

Ministerial Brief

To:	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Tracking No.: 25/0408237
Date:	28/08/2025	
Through:	Executive Group Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Water	
From:	Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Water Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks	
Meeting Date and Time:	Thursday 11 September 2025 11:30am to 12:00pm	
Location:	Minister Orr's Office	
Subject:	Re-occurring Quarterly meetings with Simon Copland from the ACT Conservation Council	

Purpose of the meeting

Regular quarterly meeting of Conservation Council with Minister Orr. Agenda items for this quarter include request for update on Landscape Plan and Nature Conservation Strategy, issues around management of African Lovegrass and presentation of Conservation Council's main priorities on the Climate Strategy.

Minister's Feedback

Purpose of the meeting:	Agenda items for this quarterly meeting include request for updates on the Landscape Plan and Nature Conservation Strategy, issues around management of African Lovegrass and presentation of Conservation Council's main priorities on the Climate Strategy.
Out of scope	
Discussion:	The Conservation Council plans to raise the following agenda items: Out of scope 4. Climate Strategy – the Conservation Council would like to present to the Minister on its initial main priorities for the upcoming Climate Strategy.
Out of scope	

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4.1 Topic

The *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019 – 2025* is expiring this year. The ACT Conservation Council has contributed to various government sustainability policies and is expected to be interested in development of the next climate change strategy.

4.2 Policy position

- Internal policy work is underway for the next climate change strategy. Climate action is a shared responsibility of government, community, business and industry. The ACT Conservation Council is a key interested stakeholder, and the government intends to engage with them in the development of this policy.
- Government will be considering (expected late September 2025) the proposed approach for the strategy and potential stakeholder engagement, planned to commence shortly after.
 - The next climate change strategy is proposed to be an overarching framework for 2026 – 2035 that sets out clear outcomes for 2035, outlines existing work underway and identifies gaps and opportunities, including in the natural and built environment.

- This framework intends to provide clarity on key areas that will require increased focus and efforts in the coming decade, while not duplicating existing work.
- As part of the development of the next climate change strategy, the government will consider actions that reflect the immediate priority gaps and opportunities in both adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts.
- The government will be seeking feedback through community consultation to shape the next climate change strategy and to build an understanding of a common vision for building a resilient and net zero Canberra.

4.3 Suggested talking points

- The government is currently considering development of the next climate change strategy to build on the extensive work already underway and consider gaps and opportunities for further work.
 - For example, considerations of how adaptation planning can be embedded in our conservation practices, increasing tree canopy cover to help combat urban heat, supporting ecosystems and managing water catchments sustainably.
- We note there is a lot of work underway already, both in the ACT and nationally, and we want to ensure we are aligned with both existing and potential future workstreams.
- As policy work for the next climate change strategy develops, the government will be engaging with the ACT Conservation Council.
- In the meantime, I am interested to hear the ACT Conservation Council's initial main priorities for the upcoming climate change strategy and understand if the ACT Conservation Council has any initiatives or opportunities that would be relevant to this work.

Out of scope