

Statement by the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction responding to advice given and recommendations made to the Minister in the ACT Climate Change Council 2020-21 Annual Report.

While the ACT Climate Change Council has not used its 2020-21 Annual Report to make any specific new recommendations to Government, the table below outlines the Minister’s responses to advice and recommendations from Council in 2020-21, as well as any additional actions taken by the ACT Government during the year.

Advice/Recommendation	Minister’s Response
<p><u>Update to the Social Cost of Carbon briefing</u></p> <p>Council’s major body of work for the second half of 2020-21 was to update its advice to the Minister on the social cost of carbon and its potential use for ACT policy. Council’s first briefing on the Social Cost of Carbon was in July 2018 – <i>The Social Cost of Carbon and public investment to reduce ACT greenhouse gas emissions</i>. The new work draws on the broad expertise of the Council, new trends in international policy, and new research on the social cost of carbon.</p>	<p>The <i>ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25</i> commits Government to considering the social cost of carbon in all policies, budget decisions, and procurement and capital works decisions (action 5.5). Government will invest an interim price of \$20 per tonne of emissions from Government operations into measures to meet the Zero Emissions Government target from 2020–21 and arrange for an independent body to develop a social cost of carbon for application from 2025 (action 5.11).</p> <p>Council’s recommendations will be considered when implementing the social cost of carbon actions where it is embedded into government processes and operations.</p>
<p><u>Submission to the ACT Draft Urban Forest Strategy</u></p> <p>In September 2020, Council made a submission to the ACT Draft Urban Forest Strategy. The submission welcomed the development of the draft strategy and supported the objectives of the draft strategy. The submission also made multiple recommendations to improve the strategy.</p>	<p>Council input was considered in the development of this Strategy.</p>
<p><u>Meetings with ACT Ministers</u></p> <p>The Council met with Chief Minister Andrew Barr and Minister Shane Rattenbury, as well as Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, Minister Chris Steel, the office of Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith, and the office of Minister Berry. Council discussed how climate change related to each minister’s portfolio and expressed interest in establishing an ongoing relationship with ministers.</p>	<p>Collaboration between Council and ACT ministers is strongly supported, and ongoing working relationships with the Cabinet Climate Action Subcommittee have been facilitated.</p>