



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: EPSDD Annual Report

Hearing: 14 February 2025

In relation to: Climate Change Strategy

Question received: 18 February 2025

Answer Due: 25 February 2025

1. Is an independent review currently being undertaken?
2. If not, when will the review begin?
3. Who is or who will conduct the review?
4. What is the expected completion date for the review?
5. What is the expected release date for a new climate change strategy?
6. Has the ACT Government received advice from EPSDD on the Climate Change Authority's recommended emissions reduction target of *75% reduction by 2035 and the Climate Change Council's recommendation for a revised target of net zero by 2040*?
7. Will the new climate change strategy consider the recommended target of *75% reduction by 2035 and the Climate Change Council's recommendation for a revised target of net zero by 2040* when developing the new Climate Change Strategy?

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes, an independent review commenced in May 2024 to assess and report on government policies, programs and practices to address climate change in the ACT. This includes actions taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
2. Answered in Question 1.
3. The Rooftop Collective Pty Ltd (trading as 'Rooftop Social') along with Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) at the University of Technology Sydney are conducting the review.
4. The review is expected to be completed mid-2025.

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5. The development of a new climate change strategy, along with the associated timeframes and release date, is currently being considered by government.
6. The Climate Change Authority released an [issues paper](#) in 2024 suggesting a 2035 target in the range of 65-75% below 2005 levels would be ambitious but could be achievable. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) understands that the final recommendations of the Climate Change Authority on the 2035 emissions reduction target have not been released. EPSDD have not provided any advice to the government on this matter.

In September 2023, the then Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction was advised by the ACT Climate Change Council on the recommendation for revising the net zero target year for the ACT to 2040. No further action was requested by the Minister, and no further advice was provided by EPSDD on a revised target of net zero by 2040.

The ACT Climate Change Council is continuing to provide ongoing advice to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water.

7. The development of a new climate change strategy, including its content and scope, is currently under consideration. The suitability of the existing ACT interim and net zero emission reduction targets may be considered as part of this process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA

25/02/25