

# SELECT COMMITTEES ON ESTIMATES 2008-2009

## Question on Notice

### Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

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*Climate change strategy*

**DR FOSKEY MLA:** To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

1. Could the quarterly report on the climate change strategy prepared by TAMS be made available?
  - a. Could all subsequent quarterly reports be made available?

**MINISTER STANHOPE:** The answer to the member's question is as follows: -

The quarterly report has now been superseded by the report on the first 12 months of the Action Plan. This is available on the TAMS website at [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/sustainability/climate/weathering\\_the\\_change](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/sustainability/climate/weathering_the_change).

A brochure highlighting some of the key Actions was circulated through The Canberra Times on Wednesday 4 September 2008. The brochure addresses government progress but also suggests actions all Canberrans can take to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

A monthly newsletter on the progress of the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan will be published on the TAMS website from September 2008.

*Community consultation*

**Dr Foskey:** To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change –

1. What is the progress on the community consultation regarding the role of the Commissioner of Environment?
2. What is the status of the necessary legislative change to cover the role as Commissioner for Sustainability?

**Ms Gallagher:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment will lead the consultation, which will include relevant stakeholders. As the Commissioner's focus is currently with the State of the Environment report, it has been agreed that the consultation will commence late June, with an expected completion date in mid August 2008. A discussion paper has been developed for release at the commencement of the consultation.
2. The initial steps (preparation of drafting instructions) of the legislative amendments cannot be finalised until the completion of the community consultation. In the meantime, the current Act is sufficiently broad to support the Commissioner's activities.

*Solarisation proposal*

**DEB FOSKEY MLA:** To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change –

1. Has the ACT Government looked carefully at Dr Blakers' Solarisation proposal - bearing in mind it is a model which is in essence self funding, and which would over time retrofit all buildings?
2. Could the Minister please advise further information regarding the *Building Retrofit Incentives Program* -
  - a. Will this program be available to low-income households and landlords of rental houses?
  - b. How much funding is available for this program?
3. Is there funding in this budget for an education or incentives program for commercial and retail tenants to reduce their energy use?
4. Renewable energy targets are to be set as a priority for the next year – when should we expect to see these? How do they differ from the Federal Government's?
5. Are there funding implications for the implementation of the sustainability legislation, which I presume will be ready for introduction in the early part of the next financial year? Has this funding been set aside?
6. Given that 12% of household waste is food waste, will the government consider introducing a third bin to collect bio-waste from households?
  - a. If not, will the government consider a subsidy scheme for each household to purchase an outside compost bin or worm farm?
7. Could the Minister please provide a brief description of how the *Business Smart Program* will work?
8. Will the Molonglo Valley bird research project be completed before development is planned to commence?
9. On the top of page 293 of Budget Paper 4 there is reference to 'protection of high conservation areas' as part of the Climate Change Strategy.
  - a. What are these areas?
  - b. What is the funding for (i.e. rangers, ecologists, fencing)?
  - c. Does that mean nature parks are now under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Climate Change?
10. Could the Minister please provide a breakdown of funding for the Office of Sustainability, ACT Parks, Nature Conservation and Land Management, Heritage, and other sections of Environment regulation and Land Management for the years 2005-2009?
11. With the further funding from the second appropriation last year – how many staff will there now be in the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment?

- a. Is this now sufficient funding to operate comfortably?
- b. Will the Regional State of the Environment report be out on time? (by November is the target).

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Government has received an approach from Dr Andrew Blakers regarding his Solarisation proposal and is considering the merits of such an approach.
2. The Building Retrofit Incentives Program forms part of the Government's long term water strategy, *Think water, act water*. The program is designed to encourage commercial property owners/managers to retrofit bathroom facilities in commercial properties with the view to improve water use efficiency. A number of commercial properties have been identified as high water users through water audits. These properties will be the focus of this program through 2008/09. A rebate will be offered based on a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement between the Government and property owners/managers of up to \$20,000 per property on product only.
  - a. The program is only available to larger commercial properties.
  - b. The program has a budget of \$540,000 for 2008/09.
3. The ACT Government's Climate Change Strategy, *Weathering the Change*, seeks to improve home energy efficiencies. Action 8 commits \$20 million over 10 years for energy efficiency improvements to government housing. Action 9 continues the successful ACT EnergyWise Program which offers an individual home energy audit with a comprehensive report for the low fee of \$30 and a rebate of \$500 when \$2000 is spent on the home improvements recommended by the audit report. This program is accessible to households of all incomes including low income households and landlords of rental dwellings. ACT EnergyWise Program is funded for \$452,000 in 2008-09.

The community education budget of the Climate Change unit within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services is being used to address energy efficiency in all sectors: domestic, commercial and government.

4. Action 6 of the ACT Climate Change Strategy commits the ACT Government to legislating Renewable Energy Targets, to require as a minimum, that all electricity retailers source 10% renewable energy by 2010 and 15% by 2020.

At the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in December 2007, the Commonwealth and States and Territories agreed to work cooperatively, commencing early in 2008, to bring the existing Mandatory Renewable Energy Targets and the various state-based targets into a single, expanded national scheme by early 2009.

A COAG Working Group on a Renewable Energy Target has been established to undertake this work. The ACT participates on this working group.

5. The ACT Government maintains a commitment to continuing to embed sustainability within government decision-making and operations. While sustainability legislation has a role to play, the ACT Government's focus has been the preparation of the climate change strategy and the water security planning. Implementation of these is now the focus. The

Government has finite levels of resources available and these, at this stage, are better focused on implementing these important sustainability initiatives.

6. A review of the No Waste Strategy has been commissioned by the ACT Government. It is not appropriate to speculate on hypothetical options until the report is finalised.
7. The ACT Government does not have a Business Smart Program. However, *Switch Your Thinking* which will integrate energy, water and waste management, includes a business component.
8. The Molonglo Valley bird research project is a three-year project scheduled to be completed by July 2011, before any development proceeds in the central and northern Molonglo areas. Some of East Molonglo and North Weston will be developed prior to the completion of the research project, but this will not have any major environmental impact on birds, as development is confined to ex-pine plantation areas.

*Climate change strategy*

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

In relation to: Implementation of Climate Change Strategy – Protection of High Conservation Areas BP4 p293

1. i). What areas are considered high conservation areas in the ACT not currently in reserve?  
ii). What are the criteria they have to meet to be considered a high conservation area?
2. What measures are being taken to protect them and how does this tie in with the ACT Climate Change Strategy?
3. Will greenhouse gas emission targets be taken into account in regard to protecting these areas?
4. Will there need to be more than just a long term emissions target in place to ensure we don't cause any damage in the future to these conservation areas?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. i) The *ACT Lowlands Woodlands Conservation Strategy* (Action Plan 27) and the *ACT Lowlands Grasslands Conservation Strategy* (Action Plan 27) identify high conservation areas not in nature reserve. These include:
  - Majura Training Area, Belconnen Naval Transmission Station, Newline Quarry area and Bonshaw (Jerrabomberra Valley) – these areas belong to the Department of Defence;
  - Natural Temperate Grassland on airport land which is contiguous with grassland and woodland on the Majura Training Area, making it one of the largest remaining grassland remnant in Australia;
  - East Jerrabomberra Grasslands - the ACT Planning and Land Authority are currently preparing a draft variation to the Territory Plan to reserve this area;
  - Woodland at Kinlyside (North Gungahlin) – this is currently under short-term rural lease;
  - Kama South woodlands in central Molonglo Valley - subject to the existing Territory Plan draft variation and further ecological studies);
  - West Majura/Campbell Park grasslands – this is being considered as part of the Eastern Broadacre Study;
  - Mt Ainslie/Mt Majura woodland fringing the existing nature reserves; and
  - Travelling Stock Reserve and associated road side woodlands in Kowan.

Woodlands and grasslands are also present on rural leased land. Some lessees have been provided with Conservator's Directions that have been issued by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1981*. Conservator's Directions set out prescribed measures for management of the land to protect ecological values.



- ii). Conservation value is based on the type of ecosystem, integrity of the ecological community (how much it has been modified from its original condition), connectivity to other natural areas, habitat values and/or presences of rare or threatened species.
2. The ACT Government is working with the Australian National University on a connectivity study which will identify the most critical areas in the landscape that require protection or rehabilitation to ensure that species are able to move attitudinally and longitudinally as the climate changes. This study will include the NSW tablelands area and is associated with a much larger program called Atherton to Alps, an ambitious continental scale connectivity program supported by Environment Protection and Heritage Ministerial Council. In addition, the ACT Government is working towards the protection of high conservation value areas that have been identified so far - reservation is dependent upon the completion of planning studies and any future plans that the Commonwealth may have for the disposal of land held by the Department of Defence..
  3. Natural areas have the capacity to store carbon which may be an important offset to the generation of carbon dioxide as a result of burning fossil fuels. Subsequently, retaining large areas of bushland and woodland around suburbs may prove to be an important sustainability strategy . The Climate Change Strategy includes a project to undertake a carbon audit. This will address the role of natural areas in carbon sequestration.
  4. The main threat to high conservation areas is urban development and indirect impacts associated with development such as fire buffers, inappropriate fire regimes, fragmentation by roads, clearing for power lines and so on. An increased frequency and intensity of wildfire, and drought caused by climate change may also lead to the degradation of natural areas.

*Weathering the change action plan*

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

In relation to : Implementation of Weathering the Change Action Plan – Strategic Indicator 2  
BP4 p277

1. Which 34 of the 43 Actions from the Weathering the Change Action Plan have been implemented as a result of the 2008/09 Budget?
2. When will any remaining Actions be implemented?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The nine actions listed below have already been implemented or are being implemented without a specific budget. These involve policy development or legislation and are being funded from existing departmental resources or through a partnership with a key stakeholder (eg Action 32 involved a partnership with the Australian National University).

Action 1 - Develop an Energy Policy;

Action 4 - Develop and Implement a Park-and-Ride Strategy (complete);

Action 5 - Legislate for Green Power to be offered to all new electricity customers (complete);

Action 10 - Pursue national emissions trading and reporting;

Action 14 - Introduce free bus travel for bicycle riders (complete);

Action 18 - Introduce a Feed-in Tariff for renewable micro generation;

Action 31 - Support the National Adaptation Framework;

Action 32 - Assess Climate Change Impacts on our Urban Areas; and

Action 42 - Develop Fuel Sale Data Legislation for Emissions Monitoring (complete).

The remaining 34 Actions will be progressed during the 2008/09 financial year with support from the 2008/09 Budget.

2. The ACT Government will endeavour to implement all actions in the first Action Plan by 2011.

*ANU co-operative investment in climate change adaptation centre*

**Mrs Dunne:** To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : ANU Co-operative Investment in Climate Change Adaptation Centre – BP4 p41

1. Will this centre be tying in with and working with the ANU Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems and the work they conduct?
2. Will this centre be run by the ANU and have ANU staff working in it or will there be a mixture of ANU and Government staff?
3. Will the centre report to the ACT government or to the ANU?
4. When is work expected to start on this centre and what is the expected completion date?

**Ms Gallagher:** I am advised the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Climate Change Adaptation Research Centre will be engaged in leading research and generation of high quality knowledge and information that will help not only the Territory but the whole of Australia adapt to the climatic changes likely to impact the country over coming decades. In undertaking its research, it is likely that the Centre will consult with areas of expertise within the ANU – such as the Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems - and with other centres of expertise within the ANU, across Australia and around the world.
2. The Climate Change Adaptation Research Centre will be primarily run by the ANU using its own staff. In undertaking its work, the centre will work closely with leading researchers and research institutions across Australia and around the world.
3. Day to day management of the centre will be an ANU role. Within the framework of ACT Government support, it is envisaged that appropriate reporting mechanisms be included which stipulate a requirement that the centre provides periodic reports to the ACT Government.
4. A project team is to be established in the second half of 2008. The ACT Government's financial commitment to this project has been provided in the 2008/09 budget and is therefore planned to be disbursed within the next financial year. Completion date for the physical project construction work is as yet unknown.

*Solar farm feasibility study*

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

In relation to: Solar Farm Feasibility Study – BP4 p41

1. Are there any sites currently being assessed for the location of the Solar Farm, if so where are they?
2. What company is doing the feasibility study?
3. How long is the feasibility study expected to take?
4. When is it expected that a decision will be made on whether the Solar Farm will go ahead?
5. Will technology from ANU Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems be looked at being used in the solar farm, will this be an option looked at in the feasibility study?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The consultant undertaking the feasibility study, Parsons Brinckerhoff, provided ActewAGL with a set of characteristics for land that might be suitable to accommodate a solar power facility in the ACT. Based on the information provided by Parsons Brinckerhoff, officers from CMD identified the following sites as having sufficient size for possible development of a solar power plant.
  - Block 498 Stromlo
  - Block 624 Gungahlin
  - Block 35 Tuggeranong
  - Block 1653 Tuggeranong
  - Part Block 418 Stromlo
  - Part Block 183 Tennant
  - Part Block 682 Majura and Block 679 Majura

No other characteristics beyond size were considered at this point. Any further consideration of these sites will be subject to the results of the consultant's study. Identification of possible sites does not imply a government decision to proceed with the project.

2. ActewAGL has engaged Parsons Brinckerhoff to manage the Solar Farm Feasibility Study.
3. The Feasibility Study was announced on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008, and it is expected Parsons Brinckerhoff will provide ActewAGL with a final report of their findings on 1 July 2008.
4. It is expected that the Parsons Brinckerhoff's Feasibility Study report will facilitate an informed decision on whether the project should proceed to a more detailed analysis.

5. The Feasibility Study is exploring a range of technology options for a solar facility in the ACT. Professor Andrew Blakers (Director, Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems) has provided information on 'Advanced Solar Energy Systems from the Australian National University' to Parsons Brinckerhoff, for consideration in the study.

*Environment protection and heritage council national waste initiatives*

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

In relation to : Implementation of Environmental Protection and Heritage Council National Waste Initiatives – BP4 p293

1. what are the initiatives and what is the breakdown of the funds to be spent on these initiatives
2. Is there a strategy behind these initiatives and will they tie in with other environmental initiatives, and if so how?

**MINISTER CORBELL** : I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The national waste initiatives that are being progressed under the guidance of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) include the work program for development of national solutions for selected problematic wastes such as plastic bag, tyres, computers, televisions and compact fluorescent lamps.

The funding allocation of \$56,000 in 2008-2009 budget is to undertake consultation, promotions and associated activities required to implement the priority areas of the work program.

2. Yes. The strategies behind these initiatives are consistent and supportive of the Climate Change Strategy and the No Waste Strategy and ensures that the ACT is working in cooperation with other jurisdictions.

*Sustainability*

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

In relation to: Output 1.3 – Sustainability

1. Could you provide a breakdown of costs for each of the following services and also policy advice and programs for each:

- (i) Water
- (ii) Energy
- (iii) Natural resources
- (iv) Climate change
- (v) Waste management

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The breakdown of costs are as follows:

(i) Water	
Non-salary costs:	\$294,000
Salaries:	\$353,900
Total:	\$647,900

Policy Advice - The Sustainability and Environment Policy Coordination (Water Policy Unit) of the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TaMs) provides advice on a broad range of water policy issues, in particular issues involving the ACT’s participation in national water policy development such as COAG water reform, the development of the Commonwealth’s *Water Act* and the participation in the National Water Initiative. It also includes the ACT’s commitment to the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative and the Living Murray Initiative. Other high level policy matters at an ACT level include Googong Dam ownership, water trading, catchment management governance and demand management policy incorporating the water restrictions regime.

Non salary costs are \$294K - which includes contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative.

Program Administration - Water efficiency programs are delivered to the ACT community by Sustainability Programs and Projects of TAMS through its “Switch Your Thinking” program. “Switch Your Thinking” delivers an integrated package in support of water and energy efficiency, and waste minimisation to business, government, residential and schools sectors to increase program implementation efficiencies and ensure that published reduction targets are met.

The delivery of the water efficiency programs includes the following projects and associated budgets;

<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget (\$)</b>
• Commercial Building Retrofits (High Water Users)	540,000
• Garden Smart Program and Rebate	210,000

• Sustainable Schools – Water Audit Implementation	302,000
• Grey Water Hose Rebate	234,000
• Irrigation Smart Rebates	32,500
• Irrigation Smart Design & Pilot	440,000
• Sustainable Schools Indoor/Outdoor Audits	37,000
• Dual Flush Rebate	375,000
• Rainwater Tank Rebate	202,500
• Water Business Support Program (Stage 4 prep)	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,473,000</b>

Cost associated with communication, audit, evaluation and salaries for water, energy, waste and climate change projects are integrated into delivery of “Switch Your Thinking” as a whole. These costs are:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget (\$)</b>
• Communication, evaluation and audit	306,000
• Staff (incorporating training and development)	789,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,095,100</b>

(ii) Energy

Non-salary costs:	\$450,000
Salaries:	\$408,600
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$858,600</b>

The Sustainability and Environment Policy Coordination (Energy Policy Unit) provides advice on local, regional and national energy issues that will ensure the ACT has safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy supplies. Local issues include the continuity of electricity and natural gas supplies and in particular emergency recovery of the West Belconnen electricity substation and securing a second electricity connection in South Canberra. National issues have focused on the move to the National Energy Market. The Unit is also working on a draft energy policy to be provided to Government at the end of June.

The delivery of energy programs (excluding administration, audit, evaluation and salaries) through Sustainability Programs and Projects includes the following programs and associated budgets;

<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget (\$)</b>
• Home Energy Advisory Service	308,000
• ACT Energy Wise	144,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$452,000</b>

(iii) Natural Resources

Natural Environment

Non-salary cost:	\$162,500
Salaries:	\$582,800
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$745,300</b>

Sustainability and Environment Policy Coordination (Natural Environment) develops policy and provides high level advice relating to review of policy and legislation, management of the Territory’s natural resources and primary industries, including biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, the rural sector, animal welfare and domestic animals. The



unit supports ACT Government membership of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, Primary Industries Ministerial Council and their corresponding Steering Committees and advisory committees eg. Natural Resources Policy and Programs Committee, Animal Welfare Working Group. The unit provides secretariat support to ACT ministerial advisory committees i.e. Flora and Fauna Committee, Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Current and continuing projects in the 2008-09 financial year include:

1. Review of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* (\$30,000)
2. Communications Strategy for *Domestic Animals Act 2001* (\$30,000)
3. Finalisation and publishing of ACT Weeds Strategy 2007-17 (\$20,000)

#### Natural Resources Management Programs

Salaries: \$213,000

Responsibility for these programs rests with Sustainability and Environment Policy Coordination (Natural Environment).

The Caring for our Country complementary funding initiative (\$450,000 in 2008-09) addresses projects including the continuation of the successful Land Keepers program engaging the Canberra community in restoring rural and non-urban lands after the 2003 bushfires (\$190,000), management of the urban/bush interface (\$135,000) and conservation of endangered species and communities such as the Northern Corroboree Frog and sub-alpine bogs (\$125,000). Salaries funding supports the operation of the ACT Natural Resource Management Council that oversees the delivery of funding from sources such as Caring for our Country program.

#### (iv) Climate Change

Non-salary costs:	\$844,000
Salaries:	\$519,000
Total:	\$1,363,000

Non-salary costs are to be used to implement the Weathering the Change Action Plan. These will include community education, (Action 37), a grants program for community groups to improve the energy performance of their buildings and the support of a business and academic taskforce (Action 40).

#### (v) Waste management

Non-salary costs:	\$18,881,161
Salaries:	\$1,082,600
Total:	\$19,916,600

Sustainability Policy and Programs (ACT No Waste Unit) delivers a range of municipal waste and recycling services to the Canberra community. These services include household garbage and recycling collections, processing household and business recyclables, operating transfer stations and the Mugga Lane landfill; landfill gas extraction and conversion to renewable electricity, Regional Recycling Drop Off Centres; and garden waste processing. Planning and management of waste infrastructure is undertaken using best practice asset management approaches. The unit is also responsible for supporting and assisting the growth and development of the ACT resource recovery industry sector.

In support of the No Waste Strategy, Sustainability Programs and Projects will delivery waste minimisation programs covering commercial, public place and event, Government office and schools. The budget for this is \$200,000.

The above costs do not include departmental corporate overheads or depreciation and amortisation.

*Land management*

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

In relation to : Output 1.4 – Land Management BP4 p281

1. What are the factors leading to the increase in the annual management cost of public land e.g. percentage of parks with a current (less than 10 yrs old) management plan?
2. How many hectares of public land?
3. Which parks have a management plan more than 10 years old?
4. i) Did the Government seek to limit public access to the revised draft management plan for Namadgi? ii) If so, why was this the case?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The increase from \$315 per hectare to \$345 per hectare arises from the expected increase costs associated with the delivery of conservation and land management activities. The increase also arises from many budgetary pressures, the more significant are contract price increases, salary and fuel increases, extra mowing, cleaning and maintenance associated with Growth of the City.
2. A total of 170,590 hectares of public land:

Wilderness	28,878 hectares
National Park	82,075 hectares
Nature Reserve	18,908 hectares
Special Purpose Reserves	6,240 hectares
Urban open space	3,345 hectares
Water Supply Protection-Lower Cotter Catchment	6,364 hectares
Net plantable pine forest	9,184 hectares
Other native vegetation reserves	996 hectares
3.
  - Namadgi National Park Plan of Management (1986) revised draft (2007) currently with the Legislative Assembly Committee for Planning and the Environment;
  - Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve (1994): Final Draft being prepared for Cabinet and Assembly consideration;
  - Murrumbidgee River Corridor (1997);
  - Belconnen Urban Parks , Sportsgrounds and Lake Ginninderra (1998)\*; and
  - Woden and Weston Creek’s Urban Parks and Sportsgrounds (1998)\*.

\*It is proposed that a Plan of Management which covers all Districts/Town Parks in the same manner as the Canberra Nature Park will be prepared.

4. The ACT Government did not seek to limit public access to the revised draft management plan for Namadgi National Park. As legislatively required, the ACT Government referred the draft management plan to the Legislative Assembly Committee for Planning and the Environment. Any decision on whether the Plan should be released to the public, rested solely with the Committee.

*Water efficiency incentives*

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

In relation to : Water Efficiency Incentives – BP3 p187

1. How will these initiatives be rolled out in the ACT?
2. What is the strategy behind marketing them to the ACT community?
3. How much will be spent marketing these incentives?
4. What kind of water savings will each of the incentives make and collectively how much water will they save?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The water efficiency initiatives form the program of rebates and incentives that support the delivery of the ACT Government’s Water Resources Strategy, *Think water, act water*. The initiatives are provided to assist ACT residents improve water efficiency and reduce water consumption. They are delivered to the ACT community by Sustainability Programs and Projects of the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) through its “Switch Your Thinking” program. “Switch Your Thinking” delivers an integrated package in support of water, energy efficiency and waste minimization to business, government, residential and schools sectors to increase program implementation efficiencies and ensure that published reduction targets are met.
2. As detailed in Question 1, the water efficiency initiatives form the program of rebates and incentives that support the delivery of the ACT Government’s Water Resources Strategy, *Think water, act water*.
3. Sustainability Programs and Projects will expend \$306,000 on communications, evaluation and marketing in support of these objectives, as an integrated package within the “Switch Your Thinking” program.
4. The water savings identified for each incentive are based on rigid program evaluation and best-practice estimates. The savings identified for the initiatives are as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Savings (KL/year)</b>
• Commercial Building Retrofits (High Water Users)	143,750
• Garden Smart Program and Rebate	17,400
• Grey Water Hose Rebate	250,000
• Irrigation Smart Rebates	44,400
• Dual Flush Rebate	214,600
• Rainwater Tank Rebate	19,964
• Grey Water Treatment System Rebate	7,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>697,514KL</b>

The \$2.0 million Drought Proofing Parks and Open Spaces initiative forms part of the 2007-2008 Appropriation Bill (No. 2). This initiative's objective is to reduce dependency on and to improve the efficient use of potable water for key operations and asset maintenance. Key works are:

- Weston Park west converted to 2<sup>nd</sup> class water and replace ageing irrigation infrastructure with more efficient irrigation equipment available.
- Control (computer controlled irrigation program) to be integrated into 6 additional parks (Weston Pk, Corroboree Pk, Margaret Timpson Pk, Yarralumla Bay, English Gardens, Lake Ginninderra Western Foreshores).
- Rainwater tanks to be installed at Parks Conservation and Lands depots.
- Gungahlin Town Park irrigation system converted to 2<sup>nd</sup> class water.
- Replacement of ageing irrigation infrastructure at selected locations to reduce water loss through leaks etc.
- Investigations have also commenced into converting the irrigation system for the Tuggeranong Community Park to a second class water supply.

Upon the successful implementation of these works, it is anticipated that 148 mega-litres of potable water will be saved per year. This amounts to approximately \$375,000 saved per annum.

*Carbon neutral schools*

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

In relation to : Carbon Neutral Schools - BP4 p370

1. How does this allocation of \$0.4m fit with previous allocations for this program?
2. What measures will be put in place to make ACT schools carbon neutral?
3. How will you measure the carbon footprint of each school?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. \$400,000 per annum is only part of the Government's \$20m commitment over the next 10 years.

The Government committed \$20 million over ten years to the carbon neutral initiative for both government and non-government schools. \$16 million has been allocated to government schools and \$3 million to non-government schools. The remaining \$1million is to employ a project officer for 10 years to administer and co-ordinate the initiative across both sectors.

2. Carbon neutrality involves a combination of minimising energy consumption through better housekeeping and management of the facility; the installation of more energy efficient equipment (including insulation), and the purchase of green energy or carbon offsets. The budget initiative will initially allow a process to be set up to assist government and non government schools to reduce their carbon emissions predominantly through the installation of energy efficient equipment; and to monitor their emissions.
3. A portion of this funding includes the employment of a project officer for 10 years to administer and co-ordinate the initiative across both sectors. As part of this person's responsibilities a carbon management plan will be developed. This will include the measurement and monitoring of the carbon footprint of each school.

*Energy efficient street lights*

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

In relation to : Energy Efficient Street Lights – BP2 p 40

1. When will work begin on installing these street lights and how long is it expected to take to complete the changeover?
2. What will happen to the light bulbs which are removed, how will they be disposed of?
3. When disposed of, are the energy efficient light bulbs which will replace the old bulbs, environmentally friendly and easily disposed of?
4. What is the process involved with disposing the new energy efficient light bulbs?
5. Is the disposal of both types of light bulbs included in the \$3m budgeted for this initiative?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Work is expected to begin on the changeover in September 2008 and be completed by April 2009.
2. Once the globes are removed they are sent to a recycling company. The recycling company takes the mercury vapour lamps to their recycling plant in Sydney. The mercury vapour lamps are crushed under a negative pressure and then heated in a retort. The mercury is recovered for reuse in dental amalgams and the mining industry. The glass that is recovered from the globes can be reused in the manufacture of fibreglass and other such products.
3. Currently all high intensity discharge (HID) globes have mercury (in some form) built into their enclosures. Lamp manufacturers are now working on removing mercury from globes.
4. The process will be the same as described in Question 2.
5. The disposal of the mercury vapour light globes is included in the \$3.0 budget. The ongoing disposal of HID globes will be funded from the recurrent street light maintenance program.

*Additional tree plantings*

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

In relation to : Additional Tree Plantings – BP4 p293

1. i). Will these trees count towards the One Million Trees initiative?  
ii). If so, why are these listed as separate initiatives?
2. Will these trees be located in a forest type environment or spread throughout the ACT in smaller clusters?
3. How many additional tree plantings will this initiative achieve?
4. Will these trees be suited to the ACT's climate and will they be drought resistant?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. i) Yes.  
ii) This is a specific initiative for these locations.
2. The majority of these trees will be planted in urban parkland areas to supplement existing plantings and improve amenity.
3. Numbers have not been determined as planting plans are not yet prepared.
4. The trees will be drought tolerant species and will be suited to the ACT's climate.



*Urban forest replacement*

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

In relation to : Implementation of Climate Change Strategy – Urban Forest Replacement Program (BP4 p 293) -

1. Which ACT urban forests will the ACT Government be replacing under this initiative and where are they located?
2. Is this a separate initiative from the One Million trees initiative, will these trees count towards that total, and if so why are they listed as separate initiatives?
3. How long will this process take to replace the urban forests in the ACT?
4. How are sites identified as needing replacement and will any of these sites be areas where there was no forest before?
5. Will this involve the removal of trees which are healthy or which are not necessarily drought resistant?
6. Who will be planting these forests and cleaning up the areas needed to be reforested?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The urban forest is a figurative description of the estimated 630,000 public trees within the urban area. The Urban Forest Replacement Program will be aimed at perpetuating Canberra's ageing urban treescape by programming the timely replacement of public trees so that the quality of the urban forest is not compromised.
2. The Urban Forest Replacement Program is a separately funded initiative to the One Million trees initiative. As the Urban Forest Replacement Program is largely replacing existing trees, these trees are not proposed to be included in the Million Trees count.
3. The Urban Forest Replacement Program is planned to run for 25 years.
4. The ACT Government has been operating a capital works funded street and parkland tree replacement program which concentrated on the removal and replacement of trees in decline since 1990. The Urban Forest Replacement Program is a more strategic approach to the problem of a large number of aging trees. The intent is to replace existing street plantings in a systematic way.
5. The Urban Forest Replacement Program may involve the removal of healthy trees as part of programmed street tree replacement but will not specifically target trees that are not drought resistant.
6. It is expected that the majority of the tree removal and replacement work will be carried out by contractors.

*Sustainability programs*

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

In relation to : Sustainability Programs – BP4 p293-

1. What sustainability programs are being referred to here, could you provide some information on each of these programs and how much money will be allocated to each program?
2. Why is there such a disparity in the amounts of money being allocated to these sustainability programs and initiatives revolving around the planting of trees?
3. What are your targets in relation to the sustainability programs to measure progress against for the following:
  - i). long term
  - ii). medium term
  - iii). short term
4. How do these programs tie in with the rest of the environmental initiatives?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The \$300,000 supports delivery of the “Switch Your Thinking” program. These funds are associated with communication, audit, evaluation and salaries for water, energy, waste and climate change projects that are integrated into delivery of “Switch Your Thinking”.
2. The \$300,000 forms part of the total budget for the “Switch Your Thinking” program of \$4,321,000. The \$1,050,000 allocated to tree plantings forms part of a separate program for tree replanting around Canberra's urban lakes delivered through Parks, Conservation and Lands Branch within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services.
3. The range of programs delivered in support of the “Switch Your Thinking” program underpin implementation of three major strategic policies (*Think water, act water*, the Climate Change Strategy and No Waste Strategy). Each of these strategies includes reduction targets for water, energy and waste that are published and agreed by Government. These targets are for:
  - water through *Think water, act water* - a reduction in per capita consumption of mains water by 12 percent by 2013 and 25 per cent reduction by 2023;
  - emissions reduction through the Climate Change Strategy - a reduction in emissions to 60 per cent of 2000 levels by 2050 and an interim milestone of limiting 2025 emissions to 2000 levels; and
  - waste reduction these programs are basic in supporting the goal of reducing waste across the commercial, government and community sectors.
4. As advised in Question 1, these programs provide communication, audit, evaluation and salaries for water, energy, waste and climate change projects that are integrated into delivery of “Switch Your Thinking”.

*Switch your thinking program*

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

In relation to : Environment, Water and Climate Change – Switch Your Thinking Program -

1. Is this additional funding to what is provided under HEAT and EnergyWise programs which are funded to \$0.44m PA?
2. Could you give a breakdown of the funding which will be allocated to the following under this program and a breakdown of what is already being spent in these areas:
  - i). water
  - ii). energy
  - iii). waste
3. Could you give a breakdown of what is being spent/expected to be spent by the following sectors:
  - i). residential
  - ii). commercial
  - iii). industry
  - iv). community groups

For:

  - a). water
  - b). energy
  - c). waste
4. What is going to be done to monitor and evaluate this program?

**MINISTER CORBELL** : I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The \$518,000 supports delivery of the Living Murray Initiative Agreement and a pilot project on the strategic implication of Stage 4 water restrictions on ACT businesses. These funds are separate to that allocated in support of the HEAT and Energy Wise programs.
2. i). Water  
The ACT, under the Living Murray Initiative Agreement (2004), is committed to spending \$5m on water recovery and saving 2 gigalitres of potable water. This commitment will see \$418,000 from this allocation used to support delivery of a range of outdoor water efficiency initiatives under the “Switch Your Thinking” program. These initiatives include rainwater tank rebates, IrrigationSmart, Sustainable Schools Outdoor water audits, Greywater Hose Rebate, and the GardenSmart Program.  
  
The remaining \$100,000 will support a pilot project to investigate the strategic implications of Stage 4 water restrictions on ACT businesses. This project is a cooperative effort between the Business and Industry Development Branch of CMD and Sustainability Programs and Projects Branch from TAMS.
- ii). Energy  
All funding under this allocation has been directed towards water saving initiatives.
- iii). Waste  
All funding under this allocation has been directed towards water saving initiatives.
3. As detailed in Questions 1 and 2, \$418,000 will be expended across a number of water efficiency programs available to the Canberra community and \$100,000 within the business community on a pilot project on the strategic implication of Stage 4 water restrictions on ACT businesses.
4. A monitoring and evaluation process is embedded within each project plan. The results are made publically available through the annual progress report on the Government's water efficiency program *Think water, act water*. The 2008/09 report is due for publication during 2009/10.

*One million new trees*

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

In relation to : Implementation of Climate Change Strategy – One Million New Trees BP4 p293 -

1. Is there strategy to go along with the planting of one million new trees, and are there targets in terms of greenhouse gas emissions that have been set over the life of this initiative and into the future to measure the successfulness of the initiative also?
2. Is this initiative being implemented to allow for any future increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the ACT as it continues to grow in the future ?
3.
  - i). What are the species of trees/plants that are going to be used in this initiative?
  - ii). Are they suited to the ACT climate?
  - iii). Are they drought resistant?
4. Will these trees create a larger drain on the ACT's water supply?

**MINISTER CORBELL :** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The planting of these trees is for a range of purposes including carbon sequestration. The Department of Territory and Municipal Services are about to let a consultancy for a Carbon Sequestration Audit which will give a more accurate measure of the amount of carbon that would be sequestered over the life of the initiative and beyond.
2. This initiative is part of a mix of measures outlined in the ACT Climate Change Strategy, *Weathering the Change*, to reduce emissions including through energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and carbon sequestration.
3.
  - i) The species to be planted are yet to be determined.
  - ii) All species will be selected to suit their particular planting sites and the ACT climate.
  - ii) Plants will be selected with the anticipation of a drier climate in the ACT.
4. No.

*Caring for our country*

**ZED SESELJA MLA:** To ask the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Caring for our Country (p90, BP3)

1. For the year 2007-08, what amounts is the ACT estimated to contribute towards each of the following four Commonwealth programs: (a) Natural Heritage Trust, (b) the National Landcare Program, (c) the Environmental Stewardship Program and (d) the Working on Country Indigenous land and environmental program?
2. What will be the total ACT contribution to the Caring for our Country program for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, including new funding under this budget measure and previous base funding which had been estimated to be paid under the four predecessor programs?
3. If the new total ACT funding is an increase over what was provided to the four predecessor programs, what is the reason for the future increase in the ACT contribution above previously forecast contributions?
4. If the new ACT funding is an increase over what was provided to the four predecessor programs, how will the increased funding be used, as split between activities within ACT borders and outside ACT borders?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The ACT expects to contribute \$337,520 to the Natural Heritage Trust program in 2007-08. The ACT did not contribute to the National Landcare Program, the Environmental Stewardship Program or the Working on Country Indigenous Land and Environmental Program as these are strictly Commonwealth programs.
2. The total ACT contribution to the Caring for our Country Program in complementary funding is:

	<b>Caring for our Country Complementary Funding (\$'000)</b>	<b>Base Funding (\$'000)</b>
2008-09	450	213
2009-10	461	218
2010-11	473	223
2011-12	484	228
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>882</b>

3. Since the establishment of the ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council in May 2006 the relationship between the ACT Government and the Council has strengthened. This stronger partnership has resulted in the alignment of shared visions for natural resource management in the ACT. The soon to be released ACT Natural Resource Management Plan is further recognition of those shared visions, which have been supported by the ACT through an increase in investment.

4. Project proposals are currently being assessed by the ACT NRM Council. Subsequently, the split between activities within ACT borders and outside ACT borders is yet to be determined.

*Urban forest replacement program*

**ZED SESELJA MLA:** To the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to: Implementation of Climate Change Strategy – Urban Forest Replacement Program (p92, BP3) -

1. Why has no additional funding been provided after 2008-09?
2. What will be the size of the urban forest area to be rehabilitated and replaced?
3. Which forests will be rehabilitated under this budget measure and what is the target completion date for each forest on this replacement program?
4. How many trees are estimated to be removed under this program and what is the estimated breakdown by dead trees, diseased trees and other categories of trees to be replaced?
5. How many new trees will be planted under this program?
6. Separate to the new work to be funded through this budget measure, what is the base level of annual spending on urban forest replacement for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
7. How many persons will be employed or hired under this measure in full-time equivalent terms, what is the timeframe for recruitment and how do these positions split between permanent positions and temporary contract positions?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. \$731,000 has been provided in 2008/2009. \$250,000 of this is to enhance the existing funds for street tree replacement, making a total of \$500,000 for this year. The remainder will employ a project officer with funds to engage a range of consultants to fully scope and program this initiative. A future provision of  
  
\$5 million per year has been made in the budget to undertake replacement works commencing in 2009/2010.
2. The urban forest is a figurative description of the estimated 630,000 public trees within the urban area. The urban forest replacement program will be aimed at the sustainable management of Canberra's urban treescape by programming the timely replacement of public trees so that the quality of the urban forest is not compromised.
3. The program relates to the urban forest as a whole and includes both street and parkland trees across the city. Priority areas will be identified through assessment of tree condition across Canberra. The program is proposed to run over 25 years.
4. It is estimated that more than one third of Canberra's 630,000 urban trees will decline (as outlined in the Urban Trees Asset management Plan 2005-2022) and need to be replaced



during the next 25 years.

5. It is difficult to estimate the total numbers of trees to be removed, but it is probably between 240,000 – 250,000.
6. There is an annual commitment of \$250,000 for the street tree replacement program. This may be incorporated into the future provision of \$5 million for this program.
7. A project manager has been appointed on a two year contract. It is expected that the majority of the tree removal and replacement work will be carried out by contractors, while tree assessments will be done by consultants.

*Switch your thinking*

**ZED SESELJA MLA:** To the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to: Switch Your Thinking (p92, BP3) -

1. What amount or proportion of this funding will be spent on hardware such as energy efficient devices or water saving devices for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. What amount or proportion of this funding will be spent on staff for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
3. What is the timeframe for recruitment of staff, how many staff will be recruited under this budget measure in full-time equivalent terms, and how do those positions breakdown according to level of seniority?
4. What does the one-stop-shop “delivery vehicle” involve? Is this literally a motor vehicle or a shop front? How many “delivery vehicles” will there be?
5. What is the budget for marketing, advertising and communications for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12? Does this estimate include or exclude staffing costs?
6. What is the breakdown of spending between residential, government, business and school sectors for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. The \$518,000 supports delivery of the Living Murray Initiative Agreement and a pilot project on the strategic implication of Stage 4 water restrictions on ACT businesses. Purchase of hardware is not included in delivery of these projects. Further detail on the use of this funding has been provided in my response to Question 338 from Vicki Dunne MLA.
2. This funding is not intended to be expended on staff but rather on delivery of program rebates, contractors and communications and marketing.

This funding supports delivery of the “Switch Your Thinking” program through TAMS. “Switch Your Thinking” delivers an integrated package in support of water and energy efficiency, and waste minimisation to business, government, residential and schools sectors to increase program implementation efficiencies and ensure that published reduction targets are met.

\$418,000 from this allocation will be used to support delivery of a range of outdoor water efficiency initiatives under the “Switch Your Thinking” program. These initiatives include rainwater tank rebates, IrrigationSmart, Sustainable Schools Outdoor water audits, Greywater Hose Rebate, and the GardenSmart Program. The remaining \$100,000 will support a pilot project to investigate the strategic implications of Stage 4 water restrictions on ACT businesses (a single consultancy).

3. No new staff will be engaged through this funding allocation.
4. As detailed in Question 2, the “one-stop-shop” refers to the “Switch Your Thinking” program and delivery of an integrated package of programs covering waste, energy and water.
5. There is no specific budget allocated to marketing, advertising and communications from this allocation of \$518,000. Funds budgeted to marketing, advertising and communication for 2008/09 and out-years is included as one component of the integrated delivery package under the “Switch Your Thinking” program.
6. As previously advised, the funding allocated in 2008/09 to the Living Murray Initiative Agreement supports delivery of a number of projects and is only one source of funding towards the delivery of these projects. The rainwater tank rebates, IrrigationSmart, Greywater Hose Rebate, and the GardenSmart Program sit within the residential sector while the Sustainable Schools Outdoor water audits sit within the schools sector. The \$100,000 allocated for a pilot project on the strategic implication of Stage 4 water restrictions will be directed towards the business sector.

The “Switch Your Thinking” program will be in its first year of development during 2008/09. This includes strategic planning for program delivery and program make-up for the years 2009/10 to 2011/12. Precise budget allocations for the residential, government, business and school sectors for each of the out-years from 2008/09 will depend on finalising the strategic plans during 2008/09.

*Sustainability programs*

**ZED SESELJA MLA:** To the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to: Sustainability Programs (p93, BP3) -

1. How many additional policy and how many additional project officers will be employed in full-time equivalent terms, and how do those positions breakdown according to level of seniority?
2. What is the timeframe for advertising of positions and recruitment of staff?
3. What projects will the project officers be assigned to and how many officers will be assigned against each program?
4. What are the branches and sections to which these new staff will be assigned?
5. Excluding the new staff funded under this budget measure, what are the base numbers of staff working in the branches and sections to which these new staff will be assigned in full-time equivalent terms for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. There will be no additional staff. This funding will maintain four full-time equivalent staff. Two at the ASO6 level and two at SOGC level. These will be focused on program delivery, not policy.
2. The four staff are currently engaged on temporary transfer in delivery of the "Switch Your Thinking" program. The positions they occupy are fully dependant upon budget allocation towards delivery of the "Switch Your Thinking" program.
3. These officers will be engaged in the delivery of the "Switch Your Thinking" program as one integrated package.
4. These staff will be engaged within the Program Implementation Section of the Sustainability Programs and Projects, Environment and Recreation Network within the Department of Territory and Municipal Services.
5. For 2008/09, 8.6 staff will be engaged at full-time equivalent within the Program Implementation Section. These numbers reflect the project delivery schedule for the "Switch Your Thinking" program. These staffing numbers will vary according to the number of projects delivered through the out-years.
6. The Program Implementation Section forms part of the Sustainability Programs and Projects Branch. There will be 28.6 staff engaged at full-time equivalent within this Branch. This Branch includes Program Implementation, Natural Resource Management, Climate Change Implementation and Reporting, ACT No Waste and Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways Project. These staffing numbers, like those for the Program Implementation Section, will vary according to the number of projects delivered through the out-years.

*Grassland studies*

**ZED SESELJA MLA** : To the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to : Commissioner for the Environment – Grassland Studies (p93, BP3)

1. How many additional staff in full-time equivalent terms will be funded under this measure, and how do those positions breakdown according to level of seniority?
2. How much of this funding will involve purchase of legal advice and services from external experts, consultants and agencies?
3. How much of this funding will involve purchase of conservation work and other field work?
4. What is the base level of funding for the Commissioner for the Environment for 2008-09, excluding new funding provided under this measure but including other new funding provided under this budget?
5. What is the base level of funding for the Commissioner for the Environment for 2008-09 for policy and legislative purposes, excluding new funding provided under this measure but including other new funding provided under this budget?
6. What is the base level of funding for the Commissioner for the Environment for 2008-09 for conservation work and other field work, excluding new funding provided under this measure but including other new funding provided under this budget?
7. What other one-off activities or temporary programs will the Commissioner for the Environment be operating in 2008-09 and what are the budgets for those programs?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. 1.3 FTE (1 x SOG B and 30% of 1 x ASO 4).
2. External advice from experts, approximately \$20,000.
3. The experts providing advice have undertaken some field trips (see further the answer to Question 2). No on the ground conservation work, as such, was undertaken.
4. \$1,113,000.00
5. The budget is not broken up into these units.
6. The budget is not broken up into these units.
7. This will depend on circumstances.

*Implementation of climate change strategy - 2nd appropriation*

**ZED SESELJA MLA:** To ask the Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Change:

In relation to : Implementation of Climate Change Strategy – 2nd Appropriation (Page 96, Budget Paper 3) -

1. What amounts of funding are provided for the purposes of the grant program under this budget measure across each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
2. What are the dates for applications for funding under the grants program and for decisions on grants, as broken down by tranche of grants and how much is to be granted under each tranche?
3. What are the grant eligibility rules and maximum grant sizes?
4. Have grants already been determined under the first tranche of the grants program and if so, what were the amounts, recipients and proposals for each of the grants awarded?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. 2008-09: \$700,000; 2009-10: \$0; 2010-11: \$0; 2011-12: \$0.
2. The dates for applications for funding under the grants program and for decisions on grants have not yet been finalised. It is proposed to grant \$350,000 under each of the two tranches during 2008-09.
3. The grant eligibility rules are as follows:
  - Applicants must be an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.
  - The funded activity must be undertaken within the ACT.
  - The activity or improvement could not reasonably proceed without grant assistance.
  
  - Projects must have a verifiable link to Government climate change policy outcomes.

The maximum grant sizes have not yet been determined.

4. No grants have yet been determined.

*One Million new trees over 10 years*

**ZED SESELJA MLA:** To the Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change

In relation to: Implementation of Climate Change Strategy – One Million New Trees over 10 Years (p92, BP3)

1. What activity will be funded under this budget measure, separate to the \$2.4 million annual tree planting activity funded in the Chief Minister's portfolio (as outlined at page 46 of BP5)?
2. What will be the measurable achievements delivered against this funding, separate to the \$2.4 million annual tree planting activity funded in the Chief Minister's portfolio (as outlined at page 46 of BP5)?
3. How many staff will be recruited under this budget measure in full-time equivalent terms, and how do those positions breakdown according to level of seniority?
4. What is the timeframe for recruitment of staff?
5. How does the spending under this measure breakdown according to different activities in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, including in areas such as policy advice, communication and marketing, accommodation and other categories of expenditure?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. For the One Million Trees Initiative, \$589K in 2008/2009, \$3.290M over 4 years:
  - Current planning anticipates the planting of 30,000 trees and large understory species per year for the next four years in the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Lower Cotter Catchment;
  - Planting 100,000 trees and shrubs specifically in the Lower Cotter Catchment in 2009/2010;
  - Planting 6,250 tall shrubs and wattles per year over the next four years in urban open space; and
  - Survival watering over 4 years of 1,500 trees to be planted in Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve, Cotter Reserve and Uriarra Crossing.
2. The establishment of 225,000 trees and large shrubs over 4 years, and associated carbon capture will improve conservation and connectivity values at a range of locations.
3. It is proposed that one additional Technical Officer Grade 3 will be employed to support delivery of this program.
4. The position will be filled by early in the new financial year.
5. As planning has only just commenced, there is no breakdown of costs available at this time.





*QTON - Solar farm feasibility study*

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

In relation to: Solar Farm Feasibility Study – Terms of Reference (Page 71, 29 May 2008)

On the feasibility study, Chief Minister, is it possible to see the terms of reference.

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The terms of reference include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Examine the feasibility of building a solar power facility;
- Assess options for suitable location/s for such a facility, having regard to land availability, grid connectivity, environmental considerations and access for students and visitors;
- Determine the optimum size of the solar facility in terms of initial capacity and the potential for future expansion, and identify the environmental benefits flowing from the proposed solar facility in terms of emissions reductions;
- Assess current solar technologies and determine the optimum proven technology for large-scale generation, having regard to cost efficiency and the environmental impact of proven technology, and the ability to expand output using emerging new technology;
- Determine the cost of constructing and operating the solar facility and the level of indirect or direct subsidy, if any, that might be required to make the investment commercially viable, with consideration to regulatory and electricity pricing implications;
- Undertake a full cost-benefit analysis of the solar facility proposal, having regard to net environmental impact, cost efficiency, social equity, public safety and Federal and ACT Government greenhouse gas policy;
- Compare the cost efficiency of the proposed solar facility with mainstream electricity generation and any other local green energy generation alternatives that might be viable;
- Identify and consider all planning and statutory requirements relating to the proposal.

QTON - Salt loads

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

In relation to : Salt loads (page 77 and 78, 29 May 2008)

If we are looking at an issue to reduce the salt load coming out of Lower Molonglo would one of the planks of that initiative be to try and introduce some sort of behavioural change by using low, especially soap powders and detergents and things like that which add to the salt load?

Is there some way of giving a breakdown of where the salt comes from, from human activity that is not coming mainly from soap powder and stuff like that where is it coming from?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

Salt enters the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC) from:

- natural or raw water from Murrumbidgee, Cotter or Googong;
- the water treatment process at Stromlo or Googong Water Treatment Plants;
- soaps, detergents and other chemicals from households and industry; and
- through the sewage treatment process at LMWQCC.

ActewAGL are currently developing a model to determine the salt loads for each component. Until such time as the model is running, calculations are taken on annual data, as follows:

	When using Cotter R Water Salts (mg/L)	When using Googong Water Salts (mg/L)
Raw water	~22	~93
Water Treatment	~45	~35
Sewage inflow including waste, soaps, detergents, chemicals	~230	~230
LMWQCC treatment	~150	~150
Out of LMWQCC	~450	~500

The Department of Territory and Municipal Services, in consultation with ACTEW, are examining options for reducing salt loads – this may include public education programs.

*QTON - Energy efficient street lights*

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

In relation to: Energy Efficient Street Lights (Page 82, 29 May 2008)

How many street lights is that going to move over to the energy efficient street lights and can you tell us where, when and how? In the new areas will we be installing full cut out lighting so we get 100 per cent downward direction of the light?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

There will be 5227 street light luminaries installed as part of this program. These will be installed on arterial and distributor roads in most Canberra suburbs during 2008/2009. The work will be publicly tendered.

Street lighting in new areas must meet AS 1158 Parts 1-6. This requires that on arterial roads the lights will not exceed 3% of upward light waste ratio, and in suburban areas the lights will not exceed 6% of upward light waste ratio.

*QTON - No. of threatened species in the ACT*

**MARY PORTER MLA:** To ask the Minister for Environment Water and Climate Change

In relation to: Number of threatened species in the ACT (Page 89 and 90, 29 May 2008)

On page 287 of Budget Paper 4, the accountability indicator says, implement identified activities arising from action plans for threatened species, how many threatened species do we have in the ACT?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

A species or ecological community is threatened if it is likely to become extinct in the foreseeable future. There are 31 threatened species and 2 threatened ecological communities in the ACT.

*QTON - Pest control*

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

In relation to: Pest Control (Page 97, 29 May 2008)

How much money is set aside for pest control (on top of the \$100,000 initiative funded in the budget)?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

- Vertebrate Pest Control - \$113,000 (this includes staff time undertaking control work).
- Weed Control - \$100,000 for the control of African Lovegrass, \$257,000 for environmental weed control, \$310,000 for weed control in fire affected areas plus staff time to undertake the control work.
- Invertebrate Pests - \$44,000 to fund a community advisory service, \$20,000 for the control of European wasps, termites, bees and ants plus staff time to undertake the control work.
- Capital funding of \$300,000 per year for 3 years for weed control and re-vegetation works for the Molonglo River.

*QTON - Switch your thinking*

**DEB FOSKEY MLA AND VICKI DUNNE MLA:** To ask the Minister for Environment Water and Climate Change

In relation to: - Switch Your Thinking (Page 99, 29 May 2008)

Could officials provide the committee with a breakdown of - I know you are saying you are not silos, but this is residential, government, business, schools, so how much money do you envisage going to that, and also the relationship between switching your thinking and the sustainability programs, because where do they overlap and where do they meet?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Delivery of the “Switch Your Thinking” Program will demonstrate to the ACT community that the ACT Government is proactively implementing its major environment and sustainability policies.

“Switch Your Thinking” targets key sectors to increase education levels aiming to encourage behavioural and structural change to reduce water, energy and waste consumption. Water programs provide incentives and rebates to replace poorly managed inefficient fixtures with well managed efficient devices. Climate change programs target the residential sector to reduce energy consumption and green house gas emissions. Waste programs target commercial, government and public waste generators where reductions are of highest priority.

New and expanded services are required for water, energy and waste programs to be delivered as an integrated package to business, government, residential and schools sectors. This will increase program implementation efficiencies and ensure that published reduction targets are met. Public participation in programs and education/public awareness activities will be significantly improved through the packaging of water, energy and waste programs.

The “Switch Your Thinking” Program is not a divisible package. The package of programs has been designed so that elements are mutually supporting and reinforcing. Significant inefficiencies would result should any component be downgraded or deleted.

The budget allocation to “Switch Your Thinking” totals \$4,322,000 for 2008/09.

*QTON - Air quality national environment protection measure*

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

In relation to: Review of the Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure (Page 103, 29 May 2008)

I understand that there is a national review going on? Where are we with the national review?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The review of the Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure is due to be completed in March 2009. The Review Team is currently working on a second discussion paper, which is addressing air quality standards. This is expected to be released in September/October 2008.

QTON - Capital upgrade projects

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

In relation to: Capital Upgrade Projects (Page 105, 29 May 2008)

What is the breakdown of the \$10 million – capital upgrade projects

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Page 107 of Budget Paper 5 outlines that the total Capital Upgrade Program for TaMS totals \$21.327 million. The additional \$10 million has been allocated to the following projects within this program:

<b>Table 6.1.6</b>		
<b>Summary of 2008-09 Budget Capital Upgrade Program</b>		
<b>Project</b>		<b>2008-09 Projects \$'000</b>
<b>Department of Territorial and Municipal Services</b>		
<u>Road Safety Measures and Rehabilitation</u>		
- Bridge Safety Fencing	Safety Fencing will be retrofitted onto bridges that pass over roadways where the speed limit is greater than 60 km/hr	600
<u>Stormwater Improvements</u>		
- Stormwater	Provision of stormwater infrastructure at locations which were heavily impacted as a result of the Dec 06/Feb 07 storms and assessed as an extreme risk for attention- Chapman, Kambah, Deakin, Holt, Conder, Banks and subsequently investigated by Roads ACT. Also to be included are selection of projects from previous studies in the following suburbs: Narrabundah, Waramanga, Braddon, Griffith.	3 000
<u>Urban Open Space</u>		
- Parks Signage	A new package of improved signage will add interest and vitality to the Parks System and can be linked to the Healthy Parks: Healthy People Program.	180
<u>Local Shopping Precincts Upgrades</u>		
- Forward Design Projects	Reintroduction of the suburban centre upgrades program in consultation with residents, shopkeepers and community organisations, commencing with Lyons Shopping Centre.	350
- Construction Projects	Deakin Local Centre - Completion of community consultation, forward design and commencement of construction of improved pavement, drainage and associated works.	1 020
<u>Sports Facilities</u>		
- Facilities Improvements		
Pavilion refurbishments	Ageing buildings to be restored to serviceable condition at Kaleen, Phillip, Gowrie and Hawker District Playing Fields.	400
<u>City Centre Infrastructure Upgrades</u>		



- City Central co-ordinated infrastructure replacement	Public open space infrastructure replacement works in the City Centre. Items include paving, lighting, landscaping and street furniture, contributing to revitalising and improving the safety, security, use-ability and appearance of the City Centre.	330
<u>Property Upgrades</u>		
- Climate Change Strategies	-Solar Hot Water Systems (using Solar Panels - DPMH, DMVR, 255 Canberra Ave)	205
	-Install Waterless Urinals	155
- Kippax Health Centre	Kippax Health Centre Chiller	300
- Dickson Motor Vehicle Registry	Upgrade Works - Lift Replacement	135
<u>Heritage</u>		
- Heritage Signage	Heritage signs for major town and district parks / large and minor signs for Canberra Nature Park / interpretive signs for the Predator Proof Sanctuary at Mulligan's Flat.	150
<u>ACTION</u>		
- Bus Engine Overhauls	Additional engine rebuilds will preserve the ACTION fleet and extend the lives of buses from 12 years to 20 years.	450
<u>Major Venues - Facilities Upgrades</u>		
- Canberra Stadium	Public Address (PA) System Upgrade	1 550
	Extension of existing fire ring (water) main around Canberra Stadium	250
	Upgrade handrails, balustrades and stairs and stairway to comply with new building codes	250
	Relocation of Emergency Lighting at Canberra Stadium	100
	Public Thoroughfare Lighting Upgrade at Canberra Stadium	125
- Manuka Oval	Manuka Oval - Sealing of Perimeter Road	150
<u>Non-Urban Open Space Renewal</u>		
- Exotic Weed Control	Willow control and revegetation Molonglo River	300
<b>Total</b>		<b>10 000</b>

*QTON - State of Environment report*

**DEB FOSKEY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Environment Water and Climate Change:

In relation to: State of the Environment Report (Page 107, 29 May 2008)

Can you give us a progress report on the State of the Environment Report?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The 2007 State of Environment Report is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the report will be finalised in July 2008.

*QTON - Staff number - Commissioner for the Environment*

**DEB FOSKEY:** To ask the Minister for Environment Water and Climate Change:

In relation to : Staff numbers in the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment (Page 108, 29 May 2008)

With the funding from the Second Appropriation last year, how many staff will the Commissioner - will the Office have?

**MINISTER CORBELL:** I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

There will be 6 full time staff (in addition to the Commissioner). Additional staff are brought on, as required, for major projects such as investigations and the regional State of Environment report.