

**2013**

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORY AND  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
REPORT NO 1**

**REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2011-2012**

**Presented by  
Ms Katy Gallagher MLA  
Chief Minister**

## **Government Response**

Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services Report No 1 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2011-2012

### **Introduction**

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services reviewed annual reports for:

- Economic Development Directorate (sport and recreation services/ venues and events services/capital works and infrastructure);
- Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate;
- Land Development Agency;
- Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment; and
- Territory and Municipal Services Directorate.

The Committee made 10 recommendations.

## **Response to Committee Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

*3.4 The Committee recommends that the Government place greater emphasis on the importance of consuming wisely as part of its 'reduce, reuse and recycle' education campaigns.*

#### **Government Response**

Agreed.

### **Recommendation 2**

*3.6 The Committee recommends that the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate in future includes a note to explain the discrepancies between the target and actual results for accountability indicator 1.4(a) relating to the percentage of audits/investigations undertaken of new electrical/gas installations and new sewerage connections.*

#### **Government Response**

Agreed.

### **Recommendation 3**

*3.8 The Committee recommends that the Government states when the Lease Variation Charge schedule for Braddon will be published.*

#### **Government Response**

Agreed in principle.

The Government will consider the Lease Variation Charge schedule for Braddon in the context of the annual review of Lease Variation Charge schedules.

### **Recommendation 4**

*4.3 The Committee recommends that better mechanisms and reporting procedures be instituted in all Directorates to ensure that the implementation of Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment report recommendations can be properly monitored and assessed.*

#### **Government Response**

Agreed.

**Recommendation 5**

*5.9 The Committee recommends that the Government considers extending the casual-hire public liability insurance scheme to the leasing of public open spaces along similar lines to that being trialled for public venues.*

**Government Response****Agreed in Principle.**

The current Public Liability Insurance (PLI) trial that has been conducted for hirers of the Albert Hall and the Yarralumla Woolshed has proven to be successful. The PLI has been coordinated through ACTIA.

Consideration for extending the casual-hire public liability insurance scheme to the leasing of public open spaces requires further investigation.

**Recommendation 6**

*5.18 The Committee recommends that the Government produces written procedures for managing spills of blood and body substances on ACTION buses.*

**Government Response****Agreed.**

ACTION has developed a draft internal procedure for the management of body fluid spills. The procedure has been developed in accordance with the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of infection in Healthcare (Australian Government – National Health and Medical Research Council).

ACTION is also seeking advice from ACT Health to ensure this procedure addresses foreseeable risks and is appropriate for managing body fluid spills in public places. The procedure will then be formally endorsed and included in the ACTION Field Operations Manual, which provides guidance to operational staff on a range of issues that may arise during the course of their duties in the field.

**Recommendation 7**

*5.19 The Committee recommends that the Government publishes a policy about route planning for new suburbs and when bus services would be expected to be delivered.*

## Government Response

### Noted.

Strategic policy and guidance on route planning is already published in Transport for Canberra. Bus route planning is undertaken as part of the process of estate development plans for new developments and/or suburbs. In conjunction with this, the Transport Planning Unit (Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate) has undertaken an investigation: *Coverage Service Delivery Feasibility Study*. This investigation explored the issue of service to newly developing greenfield suburbs, and the pros and cons of introducing service at an early stage of development.

This investigation is available via the Transport for Canberra policy page on the Transport for Canberra website (<http://www.transport.act.gov.au/>).

## **Recommendation 8**

*5.23 The Committee recommends that the Government investigates the benefits and disadvantages of a single contract versus agency or location specific contracts for asset management, maintenance, security, and related services.*

## Government Response

### Agreed in principle.

The Government is increasing its focus on whole of government and other collaborative contracting arrangements in order to drive greater value for money outcomes. Contracts for a range of common-use goods and services will be investigated, and these services may be included in those investigations.

## **Recommendation 9**

*5.30 The Committee recommends that the Government investigates the long-term future of the Capital Linen Service.*

## Government Response

### Agreed in principle.

TAMS will continue to provide the Government with information on Capital Linen Service (CLS). The Government continually assesses the feasibility of Government enterprises. At this stage CLS is assessed as providing a service which is beneficial to private and public hospitals and aged care facilities.

## **Recommendation 10**

*5.33 The Committee recommends that the Government considers producing financial statements, or at a minimum, additional financial information, about the performance of the Capital Linen Service and the Yarralumla Nursery in the relevant annual report and budget.*

### Government Response

#### Not agreed.

The *Financial Management Act 1996* requires the annual financial statements of a directorate to be prepared in a form that facilitates comparison between the financial operations of the directorate during the year and the estimates of those operations contained in the budget for the directorate for the financial year.

The Budget Papers provide for a breakdown of Output Classes into various Outputs within Budget Paper No. 4 and also provides details of the Total Cost and Government Payment for Outputs by these Outputs.

It should be noted that a review of annual reports is currently under way. Among other things, the review seeks to streamline the information placed in annual reports in favour of utilising agency websites and other more timely and accessible means of disseminating information to the public and other stakeholders.