



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

Standing Committee on
Planning, Transport and City Services
Email: LCommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au

EOI to appear at the Inquiry into the ACT Territory Plan Public Hearings

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is an independent statutory position established by the *Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*. My Office embraces transformative change for an environmentally sustainable future and encourages sound environmental practices and procedures to be adopted by the Territory.

I am writing to express my interest in appearing at the public hearings for your *Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents*. Among my statutory duties I am required to “encourage decision-making that facilitates ecologically sustainable development” and to “encourage sound environmental practices and procedures to be adopted by the Territory and territory authorities as a basis for ecologically sustainable development.” As such, the terms of the new Territory Plan are of great interest and relevance to my Office.

Areas of the Territory Plan in which I have a particular interest include:

- How the ACT Government’s commitments to Living Infrastructure targets are embedded in the Territory Plan. (I note this is included in your Terms of Reference).
- The inclusion of sites which are known to support threatened species and communities designated as Future Urban Area in the Territory Plan.
- Lack of clarity around how appropriate expertise will be assured among DA assessment officers to determine whether environmental outcomes are met, and how environmental priorities are considered in relation to other desired outcomes.

It is likely that other matters of interest will arise as my team continues to familiarise itself with the new Territory Plan.

Thank you for considering this Expression of Interest.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sophie Lewis
Commissioner for Sustainability
and the Environment

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