

SELECT COMMITTEES ON ESTIMATES 2009-2010

Question on Notice

Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

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Fairbairn Park complaints

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Fairbairn Pines sport and recreation precinct:

1. Are you aware of complaints that have been made by the operators of Paintball Sports Pty Limited about motor cycling activities in the precinct.
2. Are you aware of the nature of these complaints.
3. What has been your response to these complaints.
4. (a) Specifically, what action have you taken to respond to the detail of these complaints; (b) if you have not taken any action, why not.
5. (a) Have you had any consultations with Paintball Sports Pty Limited about their complaints; (b) if yes, what has been the outcome of these consultations; (c) if not, why not.
6. If you have taken action, has this resolved the concerns of Paintball Sports Pty Limited.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes.
2. The complaints were in relation to noise from motorcycles on the motocross track at Fairbairn Park Motorsport Complex.
3. The complaints have been investigated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) except where Paint Ball Sports Pty Ltd has lodged complaints with Canberra Connect and requested no further action be taken.
4. (a) EPA Officers have taken noise measurements at Fairbairn Park Complex compliance point at The Ridgeway during periods when Paintball Sports Pty Ltd were affected by noise. The noise levels have complied with the noise limit at the compliance point, however, in response to a complaint on 7 May 2009 the noise from the motocross track exceeded the authorised noise limit. The EPA subsequently issued a warning letter under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* and has written to Fairbairn Park Control Council (FPCC) requesting a written response by 10 June 2009 on what action they will be undertaking to ensure compliance with their Environmental Authorisation. The EPA has also directed FPCC to engage an acoustic consultant to reassess the noise emissions at the compliance location from the motorcycle track. (b) See response to 4(a).
5. (a) EPA Officers have met with representatives of Paintball Sports Pty Ltd both on site and at the offices of the EPA. (b) The outcome of the initial meeting, which included representatives from the motocross track and Parks, Conservation and Land within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services was that Paintball Sports Pty Ltd would engage an acoustic consultant to provide recommendations on noise attenuation measures for the site to minimise noise impacts from the motocross track. (c) See response to 5(b).
6. Paintball Sports Pty Ltd have yet to implement the recommendations detailed in the acoustic consultants report and have continued to lodge complaints with the EPA. The EPA are continuing to investigate these complaints, except where Paint Ball Sports Pty Ltd has lodged complaints with Canberra Connect and requested no further action be taken.

Fairbairn Park noise

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Fairbairn Pines sport and recreation precinct:

1. Does the Environmental Protection Authority have the power to test motor bikes for compliance with Australian noise standards.
2. (a) What action has been or is being taken to ensure that maximum noise levels are not exceeded; (b) If action is being taken, what is the nature of this action; (c) If no action is being taken, why not.
3. If the Environmental Protection Authority is able to make tests: (a) are such tests undertaken; (b) when are these tests undertaken; (c) how often are these tests undertaken.
4. If there is non-compliance with noise standards, what action is taken in response to this non-compliance.
5. If there are no tests being made, why is this so.
6. (a) Are there any legislative impediments to tests being undertaken; (b) if so, what action is being taken to enable such tests to be undertaken.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No.
2. (a) A maximum noise emission level for individual motorcycles is imposed by Motorcycling Australia (MA) which licences the complex as a race venue. This level is regulated by the governing body, MA. The EPA regulates the maximum noise level from activities at Fairbairn Park Motorsport Complex, which includes noise from motorcycle events, through Fairbairn Park Control Council's (FPCC) Environmental Authorisation. (b) MA is the governing body for the maximum noise emission levels from motorcycles. The EPA is unaware of any actions taken by MA. Officers from the EPA have attended the site to verify complaints and where there was evidence of noise from the motocross track, officers proceeded to the compliance location at The Ridgeway to undertake compliance monitoring in accordance with FPCC's Environmental Authorisation.
In response to a complaint on 7 May 2009 noise from the motocross track exceeded the noise limit at the compliance point. The EPA subsequently issued a warning letter under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* and has written to FPCC requesting a written response by 10 June 2009 on what action they will be undertaking to ensure compliance with their Environmental Authorisation. The EPA has also directed FPCC to engage an acoustic consultant to reassess the noise emissions at the compliance location, from the motocross track. (c) See response to 2(b).
3. (a) See response to Question 2. (b) Tests on individual motorcycles were undertaken by MA on 18 and 19 April 2009 during the Australian National Motocross Event. Motorcycles that were non compliant were not permitted to participate in events. (c) FPCC has advised the EPA that tests are only undertaken during National events.
4. If there is a breach of an Environmental Authorisation (e.g. the maximum noise level at the compliance point is exceeded there are a number of actions, depending on the nature of the offence, available to the EPA including, official warning, financial penalties (fines) and prosecution.
5. See response to Question 2.

6. (a) Yes, the EPA does not have the power under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* to test motor bikes for compliance with Australian noise standards. However, the EPA does have powers to regulate noise emissions from the Fairbairn Park Motorsport Complex. (b) Nil.

Fairbairn Park noise credit

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Fairbairn Pines sport and recreation precinct:

1. (a) Are motor cycle organisations subject to noise credit arrangements; (b) if so, what are the details of these arrangements.
2. Do these organisations comply with these arrangements.
3. If these organisations do not have a noise credit system, why is this so.
4. (a) Has a noise credit system applied to these organisations at any time; (b) if so, when were they removed from this noise credit system; (c) which ACT Government agency authorised the exemption of motor cycle organisations from this system.
5. Are other activities that take place in this precinct, such as motor sport, subject to a noise credit system.
6. How do these activities, such as motor sport, manage their noise credits.
7. (a) Have the noise credit arrangements applying to motor sport activities and to any other activities changed; (b) if so, how have they changed; (c) who authorised these changes; (d) what are the details of the new arrangements.
8. What noise credit arrangements apply to motor cycle organisations in other jurisdictions in Australia.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. (a) Yes, when they operate in Fairbairn Park or other authorised motor racing venues. (b) Motorsport activities including motorcycle racing, kart racing and hill climbing are subject to Fairbairn Park Control Council's (FPCC) Environmental Authorisation issued under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* by the EPA. The activities at the site are also subject to the Motorsport Noise Environment Protection Policy (EPP) 2002 which specifically allocated event credits to motorsport activities at the Fairbairn park site.

The Motorsport Noise EPP deals with how environmental authorisations are granted to the organisers of motorsport events at specific locations in the ACT.

The aim of the policy is 'to balance the need to provide adequate protection to neighbouring residents from the noise with the rights of motorsports enthusiasts to participate in their sport in accordance with the objects of the *Environment Protection Act 1997*.' To this end, the EPP recognises that noise in excess of the limits set out in the *Environment Protection Act 1997* is inevitable.

The Policy limits noise pollution by regulating the: volume, time, regularity, frequency and prior notification of events:

- Volume: No event is allowed to exceed 65dB(A_{L10}) at the compliance location.
- Frequency: Event organizers are allowed to exceed noise zone standards by 2.5dB(A) for each 0.5 event credit they forego. (Fairbairn Park Cluster is supplied with 27 event credits each year and Stromlo Forest [including Pipeline] 7 credits). However, event credits can only be used up to 65dB(A_{L10}).
- Time: Events can be held between 9am and 10pm. But, if an event is running at 5pm and is longer than 5 hours, it is deemed to be two events, and hence event credits have to be used for both the events.

- Regularity: The Policy encourages event organisers to hold more than one event at a time by limiting the regularity of events. Events are only allowed on: two weekends of any month, and not more than two consecutive days, and cannot be held over more than two consecutive weekends.
 - Prior Notification: The final method is prior notification. Event organisers must give the EPA ten weeks notice of an event. Eight weeks prior to the event the EPA will advertise the date and event credits used for the event in a relevant newspaper. There are allowances made for poor weather. If an event is cancelled due to uncontrollable factors, event credits can be retained if there is one week's notice, in a relevant newspaper.
2. The Authorisation is reviewed annually by the EPA and Fairbairn Park Control Council (FPCC) were found to comply with the conditions of the Authorisation.
 3. See response to Question 1.
 4. See response to Question 1.
 5. All motorsport activities at the Fairbairn Park Motorsport complex are subject to the Authorisation and noise credit system.
 6. Where the FPCC believe noise credits will be required they advise the EPA in accordance with the Motorsport Noise EPP. The EPA advertises the event details and credits to be used in the Canberra Times. Event organisers must give the EPA ten weeks notice of an event. Eight weeks prior to the event the EPA will advertise the date and event credits used for the event in a relevant newspaper. The EPA monitors the number of credits to ensure not more than 27 are utilised.
 7. The Motorsports EPP was first approved by the EPA in 1998. The original EPP included 33 credits for the Fairbairn Cluster. Following a review of the EPP in 2002 the event credits were reduced to 27. This reduction was driven by the desire of nearby residents and the EPA to better manage noise emissions from activities at the site to reduce impacts on surrounding residents.
 8. To the best of my Department's knowledge the ACT is the only jurisdiction which utilises a noise credit system for motorsport activities. Other jurisdictions manage the noise levels through conditions of development approval or specific planning controls.

Fairbairn Park soil mound

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Fairbairn Pines sport and recreation precinct:

1. Has Paintball Sports Pty Limited been given approval to construct a 2.5 metre high soil mound as a noise reflector between their site and the motor cycling site.
2. What requirements have been placed on the company in building this mound.
3. Why have the motor cycle organisations been permitted to import soil onto their lease.
4. Was this soil intended to build a noise reflecting mound.
5. (a) Has this soil been used for this purpose; (b) if not, for what purpose has this soil been used; (c) specifically, has this soil been used to raise the level of the race track; (d) why were the motor cycle organisations permitted to use the soil in this way.
6. What action will Paintball Sports Pty Limited be permitted to take in the event that the motor cycle organisations have not used their soil for the approved use.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has granted an Environmental Authorisation for the placement of soil for the purpose of creating a noise mound between the Fairbairn Park Complex and Paintball Sports Pty Ltd. The Authorisation has been granted for three years.
2. The conditions in the Authorisation include that the soil must be Virgin Excavated Natural Material or material approved by the EPA. Records and certifications must be kept for all soil imported and placed on the site. These records must be supplied to the EPA on request.
3. The EPA has granted Fairbairn Park Control Council an Environmental Authorisation for the placement of soil for the purpose of creating and forming tracks within the motocross circuit, increase the size of an existing dam to reduce the reliance on potable water and assist with dust suppression.
4. No.
5. (a) No. (b) The soil has been used for the purpose of creating and forming tracks within the motocross circuit, increase the size of an existing dam to reduce the reliance on potable water and assist with dust suppression. (c) Motocross tracks are not level like a normal road car racing circuit and require changes in level and grade. The soil would be used for turns, jumps and other aspects of the track. The configuration of the track does not form part of the Authorisation. Provided the soil is not contaminated and measures are in place to prevent sediment leaving the site, the Fairbairn Park Control Council is free to design the track to their requirements. (d) The government does not have any regulation or policies on the design or configuration of motorcycle dirt tracks.
6. The *Environment Protection Act 1997* specially does not affect any civil right or remedy available to a person in relation to conduct to which the Act applies. A breach of an Environmental Authorisation is a serious offence under the Act, with penalties ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000. The EPA would investigate any breach of an Authorisation. These same penalties for breaching the conditions of the authorisation would also apply to Paintball Sports Pty Ltd.

Fairbairn Park maximum noise levels

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Fairbairn Pines sport and recreation precinct:

1. Are there any national and/or international criteria for maximum noise levels that are permitted at motor cycle activities.
2. What are these criteria.
3. How are these criteria applied in the ACT.
4. What is the maximum limit on noise on leases used by motor cycle riders and motocross riders.
5. How does this limit compare to limits required elsewhere in Australia at venues where similar activities take place.
6. (a) Is there any intention to reduce this noise limit; (b) What policies are being implemented elsewhere in Australia with respect to phasing in reductions in noise levels.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes, only at Motorcycling Australia licensed complexes.
2. Motorcycling Australia's criteria at licensed complexes are 2 stroke motorcycles – 96dB(A), 4 stroke motorcycles 94dB(A) which are measured 500mm from the centre line at the end of the exhaust pipe at an angle of approximately 45 degrees and at least 200mm above the ground.
3. The criteria are applied through Motorcycling Australia.
4. The *Environment Protection Regulation 2005* details the noise zones that apply in the ACT which are based on land uses in the Territory Plan, and the corresponding noise levels that apply. These levels apply except in the case of authorised motorcycle events or venues where the Environmental Authorisation sets times and noise limits that will apply.
5. The ACT is the only jurisdiction that applies noise levels to specific noise zones. Other jurisdictions are far more complex in their management of noise for specific activities such as motorcycle tracks and would apply limits based on site specific studies which take into account surrounding activities and would impose conditions through development consent or local planning instruments.
6. (a) There are no immediate plans to reduce the noise limit. The EPA will be reviewing the Motorsport Noise EPP in the next 24 months. The outcome of that review will guide the determination of appropriate noise levels. (b) The Department is unaware of specific policies being implemented by other jurisdictions to phase in reductions in noise levels.

Fairbairn Park NSW residents

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to the Fairbairn Pines sport and recreation precinct:

1. Are you aware of any complaints from residents living at The Ridgeway in NSW about noise from motor cycling activities in the Fairbairn Pines precinct.
2. If so, how many complaints have been lodged.
3. Over what period have these complaints been made.
4. What action has been taken about these complaints.
5. Has this action resolved the complaints.
6. (a) Have there been any complaints from The Ridgeway about any other activities in the precinct; (b) if so, what action has been taken about these complaints; (c) has this action resolved these complaints.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes
2. There have been 39 complaints lodged with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) since records have been kept electronically in the EPA's Complaints Database.
3. 1999 – 1 complaint (The Ridgeway), 2003 – 4 complaints (The Ridgeway), 2004 – 1 complaint (The Ridgeway), 2005 – 1 complaint (The Ridgeway), 2008 – 19 complaints (1-The Ridgeway, 18- Paintball Sports P/L) , 2009 – 13 complaints (1-The Ridgeway, 12- Paintball Sports P/L).
4. The complaints were investigated by officers of the EPA, except where Paintball Sports P/L requested no action. Officers have taken noise measurements at Fairbairn Park Complex compliance point at The Ridgeway during periods when Paintball Sports P/L were affected by noise. The noise levels have complied with the noise limit at the compliance point, however, in response to a complaint on 7 May 2009 the noise from the motocross track exceeded the authorised noise limit. The EPA subsequently issued a warning letter under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* and has written to Fairbairn Park Control Council (FPCC) requesting a written response by 10 June 2009 on what action they will be undertaking to ensure compliance with their Environmental Authorisation. The EPA has also directed FPCC to engage an acoustic consultant to reassess the noise emissions at the compliance location from the motorcycle track.
5. For residents on The Ridgeway, Yes. For Paintball Sports P/L, No.
6. (a) Yes, over the years there have been complaints in relation to most of the motorsport activities at the Fairbairn Motorsport Complex. In each case the EPA has worked with the FPCC to resolve the matters to the satisfaction of residents. (b) The complaints were investigated by officers of the EPA and, where measures were required to address a particular noise issue, these measures were implemented in consultation with FPCC and the particular track concerned.
(c) Yes.

Community partnerships

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to : Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

1. 2009-10 Priorities [BP4, p331] – In relation to the community partnerships with the Environment Centre, the Conservation Council and SEE Change ACT:
 - (a) Does the government provide in-kind as well as financial support to the community partners?
 - (b) What do the partners contribute back to the government?
2. Accountability Indicators [ref BP4, p336]
 - (a) Output 1.1 Environment Protection and Water Management
 - i) Indicator e – ACT Environment Grants program:
 - (1) Why was the indicator discontinued?
 - (2) Are environment grants still available?
 - (3) If yes, under what program and who administers it?
 - (4) If no, why?
 - ii) Indicator h – Administer water resources
 - (1) What input does the department make to ICRC reviews of water pricing, capital works programs and other issues associated with the ACT's water supply?
 - (2) What interaction does the department have with surrounding regional councils in terms of matters associated with water, including, but not limited to, supply, environmental flows, waste water, water treatment and recycling?
 - (3) What interaction does the department have with the Murray Darling Basin Commission?
 - iii) Indicator i – assess and report on water quality:
 - (1) What assessment of water quality does the department undertake?
 - (2) Is this assessment different to and independent of the assessments made by ACTEW Corporation?
 - (3) If yes, in what way is it different to and independent of ACTEW's assessments?
 - (4) If no, why is there duplication of effort in this area?
 - (5) What action, apart from issuing a report, is taken if a discrepancy between the two is identified?
 - (6) Were there any discrepancies identified during 2008-09?
 - (7) If yes, what action, apart from issuing a report, was taken?
 - (b) Output 1.2 – Policy
 - i) Indicator a – National Reforms in energy and water
 - (1) What has been achieved in 2008-09?
 - (2) What work is planned for 2009-10?
 - ii) Indicator e – ACT Water Policy
 - (1) When will the review of *Think water, act water* be undertaken and reported upon?
 - (2) What are the terms of reference?
 - (3) Who will do the review?
 - (4) How much will it cost?
 - (c) Output 1.3 – Sustainability Programs
 - i) Indicator c – ACT/Commonwealth funded sustainability programs
 - (1) What programs will be delivered in 2009-10?
 - (2) What are the ACT and Commonwealth governments contributing to these programs, in both cash and in-kind support?
 - (3) In what way is the community engaged in these programs?

- (4) What roles do the government's community partners play in these programs?
- ii) Indicator d – Feed-in tariff
 - (1) What advice is the department giving to the government in relation to extending the feed-in tariff to larger installations?
- (d) Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
 - i) The website for the office publishes its Corporate Plan for 2005-06 to 2008-09. When will an updated corporate plan be available?
 - ii) Indicator b – Uptake of recommendations of State of the Environment Report – In general terms, what has been the uptake of the recommendations?
 - iii) Indicator g – 2009 State of the Environment Report
 - (1) What cash and in-kind support do regional councils make to preparation of the Report?
 - (2) If none, why?
- 3. Expenditure Initiatives [ref BP3, p88]
 - (a) Commercial and government office space energy efficiency [ref p89]
 - i) What activities will be undertaken?
 - ii) What performance measures will be used to assess the success of this program?
- 4. Financials [BP4, p338]
 - (a) What efficiency measures is the department planning to enable it to meet its required efficiency dividend in the outyears?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1(a)

The ACT Government provides limited in-kind support for the activities of these organisations. This is primarily by providing copies of ACT Government publications and other materials that the organisations can distribute on behalf of the Government at community events.

1(b)

The three organisations have received funding from the ACT Government in the 2009-10 budget to support their operations. The Canberra Environment and Sustainability Resource Centre and the Canberra Conservation Council have received ACT Government funding in the past to contribute to the operational costs of the organisations. SEE Change ACT has not previously received specifically appropriated funds to support its operations, rather relying on one-off grant funding. The deliverables from each organisation as a result of this 2009-10 ACT Budget funding are the subject of negotiation. The Government's objective is to promote a coordinated and enhanced partnership with these organisations.

2(a)(i)(1)

This accountability indicator was transferred from the Department of Territory and Municipal Services as part of the creation of the new Department.

The accountability indicator definition was to coordinate an environment grants program on an annual basis. This indicator did not provide meaningful information as to the Department's performance in the delivery of ACT Environment Grants programs, as a consequence this indicator was discontinued.

Funding for ACT Environment Grants, however, is ongoing.

2(a)(i)(2)

As advised, ACT Environment Grants are still available. Applications for the 2009-10 round of funding will be called for shortly and will close at the end of June 2009.

2(a)(i)(3)

The ACT Environment Grants program is administered by the Sustainability Programs Branch of the Department.

2(a)(i)(4)

Not applicable.

2(a)(ii)(1)

The Department is in the process of seeking advice in relation to the pricing of storm water.

2(a)(ii)(2)

The Environment Protection Authority regulates Queanbeyan City Council's (QCC) Oaks Estate Sewage Treatment Plant. QCC holds an Environmental Authorisation, under *the Environment Protection Act 1997*, for sewage treatment.

The Department hosts the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee facilitator who works with Snowy River Shire Council, Cooma - Monaro Shire Council, Palerang Council, Queanbeyan City Council and Yass Valley Council on natural resource management issues including water in the upper Murrumbidgee River Catchment.

2(a)(ii)(3)

My Department has direct interaction with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority now taken over from the Murray Darling Basin Commission (as of December 2008). I am the ACT representative on the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council. The Director of Policy is the ACT's representative on the Basin Officials Committee which meets about six times a year.

2(a)(iii)(1)

The Department samples water quality for a range of physical parameters at 16 sites and biological parameters at 13 sites, some of which are co-located, in and close to the ACT.

2(a)(iii)(2)

Yes. ACTEW samples water quality for a range of drinking water parameters in water supply catchments and storages and physical and biological parameters in areas downstream of storages as required by licence conditions.

2(a)(iii)(3)

The two sampling programs are different and target different locations or independent parameters.

2(a)(iii)(4)

Not applicable.

2(a)(iii)(5)

Not applicable

2(a)(iii)(6)

No.

2(a)(iii)(7)

Not applicable.

2(b)(i)(1)

Energy

The main national energy reforms completed in the ACT was the application of the National Gas Law and the establishment of a single energy market operator for Australia, that will be known as the Australian Energy Market Operator. Other achievements included increasing the energy efficiency requirements of fridges and air conditioners for sale in the ACT. High quality, relevant advice was provided in approximately 80 briefs and ministerials supplied to the Minister.

Water

To date the ACT has participated in the COAG National Water Reform agenda as led and co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Government and its Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. A COAG Water Subgroup was established in April 2008 with representation from all Australian jurisdictions with a number of working groups covering various components of water reform. The Reform Agenda was revised at the November COAG meeting. The ACT does not participate on all the working groups as they are not all relevant to the ACT. The main working groups of interest to the ACT include water planning, water trading, urban water reform, water pricing and the establishment of a system of national accounts.

2(b)(i)(2)

Energy

The forward work plan envisions:

- reviewing the competitiveness of ACT's retail electricity market;
- continuing the development of a nationally consistent customer framework for electricity;
- continuing development of nationally consistent energy safety and technical regulation;
- continuing development of an ACT Energy Policy;
- further increasing the energy efficiency requirements for electrical and gas appliances; and
- preparation of briefs and ministerials on energy issues as required.

Water

For 2009-10 the ACT will continue to participate in the National Reform Program agenda. For some matters there is a timeline of a few years to complete the reform activity.

The ACT is also involved in water reform under the National Water Initiative Agreement process. In 2009 there will be another Biennial Assessment of the performance of all jurisdictions including the ACT.

2(b)(ii)(1)

The review of *Think water, act water* will commence in the second half of 2009 and will be reported upon in 2010.

2(b)(ii)(2)

The terms of reference are yet to be determined. However it is envisaged that there will be two stages. Stage 1 will review current objectives, targets and performance. Stage 2 will look at water planning for the future and related issues for the ACT. The terms of reference will set out the coverage of the review.

2(b)(ii)(3)

The review will be conducted by the Department in consultation with other agencies and ACTEW and may entail the use of consultants on matters of expertise and scientific and technical advice.

2(b)(ii)(4)

The costing of the review is yet to be determined but final costs will be determined once the terms of reference are settled. The majority of the costs will be absorbed within the Department.

2(c)(i)(1)

The two Commonwealth programs to be utilised by the ACT and delivered in 2009-10 are “Caring for our Country” and “Australian Government Water Fund”.

2(c)(i)(2)

For 2009-10:

Caring for our Country:

- Cash contributions – Commonwealth (\$1.359 million), the ACT Government (\$0.461 million).
- In-kind support – Commonwealth (Nil). The ACT Government (\$1.1 million).

Australian Government Water Fund:

- Cash contribution - Commonwealth (\$10.2 million), the ACT Government (\$6.8 million).
- In-kind support – Commonwealth (Nil). The ACT Government (Nil).

2(c)(i)(3)

Caring for our Country:

The community is engaged through the work of the ACT NRM Council and the NRM team in the Department. The NRM Team have facilitators (currently 2.8 FTE) specifically employed to engage the community about the Caring for our Country initiative and the ACT Government’s complementary investment.

The Council/NRM team meet regularly with key stakeholders and support the operation of the ACT Catchment and Landcare Association, which is a peak network for engagement about NRM in the Territory.

The Association has members from Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Molonglo Catchment Group, Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Canberra Conservation Council, Canberra and South East Region Environment and Sustainability Resource Centre, SEE Change ACT and the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee.

Australian Government Water Fund:

- Community consultation meetings;
- Consultation with potential end users of stormwater for irrigation.

2(c)(i)(4)

Caring for our Country:

The Government’s community partners, some of whom were detailed above are involved in the delivery of the program through the implementation of specific projects.

Australian Government Water Fund:

- CSIRO Feasibility study included a social analysis component that included an electronic survey that 500 community members participated in and a series of focus groups to determine community perspectives on stormwater harvesting, aquifer storage and recovery and recycled water projects (report available to the public);
- Community representative on Project Team.

2(c)(ii)(1)

The Government has established an inter-agency committee, chaired by DECCEW, to conduct a review that considers if, and on what basis, access to the feed-in tariff by generators of a capacity greater than 30kW may be appropriate. It is anticipated that a Discussion Paper will be publicly issued in July 2009 with a final Report to Government in late November 2009.

2(d)(i)

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's (OCSE) Strategic Plan is currently being finalised and will be available when OCSE upgrades its website which is scheduled for the end of July 2009.

2(d)(ii)

The Government is yet to table its response to the State of the Environment Report.

2(d)(iii)(1)&(2)

The 2009 Regional State of the Environment Report (RSoER) is an update of the 2004-2008 RSoER and not a comprehensive report. The Regional Councils have provided \$93,181 (including GST). They will also provide data for the update of the report.

3(a)(i)

The ACT Government will join CitySwitch as a partner - the program is managed by the City of Sydney.

Office space tenants from businesses and government departments will be invited to join the CitySwitch program as signatories. As signatories they are in a position to undertake a number of activities that will increase their energy efficiency.

The activities include:

- installing energy efficient lighting and office equipment;
- changing to flat screen monitors;
- activating sleep mode on equipment where applicable;
- upgrading lighting controls including occupancy sensors and timers;
- purchasing GreenPower from renewable sources; and
- educating staff on the benefits of energy efficiency.

3(a)(ii)

The key performance measure is that CitySwitch signatories commit to achieve and maintain an accredited 4 star, or higher, National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) energy tenancy rating. NABERS measures and rates a tenancy's actual yearly greenhouse gas emissions using 12 months of energy bills.

Signatories also formally agree to undertake 6 energy actions that are outlined in a letter from their Chief Executive upon joining.

4(a)

The Department is currently examining options for delivering the efficiency dividend with an emphasis on measures on saving that can and will contribute on sustainable options

Community partnerships

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to : **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water**

1. Has the department or any of its agencies ever provided funding by way of endowment funding, one-off project funding, or similar specific-purpose funding to tertiary education institutions, co-operative research centres, or other similar tertiary education or research institutions (excluding the government's overall recurrent tertiary education funding commitments)?
2. In relation to the payments:
 - a. when were they made;
 - b. how much was paid;
 - c. to which institutions; and
 - d. for what purpose?
3. What acquittal of the funding was/is required?
4. In the case of endowment funding, what role does the department or its agencies have in monitoring the on-going management of the endowment fund, including the disbursement of fund income? If no role, why?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Department has provided two (2) payments, both to the Australian National University (ANU). Payments were for a Bursary, and a contribution to the Climate Change Institute (through the Chief Minister's Department).

Answers to Questions 2 to 4 for each payment are as follows:

Bursary

2. (a) 21 June 2007
(b) \$60,000
(c) The Australian National University
(d) To establish a Fund to support research into solar energy through scholarships, bursaries and/or prizes for students in the honours, masters and summer programs at the Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems.
3. The funds have been allocated to student scholarships for outstanding achievement. The funding is maintained in a separate account with all interest earned going towards providing further assistance. No further acquittal is required.
4. The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water (DECCEW) will maintain an advisory role along with other funding providers to ensure that the funds are allocated appropriately.

Climate Change Institute

2. (a) The Deed of Grant was signed on 11 May 2009
(b) \$2.5 million (Chief Minister's Department contributed the funding and facilitated the Deed of Grant. DECCEW manages the relationship)
(c) The Australian National University

(d) To contribute to the construction of a facility to accommodate the ANU Climate Change Institute.

3. No acquittal requirements exist. Funds were allocated to accommodation for the ANU Climate Change Institute.

4. Item 4, Schedule 2, 'The Funded Activity' from the Deed of Grant ensures collaboration and partnership between the ANU and ACT Government. The Institute will work with the ACT Government on the implementation of the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2007-2025: Weathering the Change and future strategies.

Staffing

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to : **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water**

1. Staffing in each Output Class:
 - (a) How many staff will be employed on 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2010?
 - (b) What are the reasons for any changes in staff numbers?
 - (c) What proportions of the total budget and total staff numbers are used for service delivery (achieving outcomes) and administration (outputs)?
 - (d) What percentage of total expenditure and total staff can be attributed to:
 - i) initiatives in 2009-10; and
 - ii) existing/ongoing tasks?
2. What options are under active consideration in each Output Class for savings and efficiency measures in future budgets?
3. Service programs delivered in each Output Class during 2009-10:
 - (a) What is the name and description of each program?
 - (b) What government policy drives each program?
 - (c) How many staff are engaged in each program?
 - (d) What are the objectives for each program?
 - (e) What is the total budget for each program?
 - (f) When did/does each program start?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) The Department has one output class.
 - 1a) On 1 July 2009 it is estimated that 92.2 full time employees will be employed. These staffing figures are constant for all of the 2009-10 financial year.
 - 1b) There are no changes in staff numbers.
 - 1c) Proportion of the total 2009-10 Budget for:
 - service delivery is \$19.9 million, or 83%
 - administration is \$4.2 million, or 17%Proportion of total staff numbers used for:
 - service delivery is 76, or 83%
 - administration is 16, or 17%
 - 1d) For recurrent initiatives funded through the 2009-10 budget:
 - (i) percentage of total expenditure 22%, percentage of total staff 12%
 - (ii) percentage of total expenditure 78%, percentage of total staff 88%
- 2) The Department is currently examining options for savings and efficiency measures in future budgets.
- 3) Please refer to Attachment 1

Program Name	Program Description	Government Policy	Staff No:	Objectives	09-10 Budget \$'000	Program Start Date
ACT Environment Grants	Annual funding program designed to assist community participation in worthwhile environmental projects	This program complements the delivery of the ACT Government's environmental priorities, as articulated in the <i>Canberra Plan: Towards our Second Century</i> .	0.5	Applications are assessed on how well they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - align with ACT Government environmental priorities; - deliver a result that benefits the ACT environment; - demonstrate sound project planning, including achievable milestones, timelines, and project outcomes; - are realistic and value for money; and - have demonstrated relevant stakeholder and community support 	\$0.274	Program runs annually. The 2009-10 round of applications will be called for shortly and close on 30 June 2009.
Weathering the Change	Program involves reporting and implementation	<i>Weathering the Change</i> the ACT Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2025	3.0	To track and report on the implementation of the Weathering the Change Action Plan.	\$1.340	July 2007
Switch Your Thinking includes: - Think water, act water - Weathering the Change	Development and implementation of a consolidated evidence-based program designed to reduce consumption of energy and water and generation of waste.	<i>Weathering the Change</i> the ACT Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2025 <i>Think water act water</i> Strategy	9.2	To encourage community behavioural and structural change to reduce water, energy and waste generation.	\$6.613	Various start dates. Switch Your Thinking label from 2008-09

Program Name	Program Description	Government Policy	Staff No:	Objectives	09-10 Budget \$'000	Program Start Date
Caring for our Country	The program is a Commonwealth natural resource management initiative that integrates into one package the Commonwealth's previous Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP), the National Landcare Program, the Environmental Stewardship Program and the Working on Country Indigenous land and environmental programs	The Commonwealth Government is the policy driver for this program. The Commonwealth's policy is to set clear objectives and targets for NRM investment and to deliver funding in partnership with regional natural resources management organisations, local, state and territory governments, Indigenous groups, industry bodies, land managers, farmers, Landcare groups and communities. This approach complements the ACT Government's approach to addressing NRM issues in the Territory.	0.5	<p>The objectives are set by the Commonwealth. The overall objective is to achieve an environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate. The annual Business Plan prepared by the Commonwealth, in consultation with the States and Territories, NRM regions and the natural resource management experts sets specific targets and actions in the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the National Reserve System; - biodiversity and natural icons; - coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats; - sustainable farm practices; - natural resource management in northern and remote Australia; and - community skills, knowledge and engagement 	\$1.820	July 2008

Program Name	Program Description	Government Policy	Staff No:	Objectives	09-10 Budget \$'000	Program Start Date
<p>Urban Waterways Program comprises two projects:</p> <p>1. <i>Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways</i></p> <p>2. <i>Urban Waterways - Stormwater Improvement</i></p>	<p>The Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project is focusing on integrating urban waterway management by investigating opportunities for investment in storm water harvesting ponds and aquifer storage and recovery.</p> <p>The Urban Waterways - Stormwater Improvement Project aims to engage with the community to facilitate the design of an urban wetland pond in the Ginninderra Catchment (corner of Gundaroo Road and Gungahlin Drive) and manage the construction of the Banksia Street wetland in O'Connor. The project will also establish a long-term stormwater / wetland education program that will be delivered to schools through incorporation into the ACT curriculum</p>	<p>Projects are driven by the following ACT Government policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New land release in Molonglo requiring the best practice construction of North Weston Pond for water quality, flood protection, increased amenity to maximise property values and stormwater harvesting; - Minister Barr's announcement in October 2007 that "By 2013 no sportsground in public or private ownership in the ACT will rely solely on the use of potable water to guarantee sporting operations"; - Initiative 4.3 of the Parliamentary Agreement "Accelerating the replacement of 	3.0 (1 contractor)	<p><i>Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project</i></p> <p>Objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of a holistic approach to the project, incorporating a range of options and taking account of environmental, social and economic outcomes. - Application of waterway values and objectives as a means for metropolitan integration of WSUD based measures; - Application of an integrated urban waterway management approach; - Development and refinement of relevant policies, guidelines and procedures; - Options for developer contributions to off-site flow detention facilities; - Reduce potable supply by reusing at least 3 GL of collected stormwater for urban 	<p>\$17.0 total</p> <p>-\$10.2 from Water Smart Australia Program</p> <p>-\$6.8 (from ACT Govt - 40% of total)</p> <p>\$0.290 (jointly National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and ACT Govt funded)</p>	<p><i>Integrated Urban Waterways Project</i> - March 2007</p> <p><i>Urban Waterways Storm water</i> - March 2009</p>

		<p>stormwater drains with urban wetlands”;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Think water, act water</i> Strategy objectives to reduce potable water use, maximise potable water substitution, reduce peak stormwater flows and reduce nutrients entering ACT waterways; - Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Guidelines that became effective in March 2007; and - Natural Resource Management Plan for the ACT. 	<p>irrigation; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and evaluation of urban water management approaches including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detention ponds; • Infiltration basins; • Aquifer storage and recovery; • Wetland landscaping; • Stormwater management and flood mitigation; • Evaluation of catchment runoff and water quality; • Capacity building within the community. <p><i>Urban Waterways - Stormwater Improvement Project</i> Objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To plan and design and assist with strategically located wetlands that will improve water quality and waterway health in Ginninderra Catchment and Sullivans Creek catchment, Canberra; - Finalise design approvals and construct Banksia Street Wetland, O’Connor in Sullivans Creek Catchment; - Design a wetland pond in Ginninderra Catchment (to DA 	
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				<p>approval);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Design and deliver an urban wetlands and stormwater improvement education program;- To enhance biodiversity and promote water sensitive urban design in the ACT; and- Represent the community on the Project Team for the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project.		
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Travel

VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to : **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water for 2009-10**

1. How much will the department spend on travel including domestic and international travel?
2. How much will the department spend on focus groups, polling and other market research?
3. How much will the department spend on advertising and marketing?
4. What advertising/marketing campaigns will be undertaken during 2009-10?
5. What outcomes does the department expect to achieve as a result of this advertising?
6. How many credit cards does the department have for staff?
7. What credit limits do they have?
8. How many cars does the department have?
9. How many cars are there in each output class in the department?
10. What are these cars used for?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

Response to Question 1 through to 5.

Under program budgeting, specific allocations for travel, focus groups, polling, advertising, marketing and other market research are not separately determined.

Travel relates to attendance at intergovernmental meetings and for staff development purposes. The Budget includes \$85,000 for market research on community attitudes to reducing the use of plastic bags. There will also be advertising to promote the grants and rebates under the Switch your Thinking program, the Feed-in Tariff, to enhance consultation on the potential sites for the solar facility and to promote other departmental programs. The Department also engages in recruitment advertising and places appropriate notices in the Government NoticeBoard.

6. The Department has six (6) credit cards.
7. The credit card limits are as follows:

Credit Card Limit	Number of Credit Cards
\$2,000	1
\$5,000	4
\$10,000	1

8. The Department has 14 cars. These include cars accessed by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services and the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.
9. As above.
10. The cars are used for departmental matters including executive use, environment protection and natural resources management field work and other programs, e.g. water audits, sustainable schools, and attendance at stakeholder meetings

Sustainability

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: sustainability reporting

1. How much energy is it estimated the Department used for office functions in 2008-09 per FTE and /or per square metre of office space?
2. How does this compare with the Commonwealth benchmark/target of 7,500 megajoules /person / per year?
3. How will you contribute to meeting the Government's target of zero net emissions? What steps do you have in place to reduce the Department's energy use?
4. How much is your Department spending on energy efficiency measures?
5. Is your Department eligible for the ACT Government energy efficiency loan fund?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If yes, have you applied, or will you?
6. How much waste is it estimated the Department generated per FTE in 2008-09?
7. What systems do you have in place for recycling of waste?
8. How much water is it estimated that the Department used in 2008-09? How much water will you use in 2009-10?
9. Do you use any benchmarks to assess your environment performance? If yes, please detail.
10. What financial savings have you made to date from improvements in your environmental resource efficiency?
11. Do you have a target for future reductions – across energy, water, waste?
12. Does your agency have a Sustainability Action Plan or a Resource Management Plan?
13. What other initiatives / measures are you undertaking to become carbon neutral as required under Action 2 of Weathering the Change?
14. Can you please provide all these answers in terms of office use and other, recognising that some agencies have specific service delivery needs that are not comparable to other agencies – ie schools, hospitals, public facilities

MR CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water (DECCEW) is co-located with the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) and the

Department of Education and Training (DET) within Macarthur House, Lyneham.
Disaggregated energy use data is not yet available for the 2008-09 year.

- (2) Not available.
- (3) DECCEW is undertaking a sustainability audit of the Macarthur House Annexe, to provide recommendations on how the Department can improve its energy, water and waste reduction strategies in 2009-10.
- (4) The audit mentioned above will cost \$10,460. The recommendations from this audit will help prioritise future spending.
- (5) Yes. DECCEW has not applied for the energy efficiency loan as the funding can be made available within the current budget.
- (6) DECCEW is co-located with TAMS and DET within Macarthur House, Lyneham. Disaggregated waste data is not yet available for the 2008-09 year.
- (7) DECCEW has implemented a range of programs within Macarthur House that contribute to workplace recycling and waste reduction. Organic waste collection bins have been placed in all kitchens and signage provides staff with information on recycling and composting. Similarly, dual-compartment desk side waste separation bins have been provided to ensure the separation of waste and recycling materials..
- (8) DECCEW is co-located with TAMS and the DET within Macarthur House, Lyneham. Disaggregated waste data is not yet available for the 2008-09 year.
- (9) Benchmarks are being developed as part of the Resource Management Plan that is currently in preparation.
- (10) Savings have not been calculated.
- (11) Targets will be set as part of the Resource Management Plan.
- (12) A Resource Management Plan for DECCEW will be developed following the sustainability audit currently being undertaken.
- (13) Strategies will be informed by the audit currently being undertaken.

Waste

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: Waste

- (1) Has the Government assessed the costs and benefits of increasing its target of waste diverted from landfill from 75% to 85% or more? Is this a triple bottom line costing? Can you please provide these figures?
- (2) What waste targets have you set (both for tonnes of waste to landfill, and waste diverted from landfill) for the next 5, 10, and later years?
- (3) If waste levels increase at the current rate (taking into account population increases), how much/how many landfill/s will be required in the next 20 years?
- (4) Is the commercial waste funding explicitly for a new approach to dealing with commercial waste? Or is this funding partly for finalising the review of the waste strategy?
- (5) Can you detail how the commercial waste initiative will proceed, including expected time lines?
- (6) What is the Government's response to the Zero Waste International Alliance's (ZWIA) motion calling upon the ACT Government "to return to the leadership role that it has played in support of Zero Waste" and urging the ACT Government to support Revolve?
- (7) Is the Government concerned with responsibility for diversion of waste sitting with Theiss, even though Theiss make more money the more waste goes to landfill? What alternative models has the Government considered, which would reward contractors for diverting waste from the landfill?
- (8) Zero Waste Australia has reported that in the ACT the average handling costs per tonne of waste in 2001 was \$8 per tonne. In the contract since 2007 the average handling cost per tonne is now \$24 - which is a 200% increase? What is the explanation for this?

MR CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- (1) No. Assessing the costs and benefits of options will form part of the development of a future waste strategy.
- (2) The Government retains the objective of no waste to landfill. Waste targets for future years will be considered in the development of a future waste strategy.
- (3) The current landfill at Mugga Lane is likely to reach capacity by around 2013. A new landfill will be required for future needs. The Department of Territory and Municipal Services is presently conducting a study to determine the options for the future expansion of the Mugga Land Landfill. It is likely that the ACT will only operate one landfill in line with current operations.
- (4) The Commercial Waste Scheme initiative will focus on the commercial and industrial sector that generates:
 - a. over half of all waste to landfill
 - b. significant food waste; and
 - c. specific waste items that are a growing problem such as electronic waste.

This initiative and further work by the ACT Government will lead to a replacement of the current No Waste by 2010 Strategy.

- (5) The consultation process will identify barriers to recycling and how to increase the recovery of recyclable material from the commercial waste stream. As part of this process, all options will be considered including a mix of regulatory and service delivery options. The aim will be to identify the least-cost and most effective alternatives. While regulation is one option to reduce waste to landfill, it will need to be assessed against all other potential policy options. Another option to be examined will be the provision of four hoppers (landfill, glass and plastic containers, paper and cardboard, and organic waste) as set out in the Parliamentary Agreement (PA) with the ACT Greens.

Expected timelines are:

- a. Release of a Commercial and Industrial Waste Discussion Paper by October 2009.
 - b. Completion of industry and stakeholder consultations by June 2010.
 - c. Release of a Business Waste Reduction Strategy in 2011.
- (6) The ACT Government has received emails from members of the Zero Waste International Alliance regarding Revolve. The Department of Territory and Municipal Services is responding to this correspondence as they relate to operational issues.
 - (7) The Department of Territory and Municipal Services advises that Thiess Services operates the Mugga Lane landfill under contract to the Territory. Rates are determined by the contract. Thiess Services is paid if more waste is sent to landfill. The contract is structured this way to acknowledge the increased operational costs associated with increased material. The contract is available on the Government Contracts Register (CO7266).

Thiess Services has very little control over the materials that are sent to landfill. Government policies and contractual arrangements, the market value of recovered material and standards administered by the Environment Protection Authority determine whether material is recovered or sent to landfill.

- (8) The Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water does not know the source of the figures and cannot provide any information about these.

The Department of Territory and Municipal Service's output report for March 2008-09 indicates that the year-to-date operational cost of landfilling waste at Mugga Lane was \$14.26 per tonne. This covers the new waste contract arrangements that commenced on 1 July 2007 for site services and landfill and weighbridge operations at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre. The 1 July 2007 contract arrangements significantly increased contractual requirements and accompanying costs from the previous contract. Increased requirements were due to higher standards set by the Environment Protection Authority and a need to improve overall services at the site.

Plastic bags

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: Plastic bags

- (1) Has the Department commissioned legal advice on other options for addressing plastic bags in addition to the advice regarding a trial of a compulsory levy? If not why not?
- (2) Has the Department sought advise on the legality or otherwise of an outright ban on plastics bags?

MR CORBELL: The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

Carbon neutral Government operations

- (1) When will the Government establish a timetable with short term targets, to be zero net emissions in their operations?
- (2) Can you provide a copy of the Sustainability Policy and Framework for ACT Government Agencies referred to in the TAMS 2007-08 Annual Report.
- (3) In 2007-08 considerable improvements were made in the ESD reporting requirements of the Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2007-2010 by requiring all agencies to report on 20 or so quantitative indicators on their energy, water and waste use – and their greenhouse emissions.
- (4) Has any review been undertaken of agency reporting against these new requirements?
- (5) How often does the IDC reviewing agency performance meet?
- (6) What are its Terms of Reference?

MR CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) Following the Legislative Assembly Inquiry on ACT Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets the Government will develop a detailed roadmap and revised targets for the ACT which will inform targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in ACT Government operations.
- (2) The Administration Arrangements 2008 (No. 2) gave responsibility for sustainability policy coordination and Government accountability frameworks to the Chief Minister's Department and responsibility for environmental sustainability policy to the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water. The work done to date on sustainability in government operations is being reviewed in light of these arrangements to ensure integration across these functions.
- (3)
 - i. The Chief Minister's Department has advised that no formal review has been undertaken of agency reporting against these new requirements.
 - ii. There is no IDC dedicated to this issue solely, however reporting on ESD by agencies is taken into account in a range of forums including the Property Sustainability Working Group and the Climate Change IDC.

The Property Sustainability Working Group was established under the ACT Property Forum in December 2008 and has met four times since. The Property Sustainability Working Group comprises representatives from ACT Property Group, Department of Environment, Climate Change Energy and Water, Treasury, ACT Health, Chief Minister's Department, Department of Justice and Community Safety, InTACT, Department of Education and Training, Department of Health and Community Services, Territory and Municipal Services, Canberra Institute of Technology, ACT Procurement Solutions, and ACT Planning and Land Authority.

The Working Group plays a key role in implementing Action 2 of Weathering the Change, which requires agencies to pursue carbon neutrality in Government buildings.

Information on ESD indicators are important in measuring progress and informing future policy development, such as in developing the second Action Plan under *Weathering the Change*.

- iii. The Terms of Reference for the Property Sustainability Working Group are attached.

Carbon offsetting

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: Carbon Offsetting

- (1) In 2004 the Chief Minister announced that the emissions from the ACT Government fleet would be offset in future via a subscription to GreenFleet What is the status of this subscription?
- (2) Are emissions from the government fleet still offset by Greenfleet?
- (3) Have alternative ways of offsetting these emissions been considered?
- (4) How much does the subscription to Greenfleet cost per year?
- (5) Which agency is responsible for the management of the subscription?
- (6) Does the government have a policy on offsetting? Can it be made available?

MR CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- (1) Greenfleet completed the plantings set out in the 2004 contract earlier this year. The delay was caused by the drought which meant suitable plantings could not be undertaken until weather conditions changed.
- (2) Emissions from the government fleet are not currently being offset by Greenfleet. A long term arrangement is being discussed with the current fleet provider, sgfleet.
- (3) The Territory (through Procurement Solutions) has recently entered into a contract with sgfleet for the provision of fleet management services to the Territory for passenger and light commercial vehicles. A major feature of sgfleet management is the use of their Fleet Intelligence online fleet management tool.

Fleet Intelligence collects a comprehensive range of fleet data including fleet composition, vehicle utilisation, fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions. This data is available live online to agency fleet managers. This data can also be used to ensure the Territory is provided with sustainable fleet management as the data is able to guide decision making to ensure that the fleet is made up of the most fuel efficient, lowest emission vehicles.

The Territory's passenger and light commercial vehicle fleet consists of approximately 1,000 vehicles. This includes both pool and SES vehicles. Initial discussions have been held between Procurement Solutions and DECCEW in order to develop a procedure to offset emissions from fleet vehicles. Alternatives to Greenfleet will be considered.

- (4) The cost to offset emissions through Greenfleet is currently on average \$51 per vehicle per year. The cost varies depending on the size of the vehicle.
- (5) New arrangements to offset government vehicles are currently being established by Procurement Solutions, with DECCEW support.
- (6) The government policy on offsetting is the *ACTPS Non-Executive Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicle Management Policy* and is available on the Chief Ministers Department website. This policy is currently under review:
http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/568/actpsvehiclenonex.pdf

GGAS Program

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: GGAS program

- (1) Is the GGAS program still operating in the ACT?
- (2) What is its role in reducing the ACT's emissions currently?
- (3) What were the emission reductions for the ACT were in the last year of reporting?

MR CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) Yes.
- (2) ACT / NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme (GGAS) contributes to emission reductions by requiring electricity retailers to source each year an increasing percentage of their product offered for sale in the ACT from cleaner or green generations sources. The Scheme will continue to run in both jurisdictions until 2020 or such time as the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) commences.
- (3) The last report received on the Scheme was for the 2007 calendar year. The emission reductions for the ACT in that period were 403,024 tonnes of CO₂-e.

Energy efficiency fund for ACT Government agencies

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: Energy Efficiency Fund for ACT Government Agencies

- (1) How is \$1 million Energy Efficiency fund being promoted to Agencies?
- (2) What have been some of the obstacles to accessing the funding?
- (3) How are the emissions savings being calculated?

MR CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) The Energy Efficiency fund has been promoted to Agencies through the government notices and also through the Climate Change Inter Departmental Committee (IDC). The IDC meets every 6 weeks and at each meeting the fund is discussed.
- (2) The Department is establishing a review with representation from Property Group, within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services, and the Department of Treasury to identify and address barriers. This will cover the current guidelines, promotional activities, incentives and the treatments of savings in energy, fleet and water bills.
- (3) Agencies will be able to measure their energy savings by comparing bills before and after energy efficiency measures are taken. In the longer run, smart metering will assist in providing more accurate information which will assist in measuring emissions savings.

Weathering the change

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: Weathering the Change

- (1) Can the department provide any documents that evaluate the progress of Weathering the Change Action Plan One since its introduction?
- (2) What are the overall emission reductions that can be attributed to the implementation of the Weathering the Change strategy?
- (3) Which actions in the plan have resulted in the greatest reductions?
- (4) Has the Government done any evaluation of the cost of reducing emissions so as to identify the least cost actions?
- (5) Has a triple bottom line analysis been undertaken of the various policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
- (6) If yes, can it be made available?
- (7) If a triple bottom line analysis has not been undertaken of the various policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, why not?
- (8) Action 35 in Action plan one of Weathering the change relates to Sphagnum Bog mapping and recovery. How is the processing and what were the outcomes?
- (9) Action 17 in Action plan one of Weathering the Change refers to a review of travelling to work. Where is the review? What were the key outcomes?

MR CORBELL: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) A progress report was written in July 2008, a year after *Weathering the Change* was established. There is a link on the DECCEW website to the report.
- (2) Emissions in the ACT are measured via the greenhouse gas inventory. The 2005-06 inventory is currently being finalised and the 06-07 inventory is in progress.
- (3) Climate change is a complex and evolving policy issue. Included in *Weathering the Change* are actions that address both adaptation and mitigation. However, the actions that have resulted in significant measurable savings are Action 5 (Electricity retailers are now to offer a GreenPower product to new customers), Action 10 (the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme) and Action 12 (ACTION Bus fleet replacement).
- (4) This will be done as part of the development of the road map to achieve zero net emissions.
- (5) The broad across government triple bottom line framework is under development.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Not applicable.

- (8) A research partnership has been established with the ANU to manage this project. Mapping using remote sensing (air photos and satellite imagery) has commenced. Subsequent stages will involve ground inspections to refine the mapping done by remote sensing. A strategy for future management and monitoring will be prepared in association with the mapping documentation.
- (9) The Community and Infrastructure Services Section in Transport Branch in TAMS is reviewing the Canberra Transport Plan which will include a study of parking, cycling, walking and infrastructure – all of which have a travelling to work component. In addition, opportunities are being explored to introduce a carpooling pilot program within ACT agencies.

Biosphere

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: Biosphere

- (1) Will the Government be responding to the Assembly Committee report on a Biosphere?
- (2) If so, by when?
- (3) If not, why?

MR CORBELL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- (1) Yes
- (2) Once the Government has finalised its consideration of the report.
- (3) See (2)

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment – Reporting

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

In relation to: Sustainability reporting

- (1) What is the role of your office in regard to sustainability reporting?
- (2) Previously the Government produced a Sustainability Report – Measuring Our Progress. Who has carriage of that report now?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment advises that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) currently undertakes sustainability reporting through the State of the Environment Report for the ACT and through the OCSE's Annual Reports, which monitor implementation by Government of recommendations from the Office. The OCSE have been working with Government Agencies in examining sustainability reporting.

Action 2 of *Weathering the Change* Action Plan 1 outlines a role for the OCSE in scrutinising ACT Government Agencies Resource Management Plans. The OCSE is currently developing a terms of reference to undertake Government Agencies Environmental Performance Audit/Assessment.

- (2) The OCSE does not have carriage of the Measuring Our Progress report. The OCSE did report on those sustainability issues relevant for the State of the Environment Report, including the ACT's ecological footprint.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment – Carbon neutral government operations

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

In relation to: Carbon neutral government operations

- (1) What is your understanding of government progress in developing a strategic approach to how it will move towards carbon neutrality in its own operations?
- (2) Have you developed a review mechanism of government sustainability performance?
- (3) Are ACT Government agencies reducing their ecological footprint?
- (4) Last year for the first time agencies were required to report on their environmental resource use in the ESD section of their Annual report. Have you undertaken any assessment of the standard of this reporting? If not will you do so?
- (5) In regard to your own office, have you developed a sustainability action plan?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) There is reporting on various components of resource use in Agencies Annual Reports. The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) is developing terms of reference to undertake an audit/assessment on what is being reported, to help understand the data that is available and therefore what progress is being made.
- (2) Action 2 of *Weathering the Change* Action Plan 1 outlines a role for the OCSE in scrutinising ACT Government Agencies Resource Management Plans. As specified, the OCSE is developing terms of reference to undertake ACT Government Agencies Environmental Performance audit/assessment.
- (3) The OCSE is not aware of any ecological footprint analysis done on ACT Government agencies.
- (4) No, this will be undertaken by the OCSE as part of the proposed Government Agencies Environmental Performance Audit/Assessment.
- (5) The OCSE is working with other tenants in their building to undertake sustainability and resource management initiatives. The Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Building Sustainability Working Group is providing leadership in the building on these issues.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment – Carbon neutral government operations

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainability

In relation to: sustainability reporting

- (1) How much energy is it estimated your Agency used for office functions in 2008-09 per FTE and /or per square metre of office space?
- (2) How does this compare with the Commonwealth benchmark/target of 7,500 megajoules /person / per year?
- (3) How will you contribute to meeting the Government's target of zero net emissions? What steps do you have in place to reduce Agency energy use?
- (4) How much is your Agency spending on energy efficiency measures?
- (5) Is your Agency eligible for the ACT Government energy efficiency loan fund?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If yes, have you applied, or will you?
- (6) How much waste is it estimated your agency generated per FTE in 2008-09?
- (7) What systems do you have in place for recycling of waste?
- (8) How much water is it estimated that your Agency used in 2008-09? How much water will you use in 2009-10?
- (9) Do you use any benchmarks to assess your environment performance? If yes, please detail.
- (10) What financial savings have you made to date from improvements in your environmental resource efficiency?
- (11) Do you have a target for future reductions – across energy, water, waste?
- (12) Does your agency have a Sustainability Action Plan or a Resource Management Plan?
- (13) What other initiatives / measures are you undertaking to become carbon neutral as required under Action 2 of Weathering the Change?
- (14) Can you please provide all these answers in terms of office use and other, recognising that some Agencies have specific service delivery needs that are not comparable to other Agencies – ie schools, hospitals, public facilities

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment advises that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) shares the Motor Vehicle Registry Building with the Registry and with the Canberra Connect shopfront. The building includes a vehicle inspection area of a size suitable for large trucks and the public space with service counters and waiting area. The OCSE also share a

floor with other office users. The OCSE does not have separate figures for the office functions as all resource use figures are aggregated for the building as a whole.

Figures for energy are based on a proportion of whole building use. In the financial year to date, the OCSE have been apportioned the following amounts:

- Total 39,208kwh
- 6,534 kwh/FTE
- 253 kwh/m²

- (2) The Commonwealth benchmark is based on a benchmark for office space. The OCSE occupy a building, which has limited office space and significant space dedicated to customer service and motor vehicle testing, so the results are not comparable.
- (3) The OCSE continues their policy of, where possible, using public transport, carpooling or walking to engagements. For longer trips, the OCSE uses a hybrid car. The OCSE has a policy of turning off lights and computers when not needed.

The OCSE is a small area of a larger building and is working with other tenants in the building to encourage similar behaviour. The OCSE is also working with other tenants and the facilities manager to identify resource management options for the building.

- (4) The OCSE has not spent money on specific energy efficiency measures. The OCSE is working as part of the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Building Sustainability Working Group to develop a more sustainable building and will be using this process over the next year to assist prioritisation of spending on energy efficiency measures.
- (5) The OCSE has been advised that they are eligible. The OCSE will work with the other tenants in the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry building to undertake an energy audit. The outcomes of the audit will identify any areas where applications to the fund can be made.
- (6) Before a recycling initiative was put in place, it was estimated that staff and customers in the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry Building generated:
 - approximately 80kg per person per year of waste that went to landfill, which is a total of 10 tonnes for the whole building per year. The OCSE used 103 reams of office paper for each staff member per year including copies of reports and publicity for events. The OCSE produced major reports (both Regional and ACT State of the Environment Reports, and the Lowland Grassland Report).
 - 8 tonnes of recycled paper in a year for the whole building.

The recycling process is relatively new and data is yet to be collected following implementation.

- (7) The Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry has a Building Sustainability Working Group Committee, which the OCSE implemented.

I recently launched the 'Going Green Program' for the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry building. A key part of this initiative is a waste management program. Recycling bins have been rolled out to all desks in the building and paper recycling, mixed recycling and organic collection is now occurring throughout the building.

- (8) As with energy, water figures are based on a proportion of whole building use. In the financial year to date the OCSE have been allocated 16.6KL/FTE. The Building Sustainability Working Group will identify targets with the aim of reducing this figure for 2009-10.

- (9) The OCSE has not used benchmarks as they have not been able to identify a building with similar mixed uses to the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry.
- (10) Savings are yet to be identified. 2008-09 year to date spending on electricity is \$5,292.88. 2008-09 year to date spending on water consumption is \$298.84.
- (11) The Building Sustainability Working Group will identify targets with the aim of reducing energy, water use and waste generation. The recycling program and proposed energy audit is the first step in identifying where and how these savings can be made.
- (12) The OCSE is working with other tenants in the building to undertake sustainability and resource management initiatives. The Building Sustainability Working Group is providing leadership in the building on these issues.
- (13) Other initiatives include:
 - A new heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system will be installed in 2009 which aims to achieve a 6 star energy rating for the building and an upgraded ceiling grid will be installed throughout the building, allowing the installation of energy efficient lighting and smart switching.
 - Future plans for the Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry are proposed including rainwater tanks (providing water for toilets), external building cladding and solar powered water heating.

Integrated Urban Water Program

Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the ACT Planning and Land Authority

In relation to: Canberra Integrated Urban Water Program

1. Who are the large area irrigation customers?
2. What are the arrangements with the irrigation customers (pay, amount of water)?
3. What will the pumped water from the ponds be watering?
4. Who monitors the water levels and the water use?
5. What liaison has there been between ACTPLA and the Urban Integrated Waterways Project which is replacing drains to revive creeks? This is a particular issue in places like Woden East, where the creek runs straight through the area which is being redeveloped. It is likely that the development will prevent the creek being fully restored.
6. What is the relationship between the Canberra Integrated Urban Water Program and the Urban Integrated Waterways Project?

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

1. The large irrigators are Sport and Recreation Services, TaMS and schools. Other large irrigators include golf courses and some other sporting/recreation organisations such as EPIC and the Racecourse.
2. The Government is yet to determine arrangements with irrigators regarding pricing of stormwater delivered under the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project. The *Water Resources Act 2007* regulates the amount of water available and requirements for efficiency of use.
3. The harvested stormwater will be used to irrigate turf.
4. The Environment Protection Authority within the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water monitor water use in accordance with the *Water Resources Act 2007*.
5. The Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project is led by the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water in partnership with ACTPLA and in collaboration with other agencies. The Commonwealth Government funds two officers to implement the project, one housed within the Department and the other within ACTPLA. The arrangements ensure coordination between the work of the two agencies.
6. The Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project is funded by the Commonwealth's Water Smart Australia program (\$10.2 million) with deliverables specified under a Funding Deed with a timeframe of 4 years. The Urban Waterways Project has a 12 month timeframe and is funded by another Commonwealth program, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (\$290,000). Both programs are partially funded by the

ACT Government and aim to design and construct wetlands to restore urban creeks in the ACT and deliver non potable water to irrigators.

QTON Canberra Urban Waterways

MS VICKI DUNNE MLA: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to capacity of each of the ponds in the Canberra Urban Waterways Project:

MR CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The pond capacities provided are based on pre-feasibility design studies undertaken in 2005 by Bill Guy and Partners. During the detailed design stage opportunities for further maximising stormwater harvesting capabilities will be considered.

Dickson Pond

Total water surface area	0.61 Hectares
Volume	6,460 m ³

Lyneham Pond

Total water surface area	1.5 Hectares
Volume	12,500 m ³

The CSIRO Feasibility Study for the Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project estimated the following volumes of water could be supplied for irrigation from the Dickson and Lyneham Ponds. Please note: these volumes may change as a result of detailed design.

Dickson Pond:	94.1 Megalitres
Lyneham Pond	58.4 Megalitres

QTON BusinessSmart and OfficeSmart

MS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water:

Clarification on resources (funding plus individuals) dedicated to the BusinessSmart and OfficeSmart programs, including the status of the 'manual'.

MR CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The waste minimisation programs OfficeSmart and BusinessSmart have received \$0.233m in funding within the 2009-10 budget allocation for the *Switch Your Thinking* initiative.

The OfficeSmart and BusinessSmart manuals are in the final stages of editing in response to review comments from industry participants in the program pilot.

Staff dedicated to delivery of these programs consists of 1 SOGC at 0.6 FTE.

QTON Sustainability Audit and Action Plan

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: the cost of the Sustainability Audit and Action Plan for Macarthur House Annexe?

MR CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Sustainability Audit and Action Plan cost \$10 560 (GST included).

QTON Staffing

MS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to: staffing roles and responsibilities across the Department?

MR CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Office of the Chief Executive provides strategic leadership for the Department.

Environment Protection and Water Management Branch provide advice and deliver education, compliance and enforcement services to government and the community in relation to environment protection and water resources management.

Policy Branch provides advice on the sustainable use of water, energy, and natural resources, and develops policies to address climate change and its impact.

Programs Branch implements program responding to climate change and seeking to achieve sustainability in the use of resources, including water and energy.

Energy Efficiency Programs Branch is responsible for the development and implementation of the feed-in tariff, including the examination of Stage II.

Strategic Finance provide a range of financial services to the Department, including budgeting and financial reporting

Ministerial and Corporate provide ministerial, communication and corporate services to the Department and the Minister.

QTON Energy Efficiency Fund

MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to the Energy Efficiency Fund: Do agencies receive the savings or do they go into consolidated revenue?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Eligible agencies are able to borrow money from the fund, upgrade their facilities and make repayments through the savings made. Savings over and above that necessary to repay monies borrowed from the Fund will remain with the agency in subsequent years.

QTON Switch Your Thinking

MRS VICKI DUNNE MLA : To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

In relation to the Switch Your Thinking initiative: -

1. Provide a table of the indicative expenditure for the \$4.6 million initiative
2. What has the expenditure been in 2008-09 year, in what areas?
3. Given funding in 2008-09 Budget BP3 page 92
 - (a) What funding was due to expire at the end of 2008-09?
 - (b) What is new funding?
4. What are the service improvements?

MR CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. A table summarising the 2009-10 indicative expenditure for the \$4.6 million *Switch Your Thinking* initiative is provided below.

09/10 Programs	Value	Election Commitments	Rebate/visit Numbers
Home Water Audit Program	\$565,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumber Visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,300 toilet rebates • 1,000 water audits
Residential Energy Efficiency Program	\$1,240,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebates on energy efficient appliances • Rebates on domestic insulation • Solar hot water rebate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 750 appliance rebates • 400 insulation rebates • 250 solar hot water rebates
Low Income and Renters Water and Energy Assistance Package	\$465,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Income energy saving additions • Rebates for renters on consumer goods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800 rebates for installation of energy-saving additions • 650 rebates on energy efficient consumer goods
Water Tank Rebates	\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebate on tanks not connected to internal plumbing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 rebates for internal connection • 150 rebates for no internal connection
Waste Minimisation Programs	\$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supermarket composting handbook 	N/a
Small Business Water Audit and Management Plan Assistance	\$30,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Assistance 	N/a
GardenSmart Program	\$200,000	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1200 residential visits
IrrigationSmart Program	\$140,000	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 residential visits
Schools Audit Program	\$20,000	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 school audits

Communications Strategy Program	\$295,000	Nil	• N/a
Staff Development	\$18,000	Nil	• N/a
Staff Wages	\$927,000		
Website Development	\$200,000		
Total Cost	\$4,600,000		

2. An accurate breakdown of expenditure for the 2008-09 year for rebate and incentive programs is not available at this stage.

Audited financial statements for the 2008-09 financial year will be provided in the Department's 2008-09 Annual Report.

3. (a) The funding that was due to expire at the end of 2008-09 (\$2.7 million) reflects the following:

- ACT Water Strategy Implementation Program, this includes:
 - i. GardenSmart;
 - ii. IrrigationSmart;
 - iii. Water Tank Rebates;
 - iv. School Audits;
- Living Murray; and
- staffing associated with delivering the above programs.

3. (b) New funding of \$1.9 million includes expanding and establishing new programs and services such as:

- a one stop shop portal/website;
- Home Water Audit Program;
- Low Income and Renters Water and Energy Assistance Programs;
- Small Business Advice; and
- Rebates on Energy Efficiency Appliances

4. During 2009-10 the *Switch Your Thinking* program will provide a range of improved services to the ACT community through improved assistance packages and rebates. These improvements will include:

- a new Home Water Audit program incorporating water efficient dual flush toilets, showerheads and tap flow regulators;
- a new Residential Energy Efficiency program, that while providing rebates on energy efficient appliances, domestic insulation and an improved solar hot water rebate also continues to provide the ACT Energy Wise, HEAT and WEST programs;
- assistance packages for renters and low-income households that provides rebates for household energy saving additions and for energy efficient domestic white goods;
- waste minimisation programs to assist offices and businesses to improve their business based recycle and that will provide assistance to the supermarket industry on improving composting of organics;
- a web based portal that provides a one-stop-shop access to all rebates and assistance packages available through the new Department, that in the near future

will link to assistance packages and services available through other ACT Government departments;

- a package to assist small business to develop water management plans; and
- continuation of services currently provides including the GardenSmart service and rebate , the IrrigationSmart program pilot and Sustainable Schools Audit programs.

QTON Complaint regarding Paddys River

Mr BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment -

In relation to:

1. a summary of the response to the complaint regarding the development of Miowera, Block 241 Paddy's River.
2. the 18 complaints the Office of the Commissioner of Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) has been dealing with this year, which were found in favour of the complainant and which were not?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment advises that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. In September 2008, the OCSE received a complaint related to the proposed development of Miowera, Block 241 Paddy's River, in particular:
 - there was no community consultation prior to purchase;
 - no environmental impact statement was conducted to establish requirements for water capacity; and
 - land use changes.

The OCSE sought information from the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS), the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) and ACT Health. The OCSE were advised that:

- the proposed development is an adjunct use and therefore does not require a variation to the Territory Plan;
- at this stage (September 2008), no development application had been lodged; and
- development applications are publicly notifiable and are subject to appeal.

The OCSE requested that when the development application was lodged, Terms of Reference for the environmental impact statement be made available to the community.

This information was provided to the complainant in November 2008 and they were informed that an investigation, at that stage, was not warranted.

2. Of the 18 complaints received this year, several are ongoing. In resolving complaints the OCSE seeks to achieve the best outcome for sustainability and the environment.

Many complaints are resolved by providing clarity to the complainant on issues raised, rather than recommending specific actions. Of the resolved complaints in this year, the OCSE have provided 11 recommendations to government over 2 complaints. The OCSE will report on the implementation of these recommendations through their Annual Report.