

2019

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

**Response to Assembly resolution of 15 May 2019
Reusable coffee cup zone trial**

**Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability**

ACT reusable coffee cup scheme Update on progress as at November 2019

I am pleased to provide this progress update on the trial of a reusable coffee cup scheme. Australians consume more than 50,000 cups of coffee every half hour and use an estimated 1 billion disposable coffee cups each year. These disposable cups require energy and water to create and, while they can be recycled in the ACT, the lowest impact option is to avoid their use in the first place.

This trial will encourage the use of reusable coffee cups to reduce resource use and avoid waste generation. It will support local businesses and residents to take action to reduce their impacts and will promote a culture of reuse. The trial also supports the ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025 and is consistent with the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-2025.

Background

In May 2019, the Legislative Assembly called on the ACT Government to develop an implementation strategy for a reusable coffee cup trial within the Gungahlin region, in conjunction with local businesses and organisations.

The Legislative Assembly also asked the ACT Government to complete the strategy by the end of 2019, to commence the trial within 12 months, and to report back to the Legislative Assembly on progress in developing the trial by November 2019.

Progress to date

Since May 2019, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and the Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) Directorate have developed an ACT-wide reusable coffee cup scheme. The ACT-wide scheme was considered to offer wider benefits than a localised trial in Gungahlin.

The program's design has been informed by targeted discussions with selected ACT businesses and the Sydney Inner West Council, which runs a similar program. EPSDD and TCCS also reviewed similar schemes in Australia and overseas for best practice.

Following a competitive selection process conducted in September and October 2019, the ACT Government has engaged Green Caffein to run the ACT reusable coffee cup scheme for 12 months from December 2019.

Beyond this time, the ACT Government's expectation is that the program will continue to be operated by Green Caffein without further government support.

How the scheme will operate

The new ACT reusable coffee cup scheme will be operational from December 2019 and will be free for business and customers to participate in. The proposed cups for the scheme will contain recycled content, and at the end of their life will be recycled into new cups.

Using a 'swap-and-go' model, customers will be able to pick up a coffee in a reusable cup and return it to any café participating in the program. The trial will link with over 300 cafes already offering the service around Australia, including some in the ACT.

Customers will need to register for the service through a mobile phone app. After this, they will have access to up to two cups for a period of 30 days, after which point a replacement cup fee of \$12.99 dollars per cup will become payable. Green Caffein will send reminder emails to customers still holding cups after 15 days. If cups are returned within the 30 days no fee will apply.

The ACT Government's contribution of around \$40,000 seed funding for the scheme will support the purchase of 6,000 reusable coffee cups. This will support the rollout of the scheme to an estimated 80-100 cafés.

Participating cafés will need to receive dirty cups and lids, wash them and put them back in rotation. Cafés will have access to a toolkit of items to promote their involvement. As part of the scheme, Green Caffein will collect and report data on uptake and usage. This data will be used to evaluate the scheme and provide useful data for future policy development.

Individuals and organisations interested in participating in the scheme are encouraged to visit actsmart.act.gov.au for further details.