

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

*THE 1995 ACT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND
THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE*

**REPORT NO.25
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

FEBRUARY 1997

Resolution of appointment of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment:

[that] a Standing Committee on Planning and Environment [be established] to examine matters related to planning, land management, transport, commercial development, industrial and residential development, infrastructure and capital works, science and technology, the environment, conservation, heritage, energy and resources...

[And that the committee] inquire into and report on matters referred to [it] by the Assembly or matters that are considered by the committee to be of concern to the community.

*Minutes of Proceedings (Third Assembly) No.1 - 9 March 1995, amended
22 June 1995*

Committee Membership

Mr Michael Moore MLA (Chair)

Mr Trevor Kaine MLA (Deputy Chair)

Ms Lucy Horodny MLA

Ms Roberta McRae OAM, MLA

Inquiry Secretary: Mr Jim Corrigan

Assistance: Ms Anne Munns

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends that:

1. the Commissioner provide the Government with detailed estimates of the resources required to produce a major triennial report for the ACT and the Australian Capital Region - and the Government ensure that the budget for the Commissioner for the Environment takes account of this possible regional role (para 38).
2. in future, the Government provide information about resources required to undertake necessary action and timeframes for implementing (and completing) the recommendations of the Commissioner for the Environment. The Government should list the action to be taken, the relevant agency or officer responsible for implementing the action, the funds to be allocated to the task, the timetable for action and the priority for completion (para 12).
3. the Government and the Commissioner take note of the possibility of a four year Assembly term and investigate the most appropriate mechanisms and time-frames for producing a major SoE Report for the ACT, along with producing a regional SoE Report (para 41).
4. the ACT Government and the Commissioner for the Environment liaise with the NSW Government to determine the most appropriate arrangements for producing SoE Reports, including the possibility of amending NSW legislation to also require major SoE Reports triennially (para 35).
5. the Government carefully monitor the extra demand placed upon the ACT Commissioner for the Environment to ensure that the quality of SoE Reporting for the ACT is of a high standard (para 30)
6. future SoE Reports, and the Government's response, be automatically referred to an appropriate Assembly committee for examination; and the relevant legislation be amended accordingly (para 71).

For urgent action:

7. the Government make a statement by the Assembly's May 1997 sittings about noise from motor sports at Fairbairn Park. The statement should address the Environment Commissioner's August 1995 report on 'Management of 'Noise from Motorsports in the ACT' - and update progress on this matter (para 59).
8. the Government, in its review of the ACT Decade of Landcare Plan, consider the comments made by the ACT Rural Lessees' Association in its submission to this inquiry and make a statement in the Assembly on the outcomes of the review (para 66).

PREFACE

The Standing Committee on Planning and Environment is pleased to present its findings into the 1995 ACT State of the Environment Report and the Government's response.

This is the first time a standing committee of the Assembly has inquired into the ACT State of the Environment Report and the Government's response.

The present report is one of two produced by the committee in relation to this inquiry. An earlier report entitled Environmental Accounting for the ACT Government (Report No.22) was tabled on 10 December 1996.

On behalf of all members of the committee, I want to thank the members of the public, Government officials and the ACT Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Joe Baker, who appeared before the committee and who submitted papers to the inquiry.

I also would like to thank the Chief Minister for making available a departmental officer, Jim Corrigan, to conduct the committee's inquiry. Jim provided a high level of expertise and greatly assisted the committee's activities.

Considering the heavy workload of the committee, his professionalism and efforts enabled the simultaneous pursuit of other inquiries.

It seems to the committee that Jim has demonstrated the benefits of seconding officers to work on busy committee inquiries. Such an arrangement enables departmental officers to gain a greater understanding of the committee and Assembly processes, whilst obviously facilitating the workload of the committee.

On behalf of the committee I would like to recommend that this arrangement becomes a regular occurrence.

The committee's final deliberations on this report took place in February 1997 - at which time, the Deputy Chair (Mr Trevor Kaine MLA) had assumed Ministerial responsibilities. He therefore took no part in the committee's final deliberations.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Mr Kaine for his valuable contribution to the work of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment.

I look forward to the Government's response to the recommendations contained in this report.

*Michael Moore MLA
Chair*

7 February 1997

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

List of recommendations

Introduction	1
Activity by the Committee	1
Approach by the Committee.....	1
The Government’s Response to the Commissioner’s Recommendations	2
Regional State of the Environment Reporting.....	5
Frequency of Reporting	6
State of the Environment Reporting and Government Physical and Corporate Planning	7
Environmental Auditor Role	8
Noise from Motor Sports at Fairbairn Park.....	9
ACT Decade of Landcare Plan.....	9
Process of Considering the Environment Commissioner’s Report	10
Conclusion	11
 APPENDIX A - LIST OF SUBMISSIONS	 12
APPENDIX B - WITNESSES AT HEARINGS.....	13

Introduction

1. The *1995 ACT State of the Environment Report* was released in September 1995. It was prepared by the ACT Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Joe Baker. It is a detailed account of the state of environmental issues in the ACT. The report contains an overview by the Commissioner and addresses issues about the atmosphere, water, land, plants and animals and the urban environment.

2. The Commissioner's powers and the requirement for an annual *State of the Environment Report* come from the *ACT Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993*.

3. Recognising the significance of the Environment Commissioner's report, the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment resolved on 2 February 1996:

to inquire into and report on matters raised in the *1995 State of the Environment Report*, including the Government's response (when it becomes available), and any related matter.

4. The Government tabled its response to the *1995 ACT State of the Environment Report* on 29 August 1996.

Activity by the Committee

5. As soon as the committee received the Government's response, it called for public input by 11 October 1996. The committee accepted some late correspondence. Twelve submissions were received by the committee, all of which were authorised for publication. A list of submissions appears at Appendix A.

6. The committee held four public hearings: on 12 November 1996, 15 November 1996, 22 November 1996 and 29 November 1996. Those who appeared at these public hearings are listed in Appendix B.

Approach by the Committee

7. The committee has carefully considered the recommendations of the *ACT State of the Environment Report* and the Government's response to those recommendations.

8. As well as considering the issues raised in the Commissioner's report, the committee considered that other important matters need to be examined:

- possible expansion of State of Environment (SoE) reporting to a Canberra region scale;
- possible triennial reporting by the Commissioner with an annual 'report card';
- the role that SoE reporting has in assisting Government physical and corporate planning by advising priorities for the forthcoming reporting period;

- possible expansion of the Commissioner's function to include an environmental auditor role; and
- introducing environmental accounting into ACT Government accounting processes, with appropriate workable and useful environmental indicators.

9. The committee reported on the last matter (above) in its separate report *Environmental Accounting for the ACT Government* (December 1996). The committee observed that environmental accounting is at a formative stage in terms of its implementation. The committee recommended that the Government prepare an options paper for tabling in the Assembly in the June 1997 sittings that outlines opportunities for implementing environmental accounting; investigates environmental indicators; and considers environmental accounting on a regional basis. The committee also recommended that the Government consider relevant models or information in the context of introducing ecological sustainable development principles into Government accounting processes - and that the Government make the development of indicators of sustainability a high priority.

The Government's Response to the Commissioner's Recommendations

10. The Commissioner for the Environment made thirty seven recommendations and commented on three additional matters: human population levels in the ACT; urban environmental issues; and the ACT Greenhouse Strategy.

11. The committee, while aware of the serious attempt by the Government to address each recommendation, considers that the overall process would be improved by the Government prioritising its major responses. Also, it would help if the Government's formal response indicated the resources and timeframe for undertaking the work required.

12. ***The committee recommends that:***

- ***in future, the Government provide information about resources required to undertake necessary action and timeframes for implementing (and completing) the recommendations of the Commissioner for the Environment. The Government should list the action to be taken, the relevant agency or officer responsible for implementing the action, the funds to be allocated to the task, the timetable for action and the priority for completion.***

13. Apart from this general comment, the committee draws attention to the following specific recommendations of the Commissioner.

Recommendation 95.1 - regarding the development of a whole-of-Government environment strategy.

14. The Government did not agree with the Commissioner's recommendation, on the grounds that such a Strategy would be incorporated into the 'National Capital Beyond 2000 Plan'. However, the ACT Strategic Plan, recently released by the Government, was criticised in the Assembly for focusing too narrowly on promoting economic growth and failing to adequately address broader social and environmental issues. The Legislative Assembly resolved not to accept the Strategic Plan in its present form. The Government is considering how it will respond. The committee considers that the amended strategic plan should include an overall environmental strategy.

Recommendations 95.14 and 95.17 - regarding the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction initiatives

15. These recommendations were agreed to by the Government, but it should be noted that in September 1996 the Assembly agreed to support a motion calling on the Government to develop a greenhouse gas reduction target specifically for the ACT. The Assembly has not yet been advised of the Government's progress in setting this target.

Recommendation 95.15 - regarding the planting of trees and the licensing of fuelwood vendors

16. The Government agreed with this recommendation but in its response the Government did not give a clear commitment to the licensing of fuelwood vendors, preferring instead to examine the establishment of a code of practice for the fuelwood industry. The committee believes that the feasibility of licensing fuelwood vendors should still be examined.

Recommendation 95.16 - regarding street tree planting and tree protection orders

17. The Government did not agree to the introduction of tree protection orders, stating that there was already protection of trees on Government land. However, there is still a problem with the removal of mature trees on private land, particularly before commercial and residential redevelopment. The committee suggests that this issue be addressed in more detail by the Government.

Recommendation 95.20 - regarding the issue of daily air pollution bulletins

18. The Government did not agree with this recommendation. The issue of daily notices of the ultra-violet light index is now commonplace, with the States already having systems in place to report air pollution. While these indexes are to some extent crude indicators of levels of air pollution, this is no reason for discounting them altogether. With further research these indicators will become more and more useful.

Recommendation 95.21 - regarding environmental audits of Government buildings

19. The Government agreed with this recommendation, but the committee does not believe that the Government's response fully meets the recommendation. The incomplete answers to questions asked during the last Estimates Committee hearings regarding the levels of energy use and waste generation in Government agencies indicated that little environmental auditing is currently occurring within the ACT Government. While it is true that the ECO Workplace Scheme is already operating in some areas of the ACT Government, this Scheme certainly does not meet the requirements of this recommendation.

Recommendation 95.24 - regarding the development of an environmental education strategy

20. The Government did not agree with this recommendation for the same reasons given for rejecting recommendation 95.1, ie that the ACT Strategic Plan would cover this matter. As in the committee's response to that recommendation, the Government's recently released ACT Strategic Plan does not include an adequate environmental strategy.

Recommendation 95.33 - regarding the introduction of mandatory disclosure of the energy-rating of houses before sale

21. The Government stated that it agreed to this in principle, but from the text of its response it is clear that it does not agree with the essential element of this recommendation - which is to require the mandatory disclosure of the energy-rating of houses to potential buyers before sale. The committee believes that it is odd that the Government does not fully support creating an informed market for energy-efficient housing when the need for fully informed consumers is a fundamental principle of market economics. Given the variable climate of Canberra, the promotion of energy-efficient housing will both improve the comfort of residents and reduce their long-term energy costs.

Recommendation 95.36 - regarding the introduction of 'congestion' pricing of transport use

22. Again the Government has relied on its ACT Strategic Plan as being the means for responding to this recommendation, but as with the whole of Government Environment Strategy, this document does not adequately address this issue.

Recommendation 95.37, part 2- regarding water quality

23. The committee believes that the Government was unduly dismissive of the Commissioner's recommendations regarding the need for more testing of water quality. The Commissioner's recommendations would not have been made lightly. The Government should re-examine the reasons why these recommendations were made and address these concerns directly.

Regional State of the Environment Reporting

24. The committee is aware that there is growing interest in regional SoE Reporting throughout Australia.

25. During 1996, the Regional Leaders' Forum (comprising the ACT Chief Minister and the Mayors and General Managers from the seventeen city and shire councils surrounding the ACT), agreed to prepare a Regional SoE Report for the ACT and the south east region of NSW.

26. The committee is aware that, as in the ACT, each council in NSW produces an annual SoE Report. The committee considers there is potential to integrate the *ACT State of Environment Report* with the reports of the seventeen surrounding local governments into one regional SoE Report.

27. This would not remove the need to produce the ACT and NSW local government reports, but could facilitate the integration of environmental planning objectives:

A Regional State of the Environment Report as proposed, has the potential to be used as an holistic planning tool, avoiding decisions which may prove costly to a potential developer and Local Government Authorities. The process [of regional State of the Environment reporting] will link Local Government Authorities in the region to a source of expertise and, by invitation, consultancy services to Councils in terms of using State of the Environment reporting for regional planning and environmental management.¹

28. It is proposed that a secretariat be established within the ACT Office of the Commissioner for the Environment to prepare the first regional SoE Report on behalf of the ACT and the Local Government Authorities by November 1997.² The Commissioner advised that there will still be a separate report for each Local Government Authority of the region, as well as for the ACT, to ensure that statutory requirements are fulfilled.³

29. The committee notes the initiative for regional SoE Reporting and considers that it is an innovative and exciting proposition for the jurisdictions involved. At the same time, the committee would be concerned if the extra demands placed upon the ACT Commissioner for the Environment - caused by the need to prepare a regional document - compromised the existing quality of the Commissioner's work for the ACT. Therefore, the committee considers that the Government - through the Regional Leaders' Forum - should monitor the progress and quality of regional SoE Reporting to ensure that its quality remains at a high level and is useful to all jurisdictions of the region.

30. ***The committee recommends that:***

¹ Dr Joe Baker, *Regional State of the Environment Report, Scoping Project*, presentation to the Regional Leaders Forum 14 November 1996, Executive Summary, p5

² *Ibid*, p.1

³ *Transcript of Proceedings* Dr Joe Baker (ACT Commissioner for the Environment), p.2

- ***the Government carefully monitor the extra demand placed upon the ACT Commissioner for the Environment to ensure that the quality of SoE Reporting for the ACT is of a high standard.***

Frequency of Reporting

31. The Commissioner for the Environment told the committee that an annual large report is not necessary from an ecological/environmental perspective. Rather a major triennial report is adequate along with an annual report card that addresses specific issues. Some submitters also made similar points in relation to reporting frequency.

32. The Commissioner noted that triennial reporting permits observation over a more significant time scale of environmental issues, thereby permitting analysis of data to establish trends and detect changes.

33. The committee notes that the Government agrees with the Commissioner's recommendations and is currently drafting legislation to provide for a comprehensive State of the Environment Report every three years.⁴

34. Should the ACT move towards a triennial SoE Report, there could be complications in coordinating SoE Reports with NSW and the requirement for annual SoE reporting under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*. The Committee notes that the NSW Minister for Local Government has advised the ACT Chief Minister that the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* is being reviewed with a view to introduce amending legislation in the first half of 1997.⁵

35. ***The Committee recommends that:***

- ***the ACT Government and the Commissioner for the Environment liaise with the NSW Government to determine the most appropriate arrangements for producing SoE Reports, including the possibility of amending NSW legislation to also require major SoE Reports triennially.***

36. The Conservation Council raised the following issue in relation to triennial reporting:

[The] underlying principle is that to go from a yearly reporting period to either a biennial or triennial period should not be used to cut in any way the effectiveness of the Environment Commissioner or the Environment Commissioner's budget.⁶

37. The committee is conscious that the workload of the Commissioner is likely to increase as further progress is made in developing a triennial regional State of the Environment Report.

⁴ *Transcript of Proceedings* 15/11/96 Mr Ken Horsham (Executive Director, Strategy and Business, Department of Urban Services) p.1

⁵ Letter from the NSW Minister for Local Government (Hon Ernie Page MP) to the ACT Chief Minister (Ms Kate Carnell MLA) dated 11 November 1996

⁶ *Transcript of Proceedings* 12/11/96 C. Darlington (Director, Conservation Council of the South-East Region and Canberra) p.19

38. ***The committee recommends that:***

- ***the Commissioner provide the Government with detailed estimates of the resources required to produce a major triennial report for the ACT and the Australian Capital Region - and the Government ensure that the budget for the Commissioner for the Environment takes account of this possible regional role.***

39. The committee considers it important that at least one major SoE report be produced in the life of each Assembly. The report should contain an assessment of the Government's environmental performance and provide recommendations for the future.

40. The committee is aware of proposals to move to a four year election cycle in the ACT. There would obviously be difficulties if the Commissioner produced a major triennial SoE Report in the mid-term of a four year Assembly. In the case of a four-year election cycle, the Commissioner could possibly produce a major report every four years or even each two years in order to adequately report on the performance of the Government on a regular basis.

41. ***The committee recommends that:***

- ***the Government and the Commissioner take note of the possibility of a four year Assembly term and investigate the most appropriate mechanisms and time-frames for producing a major SoE Report for the ACT, along with producing a regional SoE Report.***

State of the Environment Reporting and Government Physical and Corporate Planning

42. During the inquiry it became clear to the committee that there are two main issues in making SoE Reporting relevant in assisting Government physical and corporate planning:

- the ability for the Commissioner to prioritise the recommendations contained within the SoE report; and
- the development of appropriate and cost effective environmental indicators.

43. The committee notes that there was general consensus by both submitters and witnesses that the *ACT State of Environment Report* would be more useful to the Government's planning and allocation of resources if the Commissioner could prioritise the recommendations of the report. The committee appreciates that the Government would still be responsible for deciding which recommendations to implement, their timing and the allocation of resources.

44. The committee notes that the risk in setting priorities is that the Government may tend to neglect areas of a lesser priority. Priority should not be confused with importance.

45. The committee notes that a recurrent theme of the Commissioner's recommendations is the need for the Government to develop appropriate environmental indicators so that environmental trends can be measured.

46. The committee considered the development and use of environmental indicators in its Report No. 22 entitled *Environmental Accounting for the ACT Government*. The committee recommends that readers consult the relevant sections of that report and the corresponding recommendation.

Environmental Auditor Role

47. The committee notes the comments made by a senior Government official that there are several models about what could constitute an environmental auditor: one would see the Commissioner undertaking environmental audits of private companies and/or public agencies and one would see the creation of an environmental auditor general.⁷

48. The senior official advised that, in relation to auditing the private sector, most auditing is undertaken by companies using private consultants and there would need to be a very good argument to convince the Government to use its own resources to audit private companies.

49. The traditional meaning of auditing is the examination and verification of accounts. At this stage there are no environmental accounts in the Government's Budget. The committee's Report No.22 on environmental accounting discusses some of the issues in more detail and notes in particular that environmental accounting is in its formative stage. It is premature at this time to introduce a traditional auditor role for the Commissioner.

50. However, an auditor role could have a less formal meaning which is simply "to examine and report". In this sense, the Commissioner is already carrying out auditing functions under section 15(3) of the *ACT Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993* which reads:

(a) investigating complaints regarding the management of the environment by the Territory or a Territory authority;

(b) conducting such investigations as may be directed by the Minister; and

(c) conducting, of his or her own motion, investigations into actions of an agency where those actions would have a substantial impact on the environment of the Territory.

51. The committee considers that the existing legislation gives sufficient power to the Commissioner "to examine and report" on matters that the Commissioner or the Minister consider significant. The committee notes that the Commissioner's powers to examine and report apply essentially to Government agencies only.

52. Further, the existing legislation does not permit the Commissioner to conduct **public** inquiries. The committee notes with interest that Government officials signalled that one amendment proposed for the *ACT Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993* is to permit the Commissioner to undertake inquiries in public if so directed [by the Minister].⁸

⁷ *Transcript of Proceedings* 15/11/96, Mr Ken Horsham (Executive Director, Strategy and Business, Department of Urban Services) p.4

⁸ *Transcript of Proceedings* 15/11/96, Ms Glenys Beauchamp (Director, Energy and Environment Policy, Department of Urban Services) p.5

53. One submitter suggested that an additional role of the Environment Commissioner might be to assess the adequacy of the environmental assessment processes under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*. The committee considers that this issue is beyond the immediate focus of this inquiry but suggests that the Government may want to consider this issue in its review of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*.

54. The Environment Commissioner drew the committee's attention to the very wide definition of environment in the Government's forthcoming Environment Protection Bill. The definition is:

The environment is the components of the earth including land, the atmosphere and water. Any organic or inorganic matter and any living organism, human made or modified structures, ecosystems and their constituent parts including people and communities. The qualities and characteristics of place and areas, the interactions that interdependencies of these, the social, aesthetic, cultural and economic conditions that affect the system.⁹

55. The Environment Commissioner stated that it would be unrealistic to conduct an environmental audit against such a wide definition of the 'environment'.

Noise from Motor Sports at Fairbairn Park

56. While not the subject of a recommendation of the *1995 ACT State of Environment Report*, the issue of noise from the motor sports located at Fairbairn Park was the subject of the Environment Commissioner's August 1995 Report entitled 'Management of Noise from Motorsports in the ACT'. That report contained twenty-four recommendations to address management of noise from motor sports.

57. The committee received a submission from the Ridgeway Residents' Action Group claiming that, to the Groups' knowledge, the Government had not responded to the Commissioner's report.

58. The Environment Commissioner stated his view that a formal detailed Government response to his 1995 report on motorsports should be prepared.

59. ***The committee recommends that:***

- ***the Government make a statement by the Assembly's May 1997 sittings about noise from motor sports at Fairbairn Park. The statement should address the Environment Commissioner's August 1995 report on 'Management of Noise from Motorsports in the ACT' - and update progress on this matter.***

ACT Decade of Landcare Plan

⁹ *Transcript of Proceedings* 22/11/96, Dr Joe Baker (ACT Commissioner for the Environment) p.8

60. The ACT Rural Lessees' Association submitted that Chapter 16 of the ACT Decade of Landcare Plan required the ACT Administration to establish a Decade of Landcare Implementation Team (DLPIT). The DLPIT was charged with:

- producing an implementation plan based on the eight action plans within the Plan;
- monitoring progress and reporting every six months; and
- reviewing the Landcare Plan every three years.

61. The understanding of the Association was that none of these actions were ever undertaken and that, had the DLPIT done its job, then many of the concerns expressed by the Commissioner as they relate to land quality would be resolved. The Association considered that those in positions of responsibility have failed in their duties.

62. Given the nature of this claim, the committee requested a response on these matters from Government officials.

63. The officials advised that soon after the acceptance of the Decade of Landcare Plan, it became clear that alternative mechanisms were more appropriate to achieve the functions of the DLPIT. Most important was the national recognition of the importance of on-ground action being initiated by groups of land managers. The grass roots or bottom-up aspect of the landcare movement has been fundamental to its success.

64. The officials also advised that implementation plans for the actions described in the Decade of Landcare Plan continue to be generated in several forms, including management plans for public land, and strategies such as the ACT Weeds Strategy.

65. The committee notes that a review of the ACT Decade of Landcare Plan is expected to commence within a few months.

66. ***The committee recommends that:***

- ***the Government, in its review of the ACT Decade of Landcare Plan, consider the comments made by the ACT Rural Lessees' Association in its submission to this inquiry and make a statement in the Assembly on the outcomes of the review.***

Process of Considering the Environment Commissioner's Report

67. The *ACT Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993* does not specifically require that the *ACT State of the Environment Report* be examined by an Assembly Committee after it is submitted to the Government. The process followed this year was that the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment initiated its own inquiry into the 1995 *ACT State of the Environment Report* and the Government's response.

68. The Government's response to the 1995 *ACT State of the Environment Report* was not tabled until 29 August 1996. The committee notes that, in future, the Government is

proposing to respond to the Commissioner's major report within six months of its tabling in the Assembly.¹⁰

69. The committee endorses this undertaking by the Government.

70. Further, the committee considers that it would be useful to the Environment Commissioner, the Government and the Assembly if the *ACT State of the Environment Report*, and the Government's response, was automatically referred to an appropriate committee of the Assembly. This most likely requires an amendment to the *ACT Commissioner for the Environment Act*.

71. The committee recommends that:

- ***future SoE Reports, and the Government's response, be automatically referred to an appropriate Assembly committee for examination; and the relevant legislation be amended accordingly.***

Conclusion

72. This is the first time an Assembly committee has examined the *ACT State of the Environment Report* and the Government's response. The committee notes that the process of scrutinising SoE Reports, and the Government's response to those reports, will need to be monitored for its effectiveness and adjusted where appropriate.

73. The committee appreciates the contribution to this inquiry by the ACT Commissioner for the Environment, the public and Government officials.

Michael Moore MLA
Chair

7 February 1997

¹⁰ *Transcript of Proceedings* 15/11/96, Mr Ken Horsham (Executive Director, Strategy and Business, Department of Urban Services) p.5

APPENDIX A - LIST OF SUBMISSIONS

[Submissions were numbered by the Committee Office of the Legislative Assembly]

1. *Australian Geological Survey Organisation: Dr David Denham*
2. *Derek F. Wrigley Design Associates: Mr Derek Wrigley OAM*
3. *ACT Rural Lessees' Association*
4. *ACT Branch Australian Conservation Foundation*
5. *Mrs Kathy O'Brien*
6. *Mr Rodney Griffiths*
7. *ACT Flora & Fauna Committee*
8. *Ridgeway Residents' Action Group*
9. *National Trust of Australia (ACT)*
10. *Conservation Council of the South-East Region & Canberra*
11. *Royal Australian Planning Institute - ACT Division*
12. *Australians for an Ecologically Sustainable Population*

APPENDIX B - WITNESSES AT HEARINGS

[by date and order of appearance]

12 November 1996: public hearing

ACT Branch Australian Conservation Foundation:

Ms Caroline Le Couteur (Executive Member)

Ms Julia Richards

Royal Australian Planning Institute (ACT Division):

Mr Keith Burnham (President)

Ms Angharad Dean (Vice President)

Conservation Council of South East Region & Canberra:

Mr Craig Darlington (Director)

ACT Rural Lessees' Association:

Mr Harold Adams AM (President)

Dr Daryl Killen

ACT Flora and Fauna Committee:

Dr Jill Landsberg (Chair)

Dr Robert Boden (Deputy Chair)

National Trust of Australia (ACT):

Dr Robert Boden

Ms Judith Baskin

15 November 1996: public hearing

ACT Administration:

Mr Ken Horsham (Executive Director, Strategy and Business, Department of Urban Services)

Mr Peter Burnett (Director, Environmental Regulation and Coordination, Department of Urban Services)

Ms Glenys Beauchamp (Director, Energy and Environment Policy, Department of Urban Services)

Dr Colin Adrian (Director, City Services, Department of Urban Services)

Mr Martin Walsh (Manager, Environment Policy, Department of Urban Services)

22 November 1996: public hearing

Dr Joe Baker (ACT Commissioner for the Environment)

Dr Helen Sims (Manager of the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment)

29 November 1996: public hearing

Mr Paul Perkins (Deputy Chief Executive, ACTEW Corporation)