

ESTIMATES 2007

Question on Notice

Environment, Water & Climate Change

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Bush Heritage trust and the Humane Society International

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Bush Heritage Trust and the Humane Society International:

1. To what extent does the government work with bodies such as the Bush Heritage Trust and the Humane Society International's Wildlife Trust, which purchase or otherwise manage private property for its conservation values?
2. Is the Minister aware of Warriwillah, a HIS WLT project which is 3km from Namadgi NSW, and thus forms an important link in biodiversity corridor in Alpine region?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

1. The Government has had no specific dealings with either the Bush Heritage Trust or the Humane Society International's Wildlife Land Trust. Whilst these mechanisms can be applied in the ACT, the Government's focus has been to support the protection and management of areas of high conservation value outside the reserve system through the Land Management Agreements and incentives, such as the ACT Land Keepers Program. Since its inception in 2005 this program has secured management agreements for 112 sites on 479 hectares throughout the ACT to address the protection of conservation values outside reserves.
2. The Minister is aware of the work of the Bush Heritage Trust and the Humane Society International. In the ACT the Government's partnership with Greening Australia through ACT Land Keepers is achieving similar results. Warriwillah and other private holdings in NSW surrounding the ACT, with voluntary conservation agreements in place, complement the efforts of the ACT in securing the long term conservation of threatened species and communities, including our grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Energy Advisory Initiative

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Energy Advisory Initiative:

- 1 Why is the Energy Advisory Initiative set to cease in mid 2009? (BP4:48)

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

In June 2006, as part of the relocation of the Office of Sustainability, the Energy Advisory function (delivered by the Home Energy Advisory Team) was transferred to the Department of Territory and Municipal Services. The Budget Papers relating to the Chief Minister's Department reflects a technical adjustment arising from the transfer. The program remains active and fully funded.

Environment regulation

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the environmental regulation:

- 1 Given that the funds allocated to environmental regulation have been reduced from \$9.478m to \$9.2, could the Minister explain where the cuts have been made?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

1. The reduction represents a cut of \$0.05m in the departmental overheads and a further decrease of \$0.225m. This represents the full year impact of 2006-07 Budget savings applied to the Department (commencing in the 2006/07 financial year).

The consolidation of regulatory functions provided an opportunity to rationalise some functions whilst maintaining the capacity to respond to the range of regulatory responsibilities. Specific environmental regulation savings were achieved by Environment Protection and Heritage Branch through integration of functions, the loss of 5 FTE positions, the reduction of two operational vehicles and a small reduction in the funding for contractors and consultancies.

Fire trail upgrades

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to fire trail upgrades:

1. Can the Minister explain which fire trails are being upgraded?
2. Can the Minister explain which proposed fire trails are not now to be followed through?
3. How were these evaluations made and what was taken into consideration?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

1. The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) identifies a large number of proposed fire trail upgrades and construction of new fire trails. During the 2006/07 financial year the Government constructed two of these proposed trails in Namadgi National Park (i.e Burnt Hill Fire Trail and Grassy Creek Diversion Fire Trail) and has been undertaking assessments/investigations related to a further five proposed trails as follows:
 - Long Flat Diversion (Namadgi National Park);
 - Bullen Range Fire Trail (Bullen Range Nature Reserve);
 - Stockyard Spur & Link Fire Trails (Namadgi National Park);
 - Orroral Tors Fire Trail (Namadgi National Park); and
 - Spencers Fire Trail (Namadgi National Park).

The Government will continue investigations in 2007/08 including those related to upgrading Mt Franklin and Cotter Hut Roads in Namadgi National Park.

2. Until assessments/investigations are finalised the Government is not in a position to advise on which of the proposed fire trails will not be constructed.
3. A consultant was engaged in 2005/06 to assess the engineering feasibility of each of the proposed trails. This assessment identified that the trails were feasible from an engineering perspective. A second consultant was engaged in 2006/07 to undertake more detailed assessments and prepare, if a decision was made to proceed with the trails, documentation for the submission of Development Applications and Preliminary Assessments (first stage of environmental impact assessment).

Canberra Integrated Urban Waterway

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways project:

1. Can the Minister provide a plan for the implementation of the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways project, as funded by the Commonwealth?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

1. A plan demonstrating the project planning and implementation process for the *Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project* is at Attachment A.

(For details of Attachment A, please refer Committee Office)

Solar hot water rebates

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change:

In relation to solar hot water rebates:

1. Are rebates for solar hot water systems available only to those who have an energy audit conducted?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is yes.

Sub Regional Management Plan

Dr Foskey: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Sub Regional Management Plan:

1. Which areas will the Sub Regional Management Plans cover?
2. Will the Bushfire Operational Plans and Sub Regional Management Plans be open for public input?

Mr Stanhope : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The sub regional fire management plans will cover all of the ACT. Sub regional boundaries have yet to be determined. The plans will identify strategies to be implemented on areas managed by Territory and Municipal Services or to be implemented by Territory and Municipal Services on other lands, to achieve a mosaic burn pattern across the landscape.
2. The public will be consulted during the development of the Sub Regional Fire Management Plans. Bushfire Operations Plans (BOP) are essentially a list of the fire management activities that will be implemented in a particular year. They are currently derived from the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, and will be based upon the sub regional fire management plans once these are developed.

Murray Darling Basic cap

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change:

In relation to the Murray Darling Basin cap:

1. Can the Minister detail the current status of the negotiations regarding the Murray Darling Basin cap?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

The ACT has been in negotiations to secure a sustainable Cap for the ACT. Negotiations have taken into account our available water resources and requirements, population growth and our commitment to ensuring appropriate environmental flows for the Murrumbidgee River and its tributaries.

The ACT has met with senior Commonwealth Government officials and is now in the process of meeting with senior officials from the Basin States to seek acceptance of the ACT position before proceeding to negotiations with the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

Assuming the successful outcome of the ACT position, the ACT will present its position to the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council later this year. It is intended that the ACT have an agreed Cap by October 2007.

84. Environment, Water and Climate Change Seselja

Development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid

Mr Seselja: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : A development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid:

1. How did the ACT Heritage Council confirm its assertion that the colour and profile of the new tiles did not match the existing roof tiles?
2. Was a site inspection conducted?
3. If so, was written consent of the lessee of Block 10 Section 36 provided in relation to the site inspection?
4. If not, how was the colour and profile of the roof tiles compared?
5. Were the lessees of Block 10 Section 36 Reid ever provided with a copy of the site inspection report?
6. When was the site inspection conducted that allowed the ACT Heritage Council to draw the conclusion that “the area covered by the courtyard appears to have greatly increased” recognising that the area in question is not visible from the public domain?
7. Was written consent of the lessee of Block 10 Section 36 provided in relation to the site inspection?
8. Were the lessees of Block 10 Section 36 Reid ever provided with a copy of the site inspection report?
9. If no site inspection was conducted, how did the ACT Heritage Council form its opinion?
10. How does the ACT Heritage Council explain its comments the “area covered by the courtyard appears to have greatly increased” when the BA set of plans held by ACTPLA and approved on 4 April 2003 (specifically drawing WD03 Rev C) shows a courtyard exactly as it has been built?
11. Did Dr. Blair or any member of the Heritage Unit or ACT Heritage Council check the approved BA set of plans held by ACTPLA, recognising that construction is based on the BA plans and not the DA plans?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. From colour photographs provided to ACT Government regulatory authorities by a complainant.
2. Not to inspect the roof tiles.
3. An earlier site inspection was arranged with and conducted in the presence of the lessees of Block 10, Section 36 Reid on 3 December 2003.

4. From colour photographs provided to ACT Government regulatory authorities by a complainant.
5. Draft minutes of 3 December 2003 site inspection were distributed to those present at the site visit and the ACTPLA.
6. 3 December 2003 site inspection and subsequent written complaints.
7. An site inspection was arranged with and conducted in the presence of the lessees of Block 10, Section 36 Reid on 3 December 2003.
8. Draft minutes of 3 December 2003 site inspection were distributed to those present at the site visit and ACTPLA.
9. 3 December 2003 site inspection and subsequent written complaints.
10. and 11

The Heritage Council examines Development Applications and make comment to the Planning Authority. It is the responsibility of the Planning Authority to ensure all comments are reflected in the appropriate approvals and carried through to the Building Approvals.

Development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid

Mr Seselja: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : A development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid.

On 26 February 2004, The ACT Heritage Council, wrote to ACTPLA in relation to a recently completed extension at Block 10 Section 36 Reid. In the letter, the Heritage Council listed a total of 11 issues considered as not being compliant with the Development Approval (DA). Specific comments made by Heritage Council included:

- “The 20023140A plans specify that a new timber picket fence and gate with an internal steel frame support would be constructed behind the building line and between the existing residence and boundary of Block 9. A masonry wall and pillars have been constructed in place of the wooden fence. This does not comply with the approved DA The masonry wall must be removed ...”
 - “The 20023140A plans specify new terracotta roof tiles at 30° to match existing. The roof tiles on the extension do not match the colour and profile of the existing tiles on the original dwelling.”
 - “The 20023140A plans specify that the courtyard off the study would extend 1.5m from the building line and have a width of 2.5m (including stairs). ... The area covered by the courtyard appears to have greatly increased. This represents work not done in accordance with the approved plans ..”
- 1 How does the ACT Heritage Council explain its comments about the masonry wall not being approved when the Building Approval (BA) set of plans held by ACTPLA and approved for construction on 4 April 2003 (specifically drawing WD03 Rev C) shows a masonry wall in the exact position it has been built?
 - 2 Did Dr. Blair or any member of the Heritage Unit or ACT Heritage Council check the approved BA set of plans held by ACTPLA, recognising that construction is based on the BA plans and not DA plans?

Mr Stanhope: The answers to the Member’s questions are:-

- 1 & 2 The Heritage Council examines Development Applications and provides advice and comment to the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) in relation to the heritage components. It is the responsibility of the ACTPLA to ensure that advice and comments are reflected in appropriate approvals and carried through to the Building Approval.

86. Environment, Water and Climate Change Seselja

Heritage unit – Development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid

Mr Seselja: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : advice provided by the Manager of the Heritage Unit about a development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid

- 1 Did the Manager of the Heritage Unit, Dr Sandy Blair, provide a brief to the then Minister for Heritage in relation to Block 10 Section 36 Reid on 3 February 2004?
- 2 If so, did the Director note that “The extensions to the original cottage have been constructed in accordance with the DA and are not at issue.”
- 3 Did Dr Blair write to Mr Richard Johnston of ACTPLA on 26 February 2004?
- 4 If so, did Dr Blair allege a number of non-compliant aspects of a recently completed development at Block 10 Section 36 Reid?
- 5 If the answer to questions 2 & 4 above is yes, why did the letter of 3 February note that the construction was in accordance with the DA and the letter of 26 February note a number of non-compliant aspects of the same development?
- 6 Did the Heritage Unit or the ACT Heritage Council conduct any site inspections in this period?
- 7 How were the allegations of non-compliant works made on 26 February 2004 validated prior to them being passed to ACTPLA?

Mr Stanhope: The answers to the Members questions are:-

1. Yes
2. See response to Question 5.
3. Yes
4. Yes
5. The extension was only one component of proposed works in the Development Application referred to in the brief. A number of other developments undertaken

on the property that allegedly did not comply with the development approval were included in the brief.

6. Yes
7. Site visit, further research and investigation particularly in relation to the original render and minor amended Development Application lodged with ACTPLA (11 Feb 2004).

Budget 2007-08 paper 4 page 279

Environment, Water & Climate Change

Bill Stefaniak MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 279 and Budget 2007-08 Paper 3, page 207 –

The different areas and elements of the environment, water and climate change portfolio are scattered, in the main, through the Department of Territory & Municipal Services. It is somewhat difficult to get an overall view of the portfolio.

- (1) Why were all the elements and areas of this portfolio not brought together under a single and separate Output Class in the 2007/08 budget?
- (2) Will these elements and areas be brought together in the 2008/09 budget?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is as follows:

1. Environment, Water and Climate Change all fall with the Environment and Recreation Network which covers Outputs 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6. These report under Output class 1 within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (See BP4 pg 283-4).
2. N/A

Budget 2007-08 paper 3 page 207

Mr Stefaniak: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 3, page 207 – BP3, Chapter 9 “Environment” - This chapter points to a range of initiatives and the continuation of a range of existing programs during 2007/08.

- (1) What are the costs, timings and performance measures for the initiatives and continuing programs for 2007/08 and where may this detail be found in the budget papers?
- (2) Which, if any, of these programs receive funding other than from the ACT Government and, if so, from what sources, in what quantum and for what purposes?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The BP3 Environment Chapter is a general discussion paper about activities that relate to the environment agenda, providing context to budget paper outputs articulated elsewhere. The paper should not be linked to specific line items in the budget or to performance measures. In 2007-08 the following will be priorities for the Government:

- Climate Change Strategy Implementation: The Strategy will be released in late July 2007. Major initiatives include:
 - \$1 million for a Renewable Energy Technology Showcase;
 - \$4 million over four years to support implementation of the Climate Change Strategy; and
 - \$1 million for an Energy Efficient Fund to improve energy and water sustainability in the public sector.

Details of new initiatives will be provided at the Strategy launch.

- Tidbinbilla Nature Discovery Centre (additional funding): See BP3 page 64. Programs and performance indicators are currently being developed. This initiative is funded entirely by the ACT Government.
- Hazardous/dead tree removal and watering of young trees: See BP3 page 63. Programs and performance indicators are currently being developed. This initiative is funded entirely by the ACT Government.
- Capital upgrades and improvements: See BP3 at pages 126 and 128.
- Raising Awareness of Environmental Issues: Government supports a range of community awareness programs. Activities to occur in 2007-08 include:
 - delivery of Environment Grants and Heritage Grants (refer to QON E07-109).
 - delivering the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) programs in the ACT (refer to QON E07-112).
 - continuing to improve visitor services in Parks and Reserves, community information and engagement programs which address conservation of natural & cultural heritage;

- best practice use of solid fuel heaters; energy & water conservation; integrating life style choices to achieve sustainable outcomes.
- continue to deliver Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative – coordinated with related programs such as water, energy and waste.
 - continue to work closely with the indigenous community.
- New funding arrangements for national natural resource management: Existing NHT and NAP bilateral agreements expire in June 2008. The ACT Government will be working with the Australian Government on the development of new funding arrangements. A new funding program is expected to commence in 2008-09. ACT participation will be subject to a decision in the 2008-09 ACT Budget.
 - Participation in national environment forums and programs: These activities are an important mechanism for maintaining currency with issues that have implications for the Territory and where there are benefits from a strategic national approach.
 - Environmental Regulation: The *Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project* is funded through the Commonwealth Government's Australian Water Fund (\$10.2m over three years) and supported with ACT Government funding of \$6.8m.
 - Sustainable Schools Program: The budget for 2007/08 programs is \$100,000 from the ACT Government and \$58,000 for program implementation from the Commonwealth Government's Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. The 2007/08 program will expand on the achievements of previous years.

*Budget 2007-08 paper 4 page 283***Environment, Water & Climate Change – Output 1.3 - Sustainability**

Bill Stefaniak MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 283 –

- (1) What is the estimated FTE staffing profile outcome for this Output for 2006/07 and what is the budgeted staffing profile for 2007/08? What is the reason for any difference?
- (2) What programs were developed, implemented or evaluated in 2006/07 and what was the total cost and outcome of each program?
- (3) What programs are planned to be developed, implemented or evaluated in 2007/08 and at what total cost and outcome targets for each program?
- (4) What initiatives and outcome targets are being developed to address climate change? When will those initiatives be implemented and at what cost?

The annual tonnage of waste to landfill per head of population fell by 3.5% from 2005/06 to 2006/07 (estimated outcomes), with a targeted fall of only 1.8% for 2007/08. Similarly, there was an increase of collected recyclables of 4.5% from 2005/06 to 2006/07 (estimated outcomes), with a target of only 2.5% for 2007/08. (BP4, p 293)

- (5) Why is the government forecasting a decline in the rate of reduction of waste to landfill?
- (6) Why is the government forecasting a decline in the rate of increase in collected recyclables?
- (7) How do these rates compare with other cities of similar size?
- (8) What new public awareness and education campaigns are being developed with a view to improving the rates for the reduction of waste to landfill and increase in collected recyclables?
- (9) What other initiatives are being developed; for example (but not limited to) elimination of plastic bags at retail point of sale?
- (10) By when will the government achieve its no waste target?

Accountability items d, e, f & h (BP4, page 293) provide the costs of:

- o Kerbside collection per household - \$61.00;
 - o Recyclables processing per tonne - \$21.00;
 - o Green waste processing per tonne - \$4.20; and
 - o Operational cost of landfilling waste per tonne - \$11.70
- (11) How do these costs compare with other cities of similar size?

- (12) What measures are available to the government to achieve efficiency gains in these cost areas?

Other questions on accountability measures

- (13) Why has the accountability measure of legislation development targets been discontinued for 2007/08? (BP4, page 293)
- (14) What sustainability legislation is planned to be introduced during 2007/08?
- (15) What is the timing for the report on the implementation of *Think Water, Act Water*? (BP4, page 293)
- (16) What are the key success measures for the *Think Water, Act Water* strategy?
- (17) Are those success measures being monitored on an on-going basis? If so, what are the target-to-actual comparative results to date? If not, why not?
- (18) What are the main elements of the national reforms in energy and water? (BP 4, page 293, accountability measure o)
- (19) What are the two elements that were introduced in 2006/07 and what were the outcomes and cost for each element?
- (20) What are the two elements planned to be introduced in 2007/08 and what are the target outcomes and budgeted cost for each element?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As at 30 June 2007 staffing was 49.8 FTE. This outcome was the result of a series of administrative changes arising from 2006/07 Budget savings. 49.8 FTE have been budgeted in 2007/08.
2. Programs are as follows:

Water Efficiency Incentives Initiative (2006/07): The budget for delivery of this program was \$2,258,100. This covered programs such as: WaterSmart Homes, Dual Flush Toilet Rebate, commercial retrofit of Weston Police Centre, Primary School Indoor Retrofit Demonstration Project, GardenSmart (including rebates), Murrumbidgee Country Club Water Efficiency Demonstration Site, Irrigation System Design (Bowen, Telopea and Weston Parks), Sustainable Schools Irrigation Upgrade, Rainwater Tank Rebate (internal plumbing connection) and COMTROL System Upgrade (sportsgrounds, schools and parks). A number of these initiatives will continue through 2007/08.

Completed initiatives are the COMTROL system upgrade in public parks and sportsgrounds and the commercial retrofit of Weston Police Centre. The Sustainable Schools Irrigation Upgrade Program, Irrigation Systems Redesign, COMTROL system upgrade for schools, and the Evatt primary school demonstration site will be completed in late 2007.

Energy Programs: The Home Energy Advisory Team (HEAT) answered 3,542 inquiries during 2006/07. The Act EnergyWise program conducted 657 in-house energy efficiency audits and provided \$169,600 in rebates to 320 eligible householders. Two further programs (costing \$440,000 per annum) relating to energy efficiency are continuing.

Waste Programs: Four programs were delivered during 2006/07 through a budget of \$155,000. These programs are sustainable schools waste program, public place event recycling, business waste awareness program, and mobile education program.

3. Programs are as follows:

2007/08 Water Efficiency Program. The budget is \$1.779m with an additional \$449,000 for the Living Murray Initiatives (See Table 1).

Table 1 - 2007-08 Water Efficiency (Incentives) Program

Public awareness, communication program management and evaluation services	\$773,000
Dual Flush Toilet Rebate*	\$204,000
Greywater System Rebate	\$250,000
Sustainable Schools Audit Program*	\$34,700
Sustainable Schools Audit Implementation Program	\$100,000
GardenSmart Program and Rebate	\$180,000
Murrumbidgee Country Club Water Efficiency Demonstration Site	\$30,000
Commercial/Government Building Retrofits*	\$286,300
Greywater/Rainwater Advice Service*	\$75,000
IrrigationSmart Program Design and Pilot*	\$135,000
Rainwater Tank Rebate –internal plumbing connection	\$160,000
TOTAL	\$2,228,000

* New and/or modified programs.

Energy Programs: The funding for the HEAT and Act EnergyWise programs remains unchanged at \$440,000. Being programs that are responsive to customer demand, no performance targets have been set.

Waste Programs: Five initiatives will be delivered through a budget of \$150,000. These are: continuing the Sustainable Schools waste program, continuing public place event recycling, community education program, expanding the business waste awareness program, and further developing the NoWaste Awards.

4. See QoN E07-107

5. The ACT has a high percentage of material being recovered and recycled (75% of total waste in 2005/06). Even though there is continued growth and expansion of resource recovery initiatives that divert waste from landfill, there is simply a growing quantity of total waste being generated that must be managed. Waste generation growth is consistently outstripping GDP, a trend consistent in other communities.

6. As the overall recycling or resource recovery rate increases (forward projections of 76% to 77%) there is less material available to divert into recycling activities (this is a result of the ACT already diverted the easier recyclables and now targeting the more difficult and complex recyclables).

7. There is no directly comparable information currently available. Individual cities do not collect or report on resource recovery data or rates.
8. The Government will build upon existing programs such as: school tours and biannual public open days of the Materials Recycling Facility and landfill site at Mugga, promoting the uptake of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative, a new television advertising campaign (currently going to air) and press advertisements, continuing to work with industry to ensure they understand their responsibilities under the National Packaging Covenant, and participate in the development of national strategies to address problematic wastes such as light globes (the uptake of compact fluorescent globes to replace less energy efficient incandescent globes), tyres, computers, televisions and plastic bags.
9. The Government will continue to participate in national projects under the umbrella of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council. In 2007/08 the issues of tyres, plastic bags, computers and televisions in waste and litter streams will be considered. Following the Federal Government announcement to phase out the use of incandescent light globes by 2009, the Government will continue to work with other jurisdictions to resolve waste and recycling issues in the likely replacement (compact fluorescent lamps) which contain mercury.
10. A review of the NoWaste program is currently underway. The review will assess progress to date and examine future options for waste minimisation including strategies, costs and their likely successes or otherwise against the current target. The Review is anticipated to be finalised by the end of 2007.
11. Latest data (2004/05) released by the NSW Department of Local Government (2006) show the cost structure in the ACT is competitive in comparison with other cities of similar size. The overall key performance indicator (KPI) reported on is "Average charge for domestic waste management services per residential property". For Blacktown City Council, with a population of 266,000, the KPI is \$196. For Wollongong City Council (population of 192,000), the KPI is \$194. Noting that direct comparisons are difficult because of different service levels (e.g. frequency of collections and use of one, two or three bins, use of commercial run recycling facilities and/or landfills etc) and different accounting standard, the comparative KPI in the ACT is \$130.
12. For each of the above services the Territory has entered into long-term contracts with outsourced service providers. These contracts have defined services (which are specified to deliver service delivery efficiencies) and set financial arrangements. As such, efficiency measures are based on driving resource recovery improvements within the scope and financial arrangements for each of the contracts. ACT NOWaste also has the ability to make modifications to the contracts to drive efficiency gains.
13. Legislation development as a target was established as an output reporting measure prior to the amalgamation of environment policy functions under new Territory and Municipal Services structural arrangements. The legislation program for 2007-08 is now broader and subject to government policy decisions. Legislation will be developed on an as-needs-basis.
14. Whilst it is not the government's priority at this stage I maintain a commitment to it.

15. The 2006-07 Annual Report on Implementation of the *Think water, act water* Strategy is on-target for release by the end October 2007.
16. The success of the *Think Water, Act Water* strategy is measured by the progress made against its six key objectives for management of the ACT's water resources. Targets have been identified in *Think water, act water* to measure progress towards achieving these six key objectives.
17. Actions to achieve each objective are contained in the *Think water, act water* Implementation Plan (Volume 1, Appendix A) of the Annual Report on Implementation of the *Think water, act water* Strategy. The 2006-07 Annual Report on Implementation is on-target for release by the end October 2007.
18. The main elements (activities) of the national reforms in energy are:
- Energy Market Reform Legislative Program including the introduction of the National Electricity Law and rules and the initial development of the National Gas Law and Rules;
 - COAF energy market initiatives including the development of a national energy market company and the rollout of smart meters;
 - the implementation of the National Framework for Energy Efficiency;
 - the development of a national natural gas market;
 - energy security including the development of National Oil Security Emergency legislation;
 - NEMMCO Drought Study.
19. The two elements (performance indicators) were satisfactory completion of the briefs for the two annual Ministerial Council on energy meetings held on 29 October 2007 and on 25 May 2007.
The cost of the national energy reform was budgeted at \$66,000 for 2006/07. The actual costs have not been finalised at this time but are expected to be within budget.
20. The two element (performance indicators) for the national energy reform for 2007/08 will be once again the satisfactory completion of briefs for the two annual Ministerial Council on energy meetings planned to be held in October 2007 and in May 2007. The targeted outcomes will be the continuation of the ongoing national energy reforms listed above.

The 2007/08 budgeted costs for the ongoing national energy reforms is expected to be around \$66,000. This is subject to the final budget allocations to be made within TAMS.

Output 1.5 - Environmental regulation

Environment, Water & Climate Change – Output 1.5 – Environmental Regulation

Bill Stefaniak MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 284 –

- (1) Why is there a reduction of \$275,000 in spending from the estimated outcome for 2006/07 to the budgeted expenditure for 2007/08?
- (2) What is the estimated FTE staffing profile outcome for this Output for 2006/07 and what is the budgeted staffing profile for 2007/08? What is the reason for any difference?
- (3) What regulatory activities were administered during 2006/07 and what are planned to be administered during 2007/08? Explain any differences.
- (4) What programs of advice, education and compliance services are planned to be delivered to government and the community in 2007/08 and at what total cost for each program?
- (5) What consultation is undertaken with and what advice is sought from external environmental and heritage organisations and groups or the community at large on matters relating to environmental regulation?
- (6) Give examples of initiatives that have been developed and implemented as a result of those consultations during the period 2001/02 to present.
- (7) What consultation subjects are planned for 2007/08?
- (8) What was the budgeted cost and estimated outcome for 2006/07 for ACT Environment and Heritage grants and how much is budgeted for 2007/08? (BP4, page 295, accountability item a)
- (9) What was the proportion of the heritage and environment elements to the total estimated outcome cost for 2006/07?
- (10) How many organisations, groups or individuals received grants in 2006/07?
- (11) Why has there been no improvement in the time taken to approve development applications for ACTPLA since at least 2005/06? (BP4, page 295, accountability item b)

A new accountability measure is to assess and report on water quality in the ACT (BP4, page 295, accountability item j).

- (12) Does not ACTEW Corporation already undertake this function? If not, why not? If so, why the duplication in this function?

A new accountability measure is to remove abandoned vehicles on unleased land within 15 working days (BP4, page 295, accountability item k).

- (13) What is currently the process in relation to the removal of abandoned vehicles?
- (14) Will that process change in 2007/08?
- (15) How many abandoned vehicles were removed from unleased land during 2006/07?
- (16) What was the cost?
- (17) What happens to the removed vehicles?
- (18) Are the former owners usually able to be identified? If so, what are their rights or obligations in relation to removed vehicles?
- (19) Does this include vehicles abandoned in ACT forest areas or other non-urban unleased areas?
- (20) Does the government work with community organisations, such as 4-wheel-drive clubs, to assist in the removal of abandoned vehicles, particularly from forest areas? If so, how is this co-ordinated, what is the cost, and what are the insurance implications?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is: –

- (1) The reduction represents a cut of \$0.05m in the departmental overheads and a further decrease of \$0.225m. This represents the full year impact of 2006-07 Budget savings applied to the Department (commencing in the 2006/07 financial year). The consolidation of regulatory functions, as a result of these savings provided an opportunity to rationalise some functions whilst maintaining the capacity to respond to regulatory responsibilities. Those initiatives have carried over into the full 2007/08 financial year.
- (2) The estimated FTE staffing profile, to be achieved at the end of the 2006/07 financial year, was 61. The budgeted staffing profile for 2007/08 is 61.
- (3) The environmental regulation area has responsibility for administration and/or a major role in enforcement of the: *Environment Protection Act 1997, Clinical Waste Act 1990, Litter Act 2004, Nature Conservation Act 1980, Animal Diseases Act 2005, Roads and Public Places Act 1937, Uncollected Goods Act 1996, Domestic Animals Act 2000, Lakes Act 1976, Heritage Act 2004, Fisheries Act 2000, Water Resources Act 1998, Stock Act 2005, Plant Diseases Act 2002, Pest Plant and Animal Act 2005, Tree Protection Act 2005*. Similar regulatory activities are planned to be administered in 2007/08.
- (4) Education and compliance campaigns are generally aimed at addressing specific issues, as and when they arise. Funding for education, compliance and any associated program delivery is not discretely identified but met from within the environmental regulation budget. There are dedicated industry liaison officers to facilitate consultation with industry groups and educational institutions. The

waterwatch facilitator also has a dedicated role, that is, to facilitate community education and engagement in water quality monitoring across the ACT.

- (5) Consultation and advice is sought from a range of organisations including other Australian jurisdictions, local Universities, scientific organisations, peak industry groups, the Master Builders Association and the Housing Industry Association, the ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry; environmental groups such as the Conservation Council South East Region and Canberra Inc and with the ACT Commissioner for the Environment. Other advice is provided by experts in Heritage through the ACT Heritage Council and trees through the Tree Advisory Panel. There is significant public consultation over issues from domestic animals management, water resource allocation and broader environmental issues that have components related to noise emissions, and pollutants that affect land and water. Education and compliance is also provided through the interaction with the vast array of licence holders throughout the ACT. Stakeholder consultation on proposed codes of practice for implanting of microchips, registering of microchips and the operation of microchip registries for domestic animals included animal health professionals and the community.
- (6) The development of: legislation and statutory instruments. For example, the acceptance and recognition of Representative Aboriginal Organisations; development of Heritage Guidelines under the Heritage Act, and the Domestic Animals Act; prioritising use values for water that are reflected in *Water Resources Act 2007*; a draft Dragway Environment Protection Policy; and Environmental Flow Guidelines). Examples of non-statutory initiatives include the Wood Heater Subsidy scheme, social and economic support for Summernats, and awareness campaigns about leaving rubbish near clothing bins.
- (7) Consultation subjects will be the broad education and regulation requirements of administering and enforcing the ACT's laws, noted in response to question 3 above, and some planned specific consultation on environment protection policies as well as domestic animal licensing.
- (8) The budget costs and estimated outcome for 2007/07 and grants budgeted for 2007/08 is as follows:

	Heritage Grants	Environment Grants	Total
06/07 Budget	\$270,000	140,000	\$410,000
Estimated Outcome 06/07	\$270,000	140,000	\$410,000
Budget 07/08	\$277,000	144,000	\$421,000

- (9) 59%.
- (10) 15 received an ACT Environment Grant in 2006/07 and 21 received an ACT Heritage Grant in 2006/07.
- (11) There is a legal obligation to provide that advice within 15 working days.

- (12) No. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is required to assess and report on water quality in the ACT in accordance with the *Water Resources Act 1998*. All past water reports are available on the TAMS website.
- (13) City Rangers respond to complaints of abandoned vehicles on roads, road related areas and unleased Territory lands, removing abandoned vehicles within the urban area in accordance with the *Roads and Public Places Act 1937*. Vehicles are then placed into retention in accordance with the *Uncollected Goods Act 1996*. If the vehicles remain uncollected, they are either sent to a recycling operator for disposal, provided to ACT Emergency Services for training purposes or go to public auction.

If a City Ranger suspects on reasonable grounds that a vehicle in a public place has been abandoned and is causing a safety hazard, the vehicle may be removed and placed in retention immediately. In other cases, the Ranger may serve a written notice on the last registered operator to remove the vehicle from the public place. The notice directs the owner(s) to remove the vehicle within a period of 2 days and provides the contact information of the investigating Ranger. When the notice expires, if the vehicle has not been removed from public land as directed, the vehicle is removed and placed in retention.

- (14) No
- (15) 273 vehicles were removed from the urban area and impounded by City Rangers.
- (16) \$36,417.50. These costs were associated with the towing operators charges to collect and transport the vehicles to the ACT Government Retention Area. Impounded vehicles are treated in accordance with the *Uncollected Goods Act 1996*.
- (17) Vehicles of no value (having net value of \$20.00 or less) are held in retention for a minimum of 7 days. After the period of retention expires the vehicle will be disposed of by destruction and subsequent recycling. Vehicles of low value (having a net value of more than \$20.00 but less than \$500.00) are held in retention for a period of 1 month. After this period expires the vehicle will be disposed of by destruction. Vehicles of significant value (having a net value of more than \$500.00) are held in retention for a period of 3 months, after this period expires the vehicle may be disposed of by public auction or destruction. After retention periods have expired the “destruction” of the vehicle can include handing the vehicle over to the ACT Emergency Services for training purposes.
- (18) An authorised officer conducts reasonable checks to establish vehicle ownership or to determine whether the vehicle has been reported as stolen. If necessary, a notice is served on the last known registered operator directing removal of the vehicle. If the person is not the owner of the vehicle they are required to notify the authorised officer within 7 days and provide the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle was last disposed. If the owner fails to comply with written request, the vehicle is deemed uncollected goods and impounded. The goods may then be disposed of by the methods described above. In cases where

no owner can be identified or the last known owner cannot be located, the vehicle is removed to the Retention Area.

- (19) The accountability measure for the removal of abandoned vehicles within 15 days was developed for urban unleased lands only. Vehicles abandoned in rural areas are often dumped in remote and difficult locations where access is weather dependent and may require longer than 15 days to remove.
- (20) The Government has worked with a number of community groups in assisting to remove abandoned vehicles difficult to retrieve by normal means. 4-wheel-drive clubs and the Department of Defence - using it as a training opportunity for their members or staff. The work is coordinated by departmental staff to ensure groups have appropriate insurance with the clubs volunteering their own time and resources.

Office of the Commissioner for the Environment

Environment, Water & Climate Change – Office of the Commissioner for the Environment

Bill Stefaniak MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 285 –

- (1) What is the estimated FTE staffing profile outcome for the Office for 2006/07 and what is the budgeted staffing profile for 2007/08? What is the reason for any difference?
- (2) With a neutral budget, how will the Office accommodate any increases in staffing costs and fixed costs?

Australian Capital Territory State of the Environment Report – completed in June 2007 (BP4, page 299, accountability measure a)

- (3) What was the cost of authoring, publishing and disseminating the 2007 Australian Capital Territory State of the Environment Report?
- (4) Was the cost within budget? If not, why not?
- (5) Does the Report include any new elements such as, but not limited to, climate change and does it make recommendations as to how the region might respond to these new elements?
- (6) How many copies of the Report were printed?
- (7) Is it available electronically?
- (8) How and to whom will it be disseminated?
- (9) How will its availability be publicised?
- (10) Will the report be sold at a cover price? If so, at what price, and what is the forecast revenue?
- (11) When is the next Australian Capital Region State of the Environment report to be published?
- (12) What cash and information will be contributed to next the Report by the Region's Councils?

ACT State of the Environment Report – due to be handed to the Chief Minister in December 2007 (BP4, page 299, accountability item b)

- (13) What is the budgeted cost for authoring, publishing and disseminating the 2007 ACT State of the Environment Report?
- (14) How many copies will be printed?
- (15) Will it be available electronically?

- (16) How and to whom will it be disseminated?
- (17) How will its availability be publicised?
- (18) Will it be free? If not, what will be the per-copy price?
- (19) Will the report include any new elements dealing with issues such as, but not limited to, climate change?

Uptake of report recommendations. (BP 4, page 299, accountability item c)

- (20) Are organisations, groups, agencies and individuals legally obliged to take up recommendations made by the Commissioner?
- (21) If not, what are the Commissioner's powers in relation to recommendations that are not taken up?
- (22) What was the attitudinal trend over the period 2001/02 to date in terms of uptake of recommendations of the Commissioner's various reports?

Ministerial and Commissioner initiated investigations. (BP4, p 299, accountability items d and e)

- (23) Noting that no investigations were initiated in 2006/07, how many typically are initiated in a financial year?
- (24) What is the general nature of these kinds of investigations?
- (25) How long, on average, does it take to complete and report on those investigations?
- (26) What are the resource requirements, including cost, to complete and report on those investigations?
- (27) In a year such as 2006/07 when no investigations were initiated, on what activities are resources otherwise deployed?

Complaints about management of the environment by the Territory and its agencies. (BP 4, page 299, accountability item f)

- (28) How many complaints were dealt with during 2006/07? How many of those reached outcomes that satisfied the complainants?
- (29) What was the general nature of those complaints and was there any skew of complaints against particular departments or agencies?
- (30) On average, how long did it take to investigate and resolve these complaints?
- (31) What are the resource requirements, including cost, to investigate and resolve these complaints?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is: –

- (1) 2.4 FTE (this does not differ for 2007/08).
- (2) A review is currently being undertaken into the role and responsibilities on the Commissioner for the Environment. Once that review is complete we will

have a better understanding of the staffing and financial needs of the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment.

- (3) It is assumed the member is referring to the 2004 Australian Capital Region (ACR) State of the Environment Report completed in December 2006. The cost was \$275,500.00. This was paid by participating Councils and a minimal salary from the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) No new elements (note: the Report does address climate change).
- (6) 100 CD-ROMS.
- (7) Yes. The Report can be found at: <http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/>
- (8) The Report is sent to all Councils and the NSW Department of Local Government.
- (9) Publicising the availability of the Report is the responsibility of the Regional Leaders Forum (RLF) and individual Councils. In the ACT the Report is located on the Commissioner for the Environment's web page (see Question 8).
- (10) Yes. \$5.38. No is revenue expected – the Report is sold at cost.
- (11) November 2008.
- (12) ACR Councils contribute annually.
- (13) \$260,000.00
- (14) An initial run of 300 Executive Summaries.
- (15) Yes.
- (16) Copies, as usual, to Legislative Assembly members and legal deposit, interested members of the public, NGO's and public libraries.
- (17) Media releases.
- (18) Yes.
- (19) At this stage, no new elements. Climate change and variability has been a feature of the ACT State of the Environment Report since 1994.
- (20) No.
- (21) Encouragement and reporting in the annual report.
- (22) There has been an improvement in uptake since 2001/02. Comments on each recommendation available in Annual Reports.
- (23) One at most.
- (24) Varied.
- (25) The complexity of the issue is the determining factor. Depending on complexity of the issue, a report can take anywhere from 2 months to a year to prepare.
- (26) Resource requirements can vary substantially depending issues such as the need to contract expert advice.

- (27) Salary, rent, IT, initial work on next SoE and community responses.
- (28) Two formal complaints received on the Dragway. Outcome was determined by ACT Government's decision not to proceed with the Dragway .
- (29) Dragway and general complaints on environment matters.
- (30) Between a few days and several months depending on complexity of the issue.
- (31) Depends on complexity. It can vary substantially from an in-house response to contracting expert advice.

*Capital Works***Environment, Water & Climate Change – Capital Works**

Bill Stefaniak MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 302 –

Capital Injections for 2007/08 include (BP 4, page 302):

1. Energy Efficiency Fund - \$1m; and
 2. Renewable Energy Technology Showcase - \$1m
- (1) Which agencies have developed projects to be funded under the Energy Efficiency Fund program, what are those projects, what environmental gains will they generate, and what is their timing and cost?
 - (2) Where will the Renewable Energy Technology Showcases be located, what is the cost of each showcase, and what is their timing?
 - (3) What kinds of technologies are contemplated for these showcases?
 - (4) What “call to action” messages will these showcases present to the community?
 - (5) Why are there no funds budgeted for either of these programs in the out years?
 - (6) What are the resource requirements and recurrent costs for administration, maintenance, etc for these projects in 2007/08 and the out years?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member’s question is:

- No projects have been developed as yet. This will happen once the program commences. Agencies will be advised shortly of criteria and repayment arrangements. To be considered, proposals will need to deliver real savings in energy, emissions and/or water usage.
- A feasibility study will be conducted in the second half of 2007 to establish the most appropriate site/sites for such displays and the technology mix appropriate to each site. Accessibility and visibility in the community along with suitability to local conditions will be primary considerations in the study.
- A consideration of possible technologies including solar, wind and geothermal will be examined in the feasibility study (see above).
- The showcases will act to heighten community and business awareness of potential and practical technologies that they can apply themselves in addressing climate change impacts.
- The Energy Efficiency Fund is established as a revolving fund. Savings made by agencies through access to the fund are used to repay the initial loan, returning those funds for use on another project. The technology showcases will be established within the first year. After that they will form part of the maintenance program of the building/s on which they are

placed. Accordingly, no additional out-year funding is required for these projects.

- Staffing costs associated with the establishment of these projects and management of the Fund will be met from existing Budgets and the additional \$1m provided in the 2007/08 budget for Climate Change implementation. Maintenance costs associated with the showcases will be established/negotiated on a site-by site-basis with the provider and/or host building operator.

Commonwealth Grants

Environment, Water & Climate Change – Commonwealth Grants

Bill Stefaniak MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water & Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 306 –

In 2007/08, TAMS has responsibility for major Commonwealth payments in the areas of:

- Natural Heritage Trust, Landcare and National Action Plan Grants - \$2.529m; and
 - Australian Government Water Fund - \$7m
- (1) Provide details of the amounts of Commonwealth payments applicable to each of the three categories of Natural Heritage Trust, Landcare and National Action Plan Grants.
 - (2) Provide details of the projects and costs under each category that will be undertaken with this funding during 2007/08.
 - (3) Confirm that the ACT Government has provided matching funding for the National Action Plan Grants and point to where, in the budget, this funding is provided.
 - (4) Provide details of the projects, timeframes and costs for the expenditure of the Australian Government Water Fund amount, and indicate how these projects are consistent with, and helps to achieve, the objectives, outcomes and actions of the National Water Initiative.

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is: –

- (1) See Attachment 1.
- (2) See Attachment 1.
- (3) The ACT Government has provided matching funding for the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, as required by the Bilateral Agreement with the Australian Government. These funds were appropriated in the 2004-05 Budget as part of an initiative titled 'Natural Resource Management'.
- (4) The project will develop and implement integrated waterway management master plans for the Sullivans Creek Catchment, Yarralumla Creek Catchment, Weston Creek Catchment and Ginninderra Creek Catchment. Implementation of the infrastructure identified in the master plans to retrofit these stormwater systems will include detention ponds and wetlands, stormwater reuse, water quality management, drainage and flood management, wetland landscaping and aquifer storage and recovery (See Attachment 2).

2007-08 Budget

Expenditure Item	Commonwealth Funding \$'000	ACT Government Contributions \$'000	Total Cost \$'000
Project Manager	300	311	611
Flemington Road – Detailed Design	240	-	240
Forde Integrated Water Cycle Business Case	210	-	210
Flemington Road – Construction	4,000	-	4,000
Feasibility Study – Phase 2	800	-	800
Weston Creek Pond – Detailed Design	-	625	625
TOTAL	5,550	936	6,486

The role of the Commissioner for the Environment

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the role of the Commissioner for the Environment:

1. Why is the relevant output class set to cease after 2006-07 (BP4:299)?
2. Given that the Minister is aware that the Commissioner for the Environment does not have the funds to deal with the extra workload that would be incurred if the office promoted its complaints and investigations role, what is the Government doing to adequately resource the Commissioner?
3. Given that the State of the Environment Report is due this year, why weren't more funds allocated to the Commissioner's office this year?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised that the answer to the member's question is:

1. The EBT class is not ceasing, this is a misprint.
2. The Role of the Commissioner for the Environment is currently being reviewed. Once this review is complete, any additional resourcing requirements will be addressed.
3. In the past additional funds have been allocated to the Commissioner's office in the year reports are due. The budget is now spread evenly across a 4 year period to enable data collection and other preparatory work in non reporting years. The Commissioner has advised that there is sufficient funds in the 07/08 budget to produce the State of the Environment Report.

187. Environment, Water and Climate Change Seselja

Contracts and payments by Government

Mr Pratt: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 294 – regarding Bushfire fuel reduction programs:

- (1) How much of this budgeted amount is allocated to bushfire fuel reduction?
- (2) How many hectares of land will be managed for this amount?
- (3) Will the hectares managed include urban fringe areas?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Emergency Services Agency is currently reviewing the 2007 – 08 Draft TAMS Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP). More than \$3 million has been allocated to fuel reduction. This includes more than \$2 million directly on fuel reduction and nearly \$1 million on engaging seasonal crews (and 'plant') who are heavily involved in implementing fuel reduction activities.
- (2) The BOP identifies more than 10,000 hectares of fuel management activities, which includes slashing, prescribed burning, physical removal of fuels, chemical management of fuels, and management grazing.
- (3) The BOP includes a range of fuel management activities in urban fringe areas. In addition to recurrent slashing and grazing activities, the BOP includes a number of new prescribed burning, grazing, slashing and physical fuel removal activities in urban fringe areas. It also includes more than 6,000 hectares of fuel management activities within Asset Protection Zones.

188. Environment, Water and Climate Change Seselja

Witness statement - Block 10 Section 36 Reid

Mr Seselja: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to: A witness statement concerning Block 10 Section 36 Reid, by Dr Michael Pearson on 24 November 2005.

1. Under whose direction was that witness statement prepared?
2. In what capacity did Dr Pearson prepare that witness statement?
3. Was any payment made by the ACT Government for the preparation of this report?
4. How much was paid?
5. When was payment made?
6. What was the remittance number for the payment?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Manager, ACT Government Heritage Unit.
2. As Chair of the ACT Heritage Council and as a person with extensive experience, expertise and knowledge of heritage matters.
3. Yes.
4. The claim for payment for the preparation of the witness statement was included in Dr Pearson's quarterly time-sheet for the period of September to December 2005.

The ACT Remuneration Tribunal determines the payments to be made to Council members for formal meetings and 'Business of the Authority'. The pay rate for 'Business of the Authority' is subject to the condition:

Periods of business of less than 3 hours – members must work a minimum of 1 hour and when 5 hours has been accumulated a full days rate will be paid.

A full day's rate at the relevant time was \$285.

Mr Pearson claimed 12 hours under 'Business of the Authority' for file study and writing the witness statement.

Please note – the total amount of payment also included other claims for payment (for the quarter) for formal meetings and other 'Business of the Authority'.

5. 2 February 2006
6. Remittance number: 551378

Queanbeyan River Cemetery

Mr Mulcahy: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 304:

- (1) What will the \$100,000 allocated to conservation signage at Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery provide?
- (2) Where will this signage be located – if in NSW, why is the ACT Government funding it?
- (3) What will the \$250,000 allocated to Heritage capital upgrades be spent on?
- (4) What is the process for determining which heritage sites or projects will be supported through capital works funding?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The budget paper specifies that \$100,000 is allocated to conservation signage at Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery. This is an error. The budget papers should have specified \$50,000 for conservation work at the Cemetery and \$50,000 for signage and /or interpretive requirements (e.g. heritage trails, interpretive signage etc) elsewhere.
- (2) Consultation with the National Trust Australia (ACT), Queanbeyan Council and the ACT Heritage Unit will determine the priorities for conservation work at the Cemetery and signage/ interpretive requirements.
- (3) The preliminary program of works and estimated costs are:
 - Hotel Kurrajong:
 - i. Replace boiler - \$70,000
 - ii. Electrical Safety works - \$18,000
 - Downer Business Centre
 - i. Heritage Tree management - \$25,000
 - Yarralumla Brickworks
 - i. Fencing - \$60,000
 - ii. Fire Safety Works - \$20,000
 - Albert Hall
 - i. Fire and Electrical Safety Works - \$35,000
 - Yarralumla Woolshed
 - i. Fire Safety Works - \$20,000
- (4) Property Group undertakes a rolling program of condition audits that are used to identify and prioritise works. Priority is given to works required to meet safety standards and to enable effective use of the facility.

201 Environment, Water and Climate Change Mulcahy

Education and compliance services to Heritage places and objects

Mr Mulcahy: To ask the Minister For Environment, Water and Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 284:

- (4) What proportion of the \$9.203 million Budgeted in 2007-08 for Output Class 1.5 is committed to the provision of advice, education and compliance services in relation to heritage places and objects?
- (5) The amount Budgeted for 2007-08, \$9.203 million, has reduced from the estimated outcome from 2006-07, \$9.478 million. Have any of these reductions occurred in the heritage area?
- (6) How many Heritage Grant applications have been made in 2006-07 and how many of these have been successful?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) 15%
- (2) No
- (3) Of the 47 applications received in 2006/07, 19 organisations, groups or individuals received an ACT Heritage Grant with a total of 31 projects funded.

Sustainability programs

Mr Mulcahy: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 293:

- (7) What are the significant joint ACT/Commonwealth funded sustainability programs?
- (8) What is the break up in their funding between the Commonwealth and ACT Governments?
- (9) What is the process for deciding which programs will be supported?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1) The ACT and the Commonwealth have Bilateral Agreements for the delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality in the ACT (NAP). The NHT program addresses biodiversity conservation, sustainable agricultural production and institutional change in natural resource management. The NAP addresses the amelioration of dryland salinity and improvement in surface water quality.

The Territory and the National Water Commission have a Funding Deed for the implementation of the ACT's Australian Government Water Fund (AGWF) Project – Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways.

- (2) The break-up of funding between the Commonwealth and ACT Governments for NHT and NAP is as follows:

Program	2005-06 to 2007-08 (\$m)		Total
	ACT	Commonwealth	
Natural Heritage Trust	0	3.73	3.73
National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality	2.52	2.52	5.08
Total	2.52#	6.25	8.81

The ACT Government contributes a further \$5.65 million in other cash and in-kind support to projects being delivered through these programs.

The break-up of funding between the Commonwealth and ACT Governments for the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project is as follows:

Funding Contributor	Dollar
Australian Government Water Fund (National Water Commission)	\$10,200,000
ACT Government	\$6,800,000

TOTAL	\$17,000,000
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- (3) The decision about participation in the NHT and NAP programs is made by the responsible Minister.

The Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project will include, in the investigatory phase, an assessment of all urban catchments and will identify optimum sites to harvest and use stormwater. This will in turn determine where ponds will be constructed, and where the water will be used. The Government is expected to make a decision regarding which modelled project sites will progress to construction by August 2008.

Heritage listing for a property

Mr Mulcahy: to ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 284:

- (10) What standing does a person require in order to initiate a heritage listing for a property?
- (11) What input does the owner of a property have in deciding whether a property should be heritage listed?
- (12) Given that a heritage listing can impose restrictions on property alterations and therefore affect the value of a property, what, if any, safeguards exist to ensure that a property owner is not disadvantaged by a heritage listing?
- (13) What, if any, safeguards exist to ensure that people are not able to initiate a heritage listing as a malicious action against a property owner?

Mr Stanhope: the answers to the Members question is as follows:-

- (1) Anyone may nominate a place or object for provisional registration. Nominations are submitted in the appropriate form to the Heritage Council.
- (2) Provisional registration of a place or object is for five months. This is to allow for adequate consultation with interested parties including the owner. The Council must consider any comments received when deciding whether or not to register the place or object.

As soon as practicable after the end of the public consultation period, the Heritage Council reports, to the Minister, its views about whether the place or object should be registered, issues raised in public comments, and on any proposed changes to the registration arising from issues raised in the comments. The Minister may require the Heritage Council to give further consideration to issues in its report.

Appeal provisions apply to a number of decisions made under the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Act) including a decision by the Heritage Council to register, or not register, a place or object.

- (3) The owner of a heritage place or object may enter into a Heritage Agreement (HA). The primary goal of a HA is to support the heritage owner and ensure the protection and ongoing conservation management of the heritage place or object for future generations.

The Heritage Council may arrange provision of various types of conservation advice and assistance to support the agreement such as financial, technical or other assistance. Additionally, it may be possible for the Minister to obtain exemptions for place (or land where a place or object is located) from specified provisions of a Territory law. Where it is proposed to introduce such

regulations, consultation will occur with the relevant government agencies and authorities.

- (4) Under Section 30(a) of the Act, the Heritage Council may dismiss a nomination without further consideration if Council is satisfied that the nomination is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived, or lacking in substance or was not made honestly.

A place or object has 'heritage significance' if it satisfies one or more of the heritage significance criteria as defined by the Act.

FET staff - TAMS

Mr Mulcahy: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, in relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 281:

- (1) Of the 1,074 FTE staff with the Department of Territory and Municipal Services, how many of the staff work in Heritage?
- (2) Has this number varied from 2006-07?
- (3) What is the staffing profile for 2006-07 and 2007-08 for Output Class 1.5?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) 11 FTE
- (2) No
- (3) 11 FTE's (12 actual staff as two work part time to make up one FTE).

QTON - Accountability indicators

Mr Stefaniak : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Budget Paper 4, page 293, accountability indicators k, l and m

Why actually have you written up getting rid of a number of targets and a number of KIAs in one part of the report, after putting some money still to the climate change strategy elsewhere

Ms Gallagher: I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

No targets or accountability indicators have been deleted.

The accountability indicator related to the preparation of ACT Climate Change Strategy has been amended to an augmented goal in 2007/08 (of implementing that Strategy), reflecting the fact that the Strategy itself would not be complete by the end of the 2006/07 financial year.

In the case of the accountability indicators relating to the delivery of funded programs, indicator “m” was replaced with indicator “n” because of the addition of another program, the National Water Initiative, to the number of joint ACT/Commonwealth sustainability programs being delivered in the ACT in 2007-08.

QTON - Audits of government buildings

Mr Stefaniak : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : audits of government buildings

Have you done an audit of all government buildings, and what further steps are you going to take in terms of ensuring that government buildings lead by example, that we don't continue to have things like, toilets or urinals are not flushing throughout the night at schools and things like that.

Ms Gallagher : I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- As part of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative pilot program in 2006, twenty (20) ACT schools received an extensive indoor and outdoor water audit. Sixteen (16) of those schools were ACT Government schools. Following each audit, the school is provided with a detailed report identifying ways in which water use can be reduced. Funds have been made available to the sixteen government schools that received an audit. The funds will be used by the schools to implement the water reduction initiatives recommended in the water audit report. \$100,000 has been allocated to retro-fit Evatt Primary with water efficient products and fixtures as a demonstration to other schools. A further twenty (20) schools will be audited in 2007/08 with the aim of conducting twenty (20) water audits each financial year until all ACT schools are audited.
- In 2005 Property Group participated in a nationwide benchmarking study which concluded that the water consumption in its five government owned office properties (Macarthur House; Moore Street Health Building; Callam Office; Dame Pattie Menzies; and the Fyshwick Depot Office Building) was below the median usage of the other participants (comprising 149 properties). During 2007-08 further audits will be undertaken to ensure that water savings options are identified and usage kept to a minimum.
- Water audits occurred on two leased buildings occupied by Government in 2005 to identify other options for achieving further reductions in water use in office buildings.
- AqualocTap valves have been installed in Macarthur House (133 valves), Moore Street Health Building (206 valves) and Callam Offices (164 valves). The AqualocTap valve is a water saving valve that is installed in hand basins and kitchens within the hot and cold water taps. The valve replaces the existing washer assembly and reduces the flow of water. These valves are designed to achieve a saving of up to 15% in domestic water consumption.
- Where possible during building refurbishments, or when replacement is required, toilets are upgraded to dual flush systems. Urinal systems have been replaced with systems that operate automatically using movement sensors and

timers. In Macarthur House a 'flusherette' system has been installed which uses a system of washers, valves, timers and flow rates to achieve the optimum outcome for cleanliness and water efficiency. More recently, with the refurbishment of the North Building toilets, waterless urinals have been installed.

- By mid-July this year, approximately 210 single flush toilets and urinals in urban parks will be retrofitted with dual flush systems, and approximately 107 taps will be converted to spring loaded systems. When all toilets have been upgraded, water use in toilets is expected to be reduced by approximately 25%.
- Property Group, within TAMS, undertake a rolling program of building audits to identify works required at the facilities it manages. All properties are assessed at least once every 4 years. These audits include an assessment of plumbing fixtures to identify any repairs or upgrades required. All tenants are encouraged to report any building faults and Property Group have a 24/7 reporting and response facility to enable such issues to be dealt with promptly.

QTON - Transfer of energy and water policy function

Ms Porter : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Page 283 of Budget Paper 4 – transfer of Energy and Water policy function from CMD to TAMS

It seems to me that there's additional \$2.6 million has been budgeted over the estimated expenditure period. Could you let me know what those additional funds are going to be used for

Ms Gallagher : I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The increase in cost of Output 1.3 for Sustainability reflects:

- \$0.427m in transfer of functions from Chief Minister's Department to TAMS for Energy and Water policies;
- \$1m for implementing the Climate Change Strategy;
- \$0.232m in Australian Energy Market Commission costs;
- \$0.503m for waste contract price increases due to growth of the city; and
- \$1.6m in accounting adjustments to provide for remediation costs of land fill.

These increases have been offset technically by higher costs in 2006-07 due to timing of payments for the National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity, National Heritage Trust and National Landcare Program initiatives from the previous year.

QTON - Macarthur - Fadden Ridge 3G Tower

Mrs Burke : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Macarthur – Fadden Ridge 3G Tower

Why is Environment ACT against the location of the tower north of Karralika, that is, in a more appropriate, less obtrusive area and which is already serviced by an all-weather road?

Ms Gallagher: I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Department has concerns about the potential environmental impacts resulting from locating the proposed telecommunications tower on Wanniasa Hills. The sites investigated are both at the top of steep well forested slope rising from the urban edge, surrounded by large numbers of mature trees that have the potential, in the event of a bushfire, to severely damage the asset.

The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan would require the facility to have an asset protection zone of approximately 30m cleared vegetation. This vegetation clearing would impact heavily on the Nature Reserve. There would also be significant impact on visual amenity, as 20 metre masts would be required at these sites. Further, the facility would become a built asset requiring protection in the event of a bushfire.

There would also be impacts along existing fire trail. This trail is not designed to be an all weather track. It remains susceptible to erosion if disturbed or used in inclement weather. As part of installing the telecommunication tower trenching for power would be undertaken and fibre optic cable installed along the fire trail. The topography and steepness of the fire trail means that trenching would make it prone to erosion problems, no matter how well the refilling and compactions are as part of the restoration work.

Given the vulnerability of the trail to erosion, there are also concerns with the access required by the telecommunications carrier. The carrier will require 365 days/year access for maintenance purposes or in case of a breakdown. However due to erodability issues, the Department would need to limit trail access during periods of wet weather.

QTON - Albert hall

Mrs Burke : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Albert Hall

What are the timelines and process for the nomination of Albert Hall to the National Heritage List

Ms Gallagher: I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

On 24 May the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change announced his intention to write to the Commonwealth nominating the Albert Hall for inclusion on the National Heritage List. In that announcement he expressed concerns over adequate and proper protection for Albert Hall considering that, although the Hall was currently listed on the Register of the National Estate, that Register was in the process of being repealed by the Commonwealth, meaning the existing list will have no value except as a source of information.

The Government argues strongly that Albert Hall is of significance to both the ACT and Australia as a nation, as it played a crucial role in the social and communal maturing of Canberra as the nation's capital.

The Minister has written to the Minister for Environment and Water Resources, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull requesting that Albert Hall be considered for inclusion on the National Heritage List. This would place the Albert Hall alongside iconic Canberra sites as Old Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Academy of Science building.

I have been advised that the Australian Heritage Council is responsible for considering whether nominations to the National Heritage List meet the criteria for inclusion, and will then provide advice to the Minister accordingly. I also understand that the Australian Heritage Council is obliged (under its Act) to meet at least four times per annum, but I am privy to neither its meeting timetable, nor its agendas.

QTON - Greenhouse gas abatement scheme

Dr Foskey : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme

Given your understanding of its inadequacies I'm just wondering why the government doesn't actually propose that the benchmarks of their scheme be lowered from 2007 instead of staying at a set level till currently 2012

Ms Gallagher: I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The ACT Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme was introduced in January 2005 in conjunction with NSW who introduced their scheme a year earlier. The Legislative Assembly agreed at the time of the passage of the enabling *Electricity (Greenhouse Emissions) Act 2004* that consistency with surrounding NSW was a critical issue both to provide regulatory certainty and to prevent industry taking advantage of possible loopholes caused by disparate targets and penalty regimes between jurisdictions. In line with best international practise at the time, per capita targets were adopted.

It was the intention to review the appropriateness of the post-2007 targets in light of outcomes of the previous years. However, this review was overtaken by the agreement between State and Territory governments to develop a National Emissions Trading Scheme (NETS) that would incorporate all other existing schemes. To facilitate this transfer it was agreed between jurisdictions that significant changes would not be made to existing schemes while the transitional arrangements to NETS are being finalised.

Population of ACT

Dr Foskey: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to preparation for a population of 500,000 people in the Australian Capital Territory:

What modelling has the Government done:

1. to calculate and ameliorate impacts on our biodiversity?
2. to ensure a sufficient water supply?
3. to ensure a sufficient and sustainable energy supply?
4. to ensure a sufficient and sustainable public transport system?
5. to ensure minimum carbon emissions?
6. to ensure minimum pollutants?
7. to ensure minimum waste?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:

1. The Government undertook assessment and mapping of biodiversity in developing the Canberra Spatial Plan to identify land capable of urban development. A sieve mapping approach was used and overlaid with known constraints. The constraints identified were national parks and nature reserves, lowland woodland (including the Endangered Yellow Box Red Gum woodland), natural temperate and secondary grasslands, slopes greater than 15%, hills ridges and gullies, potable water catchments and river corridors. Wildlife corridors were identified and some modelling undertaken to ensure connectivity between the corridors. Additional impacts will be assessed and modelled, if appropriate, throughout the planning and development process.
2. The Government has modelling undertaken by ACTEW Corporation as the ACT's water supply utility. ACTEW model against the population parameters set by the Government under the Canberra Plan. That plan currently has an upper population projection of 500,000.

ACTEW also model against climate change expectations and community expectations for periods of water shortage - the amount of time that the city faces at various levels of temporary water restrictions. ACTEW is currently finalising a review of its modelling as part of the work to ensure a secure water supply for Canberra flowing the experience of the last few years of the worst drought in recorded history in this area.

3. No specific modelling has been undertaken. The ACT's energy supplies are drawn from national grids for electricity and gas. The ACT approach is to adopt targets for renewable energy use.
4. The Government has done transport modelling for the scenario of ACT's population reaching 440,000. This transport modelling was done as part of the *Public Transport Futures Feasibility Study (2004)*. The study investigated public transport corridors, systems, land use patterns, housing density, prices and accessibility factors. The study identified options for future sustainable public transport systems that include public transport corridors, systems, economic and financial viability and supporting measures. In response to this study, the Government has planned and reserved corridors for future sustainable public transport system when ACT grows its population in excess of 440,000.
5. The Government's policy is that the Territory will meet targets of 60% reduction of year 2000 emissions by 2050. As intermediate measures the Government's milestone is to reduce our emissions to 2000 levels by 2025. The ACT Government continues to measure its own emissions from electricity and transport fuels through EDGAR (Energy Data Gathering and Reporting System).
6. No specific modelling has been undertaken, however through our participation in the development and implementation of National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM), in particular the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI), the ACT has undertaken some basic modelling and assumptions on aggregate emissions. Following the review and variation of the NPI NEPM, consideration is now being given to update the estimate of the ACT's aggregate emissions. As part of the update, the NPI is working to standardise the methodology and determine benchmark years, so that aggregate emissions (i.e. those to air sheds and water catchments) can be compared between jurisdictions.
7. ACT NOWaste is currently undertaking a number of initiatives that address modelling for the future growth of Canberra. For example, the *Review of Waste Targets* is currently under way and examines issues such as long-term waste generation rates and required resource recovery rates. A waste specific Strategic Asset Management Plan and site specific Master Plans are also currently being developed and will address future infrastructure and services needs of the ACT community.

345 Environment, Water and Climate Change Pratt

Mount Taylor

Mr Pratt: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 292 – regarding the construction of a replacement of the Churchill Fellowship Trail on Mount Taylor;

- (14) What funds have been allocated to complete the replacement walking track on Mount Taylor in the 2007-08 Budget?
- (15) When is work expected to commence on the replacement walking track on Mt Taylor?
- (16) What is the expected completion date of the walking track?

Mr Stanhope: the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The walking track that was closed on Mount Taylor is called the Richmond Fellowship Track. \$80,000 has been set aside for this project. The funding has been made available through the Capital Works Program and from savings in other areas.
- (2) Subject to the necessary works approvals and conditions, it would be several months before construction work commences.
- (3) The replacement track is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

352 Environment, Water and Climate Change Pratt

Bushfire fuel reduction

Mr Pratt: To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 294 – regarding Bushfire fuel reduction programs:

- (17) How much of this budgeted amount is allocated to bushfire fuel reduction?
- (18) How many hectares of land will be managed for this amount?
- (19) Will the hectares managed include urban fringe areas?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (4) The Emergency Services Agency is currently reviewing the 2007 – 08 Draft TAMS Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP). More than \$3 million has been allocated to fuel reduction. This includes more than \$2 million directly on fuel reduction and nearly \$1 million on engaging seasonal crews (and 'plant') who are heavily involved in implementing fuel reduction activities.
- (5) The BOP identifies more than 10,000 hectares of fuel management activities, which includes slashing, prescribed burning, physical removal of fuels, chemical management of fuels, and management grazing.
- (6) The BOP includes a range of fuel management activities in urban fringe areas. In addition to recurrent slashing and grazing activities, the BOP includes a number of new prescribed burning, grazing, slashing and physical fuel removal activities in urban fringe areas. It also includes more than 6,000 hectares of fuel management activities within Asset Protection Zones.

QTON - Roll-over from last year's budget

Mrs Burke : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change-

In relation to : roll-over from last years budget, what is the amount of the roll-over from last year's budget?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The proposed roll-over from 2006/07 is \$67,935.00. This is subject to approval under Section 16B of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

433 Environment, Water and Climate Change Foskey

QTON - Output class to cease after 2006-07

Dr Foskey: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change -

In relation to : Page 299 of BP4:

At the top of page 299 it states “Output class to cease after 2006-07”. What does that mean?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The note “Output class to cease after 2006-07” is a printing error.

434 Environment, Water and Climate Change Stefaniak

QTON - State of the Environment Report

Mr Stefaniak: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to : State of the Environment Report

How many copies of the report will be printed?

Mr Stanhope: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The response to this question is provided in Question on Notice E07-110.