

yass valley council

the country the people

Your Reference:
Our Reference:
Document No: (3254.31-2.8.2)
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7 October 2010

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601



Dear Margie,

RE: Inquiry into Ecological Carry Capacity of the ACT and Region

I refer to your correspondence dated 26 August 2010 regarding your inquiry into the ecological carrying capacity of the ACT and Region and welcoming Yass Valley Council to make a submission. It is understood that the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water have resolved to inquire into and report on various issues. The following table is a submission by Yass Valley Council in relation to the Terms of Reference attached to the letter.

Standing Committee on CCE&W	Yass Valley Council Comments
1) The Committee inquiry into the ecological carrying capacity of the ACT and region includes the following matters:	
a) The resources available to the ACT in terms of water, energy, and food sourced from within the Territory and outside it;	The inquiry should look at the resources of the land to accommodate housing both within the ACT and outside it for example in the Yass Valley or Queanbeyan areas.
b) Effective measures for assessing ecological footprint and carrying capacity;	As many residents in the Yass Valley Local Government Area travel to the ACT for employment (54% of the entire workforce). This should be taken into consideration when assessing ecological footprint and carrying capacity.
c) Current levels of resource use by ACT residents, including: i) The current size of the ACT urban, ecological and carbon footprints and how this compares to national averages and similar sized cities globally; and ii) Trends in resource use in the ACT and the sustainability or	The resource trends should also look at cross-border interaction to ensure that ecological and carbon footprints are completely captured.

Standing Committee on CCE&W	Yass Valley Council Comments
otherwise of these trends continuing.	
d) A sustainable level of resource use, in terms of ACT urban, ecological and carbon footprints, for the ACT;	The impact of resource use such as water should be looked at beyond the Upper Murrumbidgee River that services the ACT. Ideally the sustainable level of resource use should not only address water usage but rather the quality of water and how the ACT impacts water usage cross border in the Yass LGA and further downstream.
e) Appropriate ecological carrying capacities based on current, higher and lower consumption models;	No comment
f) Effective measures for reducing the ACT's ecological footprint;	Again, the measures should look at cross border interaction. Effective measures could include more public transport between NSW and the ACT to reduce the number of commuters into and out of the ACT.
g) The environmental, economic and social impacts of reduced resource consumption and a sustainable population;	No comment
h) The role of the ACT in the region in relation to population and resource use;	The role should look beyond the ACT and look at how the ACT impacts on the surrounding regions in relation to population growth and resource use. This should also look at existing road infrastructure that feeds into the ACT from NSW.
i) Relevant infrastructure issues; and	It is apparent that infrastructure issues relating to water quality and waste are two significant issues between the Yass Valley and the ACT. Dumping of construction waste from the ACT into NSW continues to occur on and therefore distorts the reporting of actual construction waste that is being created in the ACT. We request that the inquiry looks at this issue. Traffic movement between NSW and the ACT is of particular concern is from the Federal and Barton Highways that this is taken into consideration when reporting on ecological carrying capacity.
j) Any other relevant matter.	No comment

As indicated above, the Yass Valley Council requests that the Standing Committee looks at how the ACT affects the surrounding regions outside of its jurisdiction. Should you require

any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Council's Strategic Planner Noreen Vu on 62261477 or at noreen.vu@yass.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul De Szell". The script is cursive and fluid.

Paul De Szell
Director Planning & Environmental Services