draft minutes of this meeting are at <u>Attachment C</u>.

OFFICIAL

Discussion:	You are scheduled to attend from 10:00am to 10:45am to discuss the Council's position on providing advice on a post 2025 climate change strategy <u>Attachment D</u> , climate adaptation in the ACT and revised interim targets to align with net zero by 2040 as highlighted by the Council during the November 2023 Climate Action Subcommittee (CASC) meeting.
Out of scope	

-

Attachment A - Items to be discussed.**Topic 1: Council advice on targets, strategy and adaptation scenarios (Agenda item 3.1)****Background**

- At its 53rd meeting (17 October 2023), the Council briefed you on the outcomes of their review of emissions reduction targets which concluded that the ACT Government should move to Net-Zero for Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions from 2045 to 2040 and commit to declining a scope 3 emissions trajectory.
- The Council also presented their work on the review and revision of the ACT's emissions reduction target at the 21 November 2023 Climate Action subcommittee meeting.
- At the Council's 54th meeting (5 December 2024) you noted that the Council's presentation exposed Cabinet to the science behind setting emissions targets. At this meeting you also mentioned that in the short term, the ACT would not be in a position to change its targets.
- In parallel, at its December 2024 meeting, the Council commented that the ACT's *Climate Change Strategy 2019-25* nominally finishes in 2025 and sought your expectations for the Council contribution through the development of an updated Strategy.
- At the Council's 55th meeting (7 February 2024) the Council noted that based on their review, the strategy emphasises mitigation with less focus on adaptation, health, and broader co-benefits. The Council commented that an updated strategy should consider adaptation, complex risks, health, and housing programs along with mitigation. Overall, the updated strategy should align broadly with the policy development currently underway in the ACT. The Council further noted that the proposed strategy should focus on reducing ACT's per capita emissions.
- At its 56th meeting (2 April 2024), the Council re-confirmed their feedback on what an updated strategy would need to consider. The Council and you also discussed the importance of engaging with the ACT community in the development of the updated strategy.
- Following its 56th Council meeting, in April 2024, your office reached out to the Chair of the Council, Professor Mark Howden and requested formal advice on an updated 2040 net zero emissions target, a post 2025 climate change strategy and overall climate adaptation. To this email, Council Chair, Professor Howden responded confirming that the Council would be keen on providing advice and suggested this matter be discussed at the Council's 11 June 2024 meeting.

Suggested Talking Points

- I greatly appreciate and value the input the Council have previously provided on what an updated climate change strategy should include and what updated interim, and net zero emissions targets for the ACT should be.
- I am interested in hearing the Council's views on how other jurisdictions are responding to a reduced global carbon budget and updated advice on science-based targets.
- As discussed previously, quantifying and target setting for scope 3 emissions is considered difficult for a state or territory. I would be interested in understanding the Council's views on what the Government could be doing to progress work in this area.

OFFICIAL

- The Government is focused on making the ACT more resilient. I would be keen on hearing from the Council on specific gaps and opportunities around climate adaptation.
- In addition to its current policies and programs, what should the government be doing to support vulnerable and low-income households to enable these communities to adapt and respond to climate change related events.
- We have previously discussed the need for greater action on adaptation in the next iteration of a climate change strategy. I would also be interested in the Councils advice on what additional mitigation actions should be considered, particularly in the context of meeting the more ambitious net zero targets that the Council has recommended.