

2024 Independent review of ACT Government action on climate change – methodology and recommendations

Methodology

The Review's methodology considered key evaluation questions approved by the Steering Committee to guide the evaluation from three perspectives:

- a. Document cataloguing of 53 ACT government documents. These represented a sample of all climate-related documents in the ACT over the previous five years.
- b. Stakeholder engagement with targeted groups of internal ACT Government stakeholders and external community groups in the ACT.
- c. Insights: The consultants used the C40 Cities Climate Transition Framework (C40 Framework) as a foundational framework for the Review. This framework was chosen after a review of evidence-based frameworks relevant to the ACT: to catalogue the supplied documentation and as a scaffold for framing discussion questions in the stakeholder interviews. The use of this framework is intended to be an indicator of best practice climate action. It is not proposed that the ACT should join the c40 membership.

Recommendations

Review Recommendations	
1.	Create an ACT Climate Action Plan as a regularly updated, expanded version of the current Climate Change Strategy
1.1	An ACT Climate Action Plan should be established with an updated vision, targets and goals, clearly articulating that the ACT's vision is to achieve net zero emissions and strengthen climate resilience consistent with climate science and the Paris Agreement 1.5°C ambition.
1.2	Informed by climate science, the ACT Climate Action Plan should combine all relevant targets and goals across different legislation, strategy and action plans into a single climate action document.
1.3	The ACT Climate Action Plan should place particular emphasis on medium-term targets and adaptation resilience targets, which are identified as gaps in the current Strategy.
1.4	The ACT Climate Action Plan should bring forward the ACT's net zero emissions target from 2045 to 2040 at the latest. A more aggressive emissions reduction pathway is consistent with the IPCC assessment that current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments risk increasing temperatures beyond 2.0°C.
1.5	Review the ACT's renewable electricity practices and targets to recognise evolving opportunities for '24/7' renewable energy power including the development of associated standards.
1.6	Climate Action Plan should incorporate annual climate-related financial disclosure statements that would include scenario analysis, transition planning and an assessment of both physical and transition risks based on common metrics aligned to international best practice.

1.7	1.7 To support economically efficient investment decisions that have a climate-related component, a Climate Action Plan should establish frameworks to internalise externalities, such as a frameworks that value emission reductions.
1.8	The ACT Climate Action Plan should be established as a legislative requirement, through an amendment to the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010.
2. Create structures to facilitate coordination, the building of partnerships, the sharing of expertise and involvement from the broader ACT community	
2.1	The ACT Government should leverage the depth of climate expertise across the ACT, including at ANU and University of Canberra, establishing an ACT Climate Ecosystem as an open network of climate experts based on monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) frameworks. This would provide a mechanism to allow climate-related developments to be considered and debated across the ACT.
2.2	The ACT should establish a Climate Community Partnership Framework as a mechanism to structure collaboration between the ACT Government and community groups. Financial resourcing of community groups should be part of this framework, to support their participation in consultations, management partnerships and implementation of MERI practices.
2.3	The responsibility for embedding and strengthening MERI practices should sit with an area of ACT Government that has capacity to influence practice across all Directorates.
2.4	The design of effective MERI strategies, integrated into the Climate Action Plan, should draw on behaviour change theory.
2.5	The ACT Government should identify and prioritise opportunities for social and wellbeing strategies to align with climate actions to deliver co-benefits. This will require collaboration and cohesion between the ACT's Wellbeing Framework and the Climate Action Plan.