



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Le Couteur : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, Budget paper 4, page number 451- 458 & Statement of Intent, page 16]

In relation to: Asset Revaluations

1. I note that the table of "Major Asset Values" indicates that the next revaluation of assets will be conducted in 2014.
 - a) Why has the expected asset revaluation not been factored into the Authority's Operating Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Changes in Equity in 2013-14?

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- a) The Cemeteries Authority does not factor future valuations into its budget estimates.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 10.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: Enterprise Services, Budget paper 4, page number 108, Output 2.1]

In relation to: Accountability Indicator (e)

1. Why has accountability indicator (e) been discontinued?
2. Why has no explanation for discontinuing this accountability indicator been included in the Budget Papers?

Mr Barr : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. This accountability indicator relates to the whole of government property policy function within the Economic Development Directorate. TAMS is not able to accurately report against it.
2. In hindsight, an explanation should have been provided.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

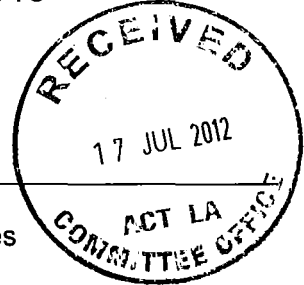
Date: 17.7.12

By the Acting Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: Enterprise Services, Budget paper 4, page number 104, Output 2.1]

In relation to: Government Payment for Outputs

1. I note the Government Payment for Outputs for 2012-13 is \$2.699M. Could you please advise why Enterprise Services is not funded entirely on a user charge system?

Mr Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Enterprise Services has been provided with Government funding for several programs where a user charge full cost recovery approach is not appropriate.

ACT Property Group receives Government funding for the refurbishment of Albert Hall and the renewable energy program. The Yarralumla Nursery receives Government funding for the free plant issue scheme.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

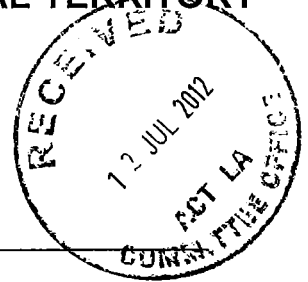
Date: 17.7.2012

By the A/g Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Andrew Barr MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: Enterprise Services, Budget paper 4, page number 104, Output 2.1]

In relation to: Green Leasing Schemes

1. Could you provide detailed information with respect to how 'green leasing schemes' are used in ACT Property's tenant-landlord agreements?
2. I note that the ACT Policy on green leasing requires Green Leasing Schedules for private leases, but notes there are barriers for requiring this for government buildings. Could you please explain why this is and why government buildings are not retro-fitted to meet this standard given we require private landlords to meet it?
3. I understand that on behalf of Directorates, ACT Property Group manages the leases for all buildings that accommodate ACT Government employees. I note that some of these buildings are owned by the Government and some are leased through private sector landlords. For each of these leases, could you please advise which have Green Leasing Schedules and which do not?

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Green Leasing Schedules are used to establish a Building Management Committee consisting of representatives from the building owner, managing agents, ACT Property Group, and tenants. The purpose of the Building Management Committee is to discuss issues such as proposed upgrades, future green capital works, building performance and energy consumption for both base building and tenancies.

A key role of the Building Management Committee is to actively promote the city switch program, to encourage tenants to strive for and achieve a minimum 4.5 star NABERS Rating for their tenancies. This assists and complements the building owners in their achieving 4.5 star NABERS Ratings for base building.

2. ACT Property Group, as the Government custodian of owned office buildings, endeavours to achieve the highest NABERS energy rating possible within the owned office portfolio within the available resources. However, due to the age of the buildings within this portfolio (an average age of 34 years) the cost of upgrading these buildings to achieve 4.5 star NABERS energy minimum is cost prohibitive, if achievable. Dame Pattie Menzies House is the only owned office building that is currently rated at or above 4.5 stars NABERS energy.

Energy audits and NABERS ratings were obtained in 2009 with recommendations with a 3 year payback period actioned to improve the energy efficiency of these buildings. In addition, sub-metering was installed in 2012 to enable better measurement of energy consumption and enable exclusion of high consuming areas such as data centres.

Further NABERS assessments will be commissioned once 12 months of sub-meter data is available, expected to be in 2013.

E12454

3. ACT Property Group manages forty-four leases in thirty-two buildings. The buildings with Green Leasing Schedules are:

- Nature Conservation House, Belconnen;
- 220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon; and
- Canberra Nara Centre, Civic.

In addition to these buildings the owners of 11 Moore St and 40 Allara St have agreed to work within the principles of Green Leasing and ACT Property Group is working with the landlord to establish the Building Management Committee for these buildings. As privately leased buildings are either renewed or have options for a further term formalised then adoption of the Green Leasing Schedule will be mandatory for sublease renewals and negotiated for existing subleases with options for an additional term.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *Katy Gallagher*

Date: 12.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher, MLA.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: Enterprise Services, Budget paper 4, page number 119, Output 2.1]

In relation to: 2012-13 Capital Upgrades - Property Upgrades

1. I note that \$2.434M has been allocated to property upgrades in 2012-13:
 - a) Which properties will be upgraded?
 - b) What will the upgrade work include?
 - c) How will property upgrade work be prioritised?
 - d) Will any of the property upgrades include improving energy efficiencies of buildings? If yes, what will these efficiencies be?
 - e) What work is being performed to refit buildings to be more energy efficient?

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—


- a) Funding is allocated to undertake upgrades at a range of buildings where ACT Property Group, TAMS is the custodian. Various works are planned to be undertaken at around 20 buildings including:
 - refurbishments of Heritage Properties including Yarralumla Woolshed and the former Sewer Attendants Cottage – Weston Creek
 - Albert Hall – upgrade to main entrance to improve accessibility
 - Grant Cameron Community Centre – upgrades to improve lighting, energy efficiency and electrical supply
 - upgrades to various Government occupied properties including Domestic Animal Services and Government rural depots
 - upgrades to Non-Government occupied former depots
 - removal of asbestos from ACT Government buildings
 - fire services upgrades at various locations including Blaxland Centre, Fyshwick depot and Woden Business Park
 - plumbing and drainage upgrades at various locations including Griffith, Domestic Animal Services and Ainslie depot
 - improvements and replacement of roofs at various buildings including the National Convention Centre and Scollay Street offices at Greenway
 - minor upgrades to MyWay Centres
- b) See answer to a) above.
- c) Works included in the 2012-13 Capital Upgrades program for ACT Property Group managed properties were prioritised using a number of factors including those essential to maintain the functionality of the building and its components, necessary to maintain an acceptable level of amenity and service for the tenant, required to address health and safety issues for tenants, customers or others using the venue,

improve the environmental performance of the building and/or are required to meet legal responsibilities. Proposed works that rated highly in one or more of these areas were considered and a final list developed to ensure that essential requirements in all categories of buildings (eg. Government depots, office buildings, community buildings, libraries etc.) are attended to in a timely manner.

E12-455

- d) Yes. The Grant Cameron Community Centre – ‘Upgrades to Improve Lighting, Energy Efficiency and Electrical Supply’ project will result in energy savings through the use of more energy efficient lighting. In addition some of the upgrades within the ‘Upgrades to Non-Government Occupied Former Depots’ project will result in improved water efficiency where the project results in the installation of dual flush toilets or water efficient taps.
- e) See answer to d) above.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 12.7.12

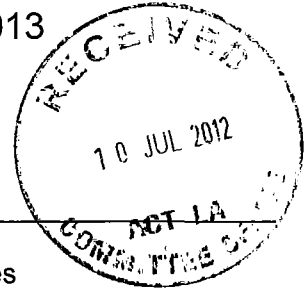
By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher, MLA.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, Statement of Intent, pages 4 &5]

In relation to: Client and Stakeholder Satisfaction

1. Accountability indicator (b) on page 4 of the Statement of Intent states that the Estimated 2011-12 Outcome for the, "level of client and stakeholder satisfaction with Canberra Cemeteries is 98%." Part 3B, bullet point 5 on page 5 of the Statement of Intent states, "the post burial survey conducted by the Authority was in line with previous research conducted by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate in which more than 85% of respondents expressed satisfaction across all tested criteria." Could you please advise:
 - a) Whether the level of satisfaction is 85%, somewhere between 85% and 98% or 98%?
 - b) Is the level of willing clients prepared to complete a survey, representative of the total population of clients?

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- a) Surveying customers involved in funeral arrangements is very difficult as the majority prefer not to participate. Currently the level of client and stakeholder satisfaction has been measured by a survey of funeral directors. The level sought is 98%.
- b) A new 'post burial' survey has been adopted this year to improve the validity of the data. The results of this survey have not yet been received. The results will be reported in the Cemeteries Annual Report. Managing the sensitivities in this process is important.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

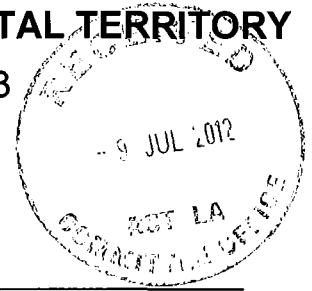
Date:
9.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Mr Rattenbury : To ask the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

In relation to: Fuel Sales Data

Thank you for publishing the report on Fuel Sales Data it is very useful and we look forward to future reports. We note that the report says: "... *the net increase in total transport emissions over the past four years is not encouraging in terms of the ACT Government making significant progress towards meeting its legislated total GHG emissions reduction targets, including a 40 per cent reduction from 1990 levels by 2020.*" Given this:

- How is existing fuel sales data used to develop approaches to reduce the ACT's greenhouse gas reductions?
- What will be done in Weathering the Change Action Plan 2 to reduce greenhouse gas reductions from the transport sector?

Mr Simon Corbell MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The data collected for fuel sales in the ACT is a key input to the ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory. This Inventory shows the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions for each sector and tracks how the ACT is progressing towards its 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target.
2. The actions to address transport sector emissions will be released with *Weathering the Change Action Plan 2*. This will be guided substantially by the *ACT Transport for Canberra* plan released on 19 March 2012.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

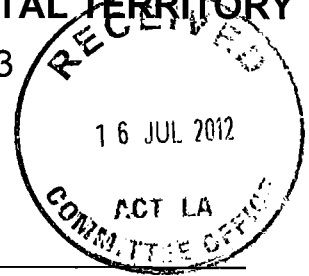
Date: 9.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development, Minister Corbell, MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

[Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page number 386, Supplies and Services Expenditure and Question No. 2265, 2264, 2260, 2181, and 2223]

In relation to: Housing ACT - Total Facilities Management Contract

1. Answer (1) (a) of Question No. 2223 states that "the average yearly cost of maintenance is \$2,900". Answer (3) to Question No. 2264 states that "the average expenditure on maintenance per dwelling per annum over the life of the contract is \$3,100". Could you please explain why these two numbers are different?
2. Answer (1) to Question No. 2264 states that, "in 2012 analysis of the discount and premium system, reports indicate an average 4% reduction in the base costs of maintenance and improved value for money". I note from a review of Housing ACT Annual Reports the following:

Year	Dwellings	Maintenance Costs per Annual Report \$('000)	Average Cost per Dwelling
2005-06	11,573	\$26,679	\$2,305
2006-07	11,561	\$22,009	\$1,904
2007-08	11,654	\$29,114	\$2,498
2008-09	11,586	\$33,555	\$2,896
2009-10	11,584	\$33,908	\$2,927
2010-11	11,805	\$34,178	\$2,895

This equates to a 16% increase in the average cost per dwelling between 2008-09 and 2009-10 and a 1% decrease in 2010-11. Given the above analysis indicates that overall maintenance costs have been increasing, could you please explain how the 2012 analysis could find that there was a 4% reduction in the base costs of maintenance?

3. Question 2264 (1) referred to a requirement that Spotless deliver programs that achieve World's Best Practice for maintenance expenditure. Answer (1) to Question 2264 does not address how Spotless have delivered this requirement. Please clarify your answer to this question, addressing how Housing ACT determined that Spotless was meeting this requirement and how delivery of World's Best Practice has been reflected in the new Total Facilities Management Contract with Spotless.

4. Answer 3 to Question No. 2260 states, "All the suggestions put forward by members of the Joint Champions Group were documented and full consideration of the suggestions was given when developing the new Total Facilities Management Contract." Can the documented suggestions of the Joint Champions Group and Housing ACT's response to these suggestions please be provided?
5. The answers to Question No. 2181 and Question No. 2265 (4) states, "the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form". Please provide detailed advice as to how Housing ACT is able to demonstrate that it cost effectively manages maintenance costs when it does not maintain data in an easily retrievable form with respect to the costs of damage inflicted on Housing properties by Housing ACT tenants and the level of complaints made by ACT Housing tenants with respect to tenants-responsible maintenance?
6. Answer (1) to Question No. 2264 states, "Audits have been conducted by HACS alone and jointly with Spotless".
 - a) Please provide copies of all HACS audit reports and evidence to support your response to this question that Spotless, "through this process have improved and streamlined services which have assisted in the reduction in the average value of responsive work orders through better monitoring of sub-contractor works."

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The average yearly cost of maintenance was stated as \$2,900 in Answer 1 (a) of Question 2223. The figure reported, was based the average annual cost of repairs and maintenance as stated in the annual report, i.e. excluded any capital upgrade costs.

In answer 3 of Question 2264, the average expenditure on maintenance per dwelling per annum over the life of the contract was reported as \$3,100. This included capital costs that had not been included in the response provided under Question 2223.

2. The reference to the 4% reduction in costs related to improved value for money through a reduction in the Schedule of Rates prices using the discount and premium system, not a reduction in the average maintenance expenditure per property. The 4% reduction in the pricing means that more work can be undertaken using the same budget due to the decrease in costs for individual items of work.

The average costs per dwelling as reported in the annual report is calculated by taking the total maintenance budget per annum and dividing it by the number of properties. Further, the mix between repairs and maintenance and capital upgrade costs varies each depending upon the type of work being undertaken. Therefore in any year where there is an increased emphasis of kitchen upgrades or wet area replacements or upgrades or replacement of floor coverings, as these are capital in nature they are not reflected in the repairs and maintenance costs. This affects the amount of repairs and maintenance reported each year.

3. Spotless has developed planned maintenance and upgrade programs to create the optimal mix and frequency of preventative and breakdown maintenance to extend the asset life and achieve best use of maintenance budgets. Spotless's Maintenance Planning Systems and processes allow the effectiveness of the maintenance plans to be continually monitored, reviewed and adjusted by both Housing and Community Services and Spotless.

Housing and Community Services monitor every aspect of Spotless performance through the Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement Team.

Reference to World's Best Practice has been removed from the new contract as this is difficult to quantify. It was however useful in articulating Housing ACT's expectation of the contract. The contract places a strong emphasis on the need to apply best practice asset management principles in maintenance planning and delivery.

4. The quarterly JCG maintenance meeting was the forum used to consult with the Joint Champions Group members (JCG). HACS provided an initial information presentation to the members, who were asked to submit any suggestions, issues and/or questions to HACS via a dedicated phone line and/or email address. HACS developed an "issues register" and provided a copy to all members of the JCG which was used as a tool to generate discussion in the special purpose meeting that was held with members of the JCG to discuss the HACS response to the issues. The register is an internal directorate working document.
5. Housing and Community Services has a robust data management system which is interfaced with the Spotless data base. This allows HACS to monitor data in both systems and to run reports and analyse the data as required.

Question 2181 queried the total cost of repairs to Housing ACT owned properties that required maintenance due to malicious damage and/or vandalism each month and requested a breakdown of who was responsible for the cost, i.e. the tenant, visitor or unknown. The TRM costs/charges attributed to the budget code is reported below. The identification of the party responsible for the damage is not easily retrievable, as is not recorded on the electronic data base and is retrievable only by accessing each individual tenant file.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Total Expenditure on TRM in vacants	\$1,105,442	\$1,247,000	\$1,744,251
Total Expenditure on TRM in tenanted properties	\$1,197,450	\$1,114,197	\$1,140,568

Question 2265 queried the level of complaints made by tenants with respect to TRM for the last three financial years. Complaints management is closely monitored and is reported on a monthly basis through the HACS Monthly Management Report. Although they are reported and reviewed monthly as part of the Housing and Community Service management system the monthly figures have not previously been aggregated. Under the process implemented to support the new TFM contract those reports will now be aggregated and an annual record by month and by category will available in future. Currently the annual figures are available and are as follows:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Total TRM Complaints on TRM Vacant	142	110	139
Total TRM Complaints on TRM Tenanted	74	250	306

6. HACS has been undertaking monthly audits, targeted reviews, and quarterly reports for the past seven years on the full suite of maintenance services provided by Spotless. I have decided that to respond to the question as asked would be a major task, requiring a considerable diversion of resources. However I have attached a disk containing the quarterly reports for the provision of services undertaken by Spotless from 2009 to June 2012.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



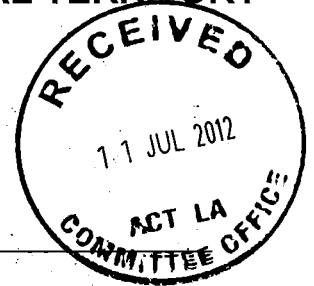
13.7.12 Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page number 384, output class1.1

In relation to: Housing and Support Initiative (HASI)

1. How many people is Housing ACT currently supporting through the HASI program?
2. What expansions has or is the Government making to the program and what is the cost per tenant for those expansions?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Housing ACT expanded the HASI program from 10 places to 15 places in July 2011.
2. The Health Directorate secured additional funding under the National Health and Hospital Network Reform funding to expand the HASI program. The program known as Mental Health Housing and Recovery Initiative (HARI) provided an additional 20 places during the 2011-12 financial year. A further 10 places will be funded in both 2012-13 and 2013-14. The HARI program operates under the same partnership and guidelines arrangements between Housing ACT, ACT Mental Health and community based mental health agencies as the HASI program

The cost per tenant is up to a maximum of \$50,000 of support per year based on a needs assessment to determine the required level of support.

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Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page number 384, output class1.1

In relation to: Public housing stock

1. Noting QON E11-367, what is public housing as a percentage of total housing in the ACT?
2. Were the same form of measurements used as QON E11-367, and if not, what form of measurements were used?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. Approximately 8%
2. Yes

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Burch", with the date "10/7/12" written next to it.

Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MS BRESNAN: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT , BP 4, p 386, Output 1.1

In relation to: percentage of public housing

- (1) What percentage does public housing currently make up of total housing in the ACT?
- (2) What figures are used to calculate that percentage?
- (3) What is the reference for the source of those figures?

MS BURCH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. Due to the lag in data collection on the total number of dwellings in the ACT, the latest comparable statistics would be as at December 2010. At that time public housing made up 8.06% of total housing in the ACT.
2. Public housing stock as at December 2010 = 11,586
Total housing in ACT as at December 2010 = 143,660
Percentage of public housing stock = 8.06%
3. Public housing stock numbers are reconciled and supplied by Housing ACT as follows:

The total housing in ACT number is a combined figure:

Number of private dwellings Aug 2006 census = 131,274

Dwelling built between July 2006 to December 2010 (ABS Cat 8752) = 12,486

Less dwellings built in July 2006 = 100

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2011-2012

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joy Burch'.

Date:

8.6.11

By the Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page number 384, output class 1.1

In relation to: Public housing energy efficiency

On page 384 of Budget Paper 4 it shows \$2m being appropriated to the Expansion of the Public Housing Energy Efficiency program in 2015-16, and then further down the page \$2m being ceased.

1. What is the total level of funding for the Public Housing Energy Efficiency program in 2015-16?
2. Why was \$2m ceased under the Public Housing Energy Efficiency program in 2015-16?
3. What is the total number of dwellings that have received energy efficiency improvements to date under the Public Housing Energy Efficiency program? (note: Questions No 1586 of 9 March 2011).

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. \$4 million
2. The \$2 million deduction of funding for the Public Housing Energy Efficiency Program in 2015-16 on page 384 of Budget Paper No. 4 was the technical adjustment.

The extra \$2m per year for the Energy Efficiency Program was announced in the 2010-11 Budget, and did not extend to the 2015-16 financial year. Therefore in this budget, \$2m needed to be removed from the forward estimates for 2015-16.

However, in the 2012-13 Budget, the Government agreed to extend the program to provide an additional \$2 million for 2015-16 and therefore \$2 million was added back to the budget, as the result of a new budget initiative.

3. To date 4,400 properties have received energy efficiency improvements.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Joy Burch 10.7.12

Date:

By the Minister for Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget paper 4, page number 381, output class1.1

In relation to: Homelessness and 2011 Census data

1. Noting that 2011 Census figures have been released, what is the ACT Government's progress towards meeting its Homelessness reduction targets as set out in the 2008 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness between the Commonwealth of Australia and the ACT, specifically with regard to a decrease:
 - a. of one third in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were homeless, going from 124 people in the 2006 census to less than 83 people by 2013?
 - b. of 7% in the number of people homeless, from 1364 people in the 2006 census to less than 1268?
 - c. in rough sleepers from 82 people to less than 62?
2. If the ACT Government does not have the data to answer question 1, when will it have the data? and when and how will it publicly release the answers?
3. If the ACT Government is no longer using the Homelessness reduction targets as set out in the 2008 Agreement, what are its targets and what is its progress against these targets?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The homelessness data from the census and the counting the homeless report has not yet been released.
2. It is anticipated the census data relating to homelessness will be released in October 2012. This will be a national release as a report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
3. The ACT Government still commits to the targets set out in the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

12/7/12 Date:

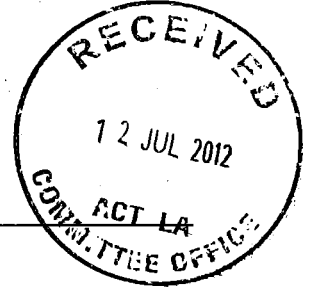
By the Minister for Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE



Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Community Services

Ref: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Budget Paper 4, page 278

In relation to: Taxi Subsidy Scheme

1. How many people are currently eligible for the taxi subsidy scheme?
2. How has this number varied over the last 4 financial years?
3. What is the annual cost of the taxi subsidy scheme?
4. What is the predicted number of participants, and predicted costs of the scheme over the next 4 financial years?

Minister Burch: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. All permanent residents of the ACT who have medical evidence of a severe or profound activity limitation that prevents use of public transport are eligible for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. At 30 June 2012, 3,456 persons were active members of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme.
2. Membership numbers over the last four financial years:

<i>Subsidy profile</i>	<i>2008-2009</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>
<i>Members 75%</i>	212	315	338	433
<i>Members 50%</i>	3119	2716	2724	3023
<i>Total</i>	3331	3031	3062	3456

3. Financial cost over the last four financial years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>2008-2009</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>
<i>Cost</i>	\$952,248	\$1,220,492	\$940,526.27	\$1,097,584



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013



QUESTION ON NOTICE

Ms Bresnan : To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: ACTION, Budget paper 3, page number 114]

In relation to : Bus replacement program

1. Please provide a breakdown of the buses that will be purchased through the bus replacement program, and when. (including whether any of them will be 14.5m or articulated buses etc)

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Funding from the 2012-13 Budget for the proposed fleet replacement program will enable the replacement of 13 articulated buses and 77 standard buses over the next five years. ACTION has no plans to purchase any 14.5 metre buses as part of this program.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 12.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013



QUESTION ON NOTICE

Ms Amanda Bresnan: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ref: ACTION, Budget paper 4, page number 139, output class 1.1

In relation to : Demand responsive transport

1. Please provide information on the work that the Government has done on establishing new 'demand responsive transport' services, including:
 - a. proposed locations for these services
 - b. whether the services are proposed to be run privately or by ACTION
 - c. proposed costs of the services

Simon Corbell MLA : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

- 1a. Transport for Canberra has identified a possible role for flexible transport in the ACT as a means of introducing services into newly developed greenfield suburbs. This will be explored in future network planning. Preliminary planning for the next bus network is considering fixed route and demand responsive transport options for Molonglo and other greenfields suburbs, subject to funding decisions by Government.
- 1b. The operation of any potential demand responsive transport service will be considered as part of the planning of the next bus network.
- 1c. The approximate cost will be determined as part of planning the next bus network. The cost of Demand Responsive Transport services varies depending on the level of service provided (e.g. how many vehicles and drivers it requires, how frequently it departs, the size of the area it serves, the fares it charges). Options for Molonglo will consider the merits of both fixed route and flexible (demand responsive) options. The projected number of passengers, level of build-out when the network commences, availability of hubs and other factors will determine whether it is more cost effective to meet the coverage standard through fixed route or demand responsive services in Molonglo.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date:

13.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: ACTION, Budget paper 4, page number 139, output class 1.1]

In relation to: New ACTION timetable

1. What is the rationale for the timing of the number 10 bus arriving to Civic failing to connect with the number 5 bus departing to Russell?
2. Are there any consequences to amending this to ensure a connection for passengers arriving on the number 10 and are there any plans to amend this in the future?
3. What approach does ACTION take to coordinating connections generally when creating new timetables?

Mr Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. With the current frequency of route 10 and route 5, connections will involve some waiting.

A customer arriving at the City on route 10 and needing to transfer to another bus to travel to Russell can use routes 4, 5 and 200 connections. The arrival time in the City on the route 10 will determine which service the passenger needs to use to transfer to Russell. See Attachment A for options.

2. An amendment to frequency, which is the key way to improve connections, requires additional services and investment.
3. ACTION uses the HASTUS scheduling software to maximize connections at interchanges. ACTION will continue in future networks to align its service delivery with the frequency targets and goals outlined in *Transport for Canberra Plan* – see Attachment B.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 17.7.2012

By the A/g Minister for Territory and Municipal Services Mr Andrew Barr MLA

E12-467

Arrival in City	Depart City	Depart City	Depart City
Belconnen to City	City to Russell	City to Russell	City to Russell (Red Rapid)
Route 10	Route 10	Route 10	
6.37a	6.42a		
	6.57a		
6.58a	7.16a	7.04a	
7.17a	7.29a		7.20a
7.29a	7.47a	7.34a	7.30a 7.40a
7.49a		7.56a	7.50a
7.59a	8.08a	8.18a	8.00a 8.10a
8.19a	8.27a		8.20a
8.28a	8.46a	8.37a	8.30a 8.40a
8.47a	9.00a	9.06a	8.50a 9.00a
9.06a	9.21a		9.10a 9.20a
9.24a	9.51a	9.36a	9.30a 9.40a 9.52a
9.54a	10.21a	10.06a	10.00a 10.22a
10.24a	10.51a	10.36a	10.30a 10.52a
10.54a	11.21a	11.06a	11.00a 11.22a
11.24a	11.51a	11.36a	11.30a 11.52a
	12.21p	12.06p	12.00p 12.22p
12.24p	12.51p	12.36p	12.30p 12.52p
	1.21p	1.06p	1.00p 1.22p
1.24p	1.51p	1.36p	1.30p 1.52p
1.54p	2.21p	2.06p	2.00p 2.22p
2.24p	2.51p	2.36p	2.30p 2.52p
2.54p	3.21p	3.06p	3.00p
3.24p		3.36p	3.28p 3.48p
4.18p	4.21p	4.36p	4.28p
4.38p			4.48p
4.48p	4.51p	5.06p	4.58p
5.08p	5.21p		5.08p
5.23p		5.36p	5.28p
5.38p			5.48p
6.03p	6.25p	6.10p	6.08p 6.28p
6.38p	6.40p	7.10p	6.38p 6.58p 7.00p
7.13p	7.40p	8.10p	7.24p
8.14p	8.40p	9.10p	
9.13p	9.40p	10.10p	
10.13p	10.40p	11.10p	

The Frequent Network builds on the success of the Blue Rapid 300-series (previously known as the 'intertown' service), which has provided rapid, frequent connections between town centres since the 1970s.

The long-term (2031) Frequent Network²² establishes permanent public transport corridors with 15 minute or better frequency for people travelling across and within the city, with consolidation of some suburban routes to build efficiency into the system and shorten travel times.

Four types of service make up the public transport network: rapid, frequent local, peak express and coverage (see Table 2).

The ACT Government has already started planning and delivering infrastructure and services to support this significant network growth. The maps at Appendix A show the current extent of the Frequent Network in the existing public transport network, and indicative networks for 2016 and 2031 showing how the network may grow over time, subject to investment decisions and community input.

TABLE 2: SERVICE TYPES IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

Service type	Frequency	Service span	Stopping pattern, catchment and speed standard	Purpose	Example in existing system
Rapid	15 minutes or better	All day and evening, 7 days a week	Widely spaced stations or major stops (500 – 2000m apart) ~ 40km/hr (including stops) Catchment: 750m – 1km from each stop/station	Public transport corridors for all day, high speed travel across the city along dense corridors. Analogous to a metro or rapid public transport system, and location for future light rail or bus rapid transit. Rapid services carry the majority of passengers, and can help achieve mode shift goals for work trips and associated emissions reductions.	Blue Rapid Red Rapid
Frequent Local	15 minutes or better	All day and evening, 7 days a week	Local stops every 400 – 500m ~ 20km/hr (including stops) Catchment: up to 500m (5-7 min walk) from each stop/station	Local services in areas of current or future denser development, including some group centres. A frequent local service can help create more active streets and further develop employment and residential density. This type of service will connect to rapid services at bus stations and town centre nodes for longer trips. Can drive patronage and help achieve mode shift goals.	Parliamentary Zone Frequent Network; the Gold line and Green line layer routes to create efficient frequency.
Peak Express	Depends on demand in the peak between work/suburbs	Peak period only, peak direction only weekdays only	Long, non-stop segment to/from major employment destinations at peak. Speed is route specific, but routes will use regular arterial roads outside the normal bus network (e.g. Gungahlin Drive, Monaro Highway).	Direct service from residential or Park and Ride facility to major employment destinations. Supplements but does not compete with rapid services. Can help achieve mode shift goals.	Xpresso routes from suburbs to City and Parliamentary Zone.
Coverage	30 minutes or better by 2021 (see minimum coverage standard in 2.9)	All day, with less frequent service at evenings and weekends	Local stops every 400 – 500m No speed standard Catchment: up to 500m (5-7 min walk) from each stop/station	Local and feeder services in lower density areas away from the Frequent Network. Provides local access and is provided for reasons of inclusion rather than patronage.	Local routes across suburban areas.

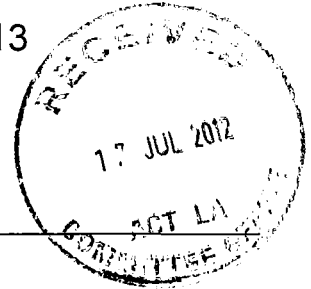
Rapid + Frequent Local = Frequent Network

The rapid and frequent local services together are called the Frequent Network. This is the back-bone of the public transport network, now and into the future.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: ACTION, Budget paper 4, page number 139, output class 1.1]

In relation to: New ACTION timetable

1. Why didn't the new ACTION timetable create a more regular timetable for the 30, 31, and 71 routes, which partly cover the same area, but leave Belconnen Interchange close to or at the same time as each other?
2. What is the rationale for the existing scheduling of the 30, 31 and 71?
3. Is there any plan to improve this scheduling in the future?

Mr Barr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Routes 30, 31 and 71 provide bus services to the suburbs of Giralang and Kaleen as well as single-trip access to Belconnen and the City.

As the routes 30 and 31 both travel to the City, departure times from Belconnen, with the exception of four services, are staggered to ensure more opportunities for passengers to access a service. See attached chart.

Similarly, as routes 30 and 71 service the same area of Giralang and Kaleen, the commencement time of these services has been spaced so as to provide maximum opportunities for passengers to get a service.

2. The scheduling for routes 30, 31 and 71 has been designed to optimise the frequency of bus services that can be provided for passengers.
3. The next opportunity to review scheduling will be in Network 13.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 17.7.12

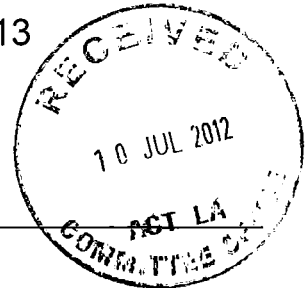
By the A/g Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Andrew Barr MLA

Departures		
Belconnen to City		Belconnen to Giralang loop
Route 11	Route 30	Route 71
	5.51a	
6.16a	6.17a	
	6.31a	
6.46a		
	6.51a	
7.10a		
	7.22a	
7.40a		
	8.01a	
8.13a		
	8.31a	
8.52a		
	8.56a	
9.30a		9.30a
	9.56a	
		10.30a
10.30a		
	10.56a	
11.30a		11.30a
	11.56a	
12.30p		12.30p
	12.56p	
1.30p		1.30p
	1.56p	
2.30p		
	2.45p	
	3.11p	
3.18p		
	3.35p	
3.49p		
	4.04p	
4.16p		
	4.34p	
4.45p		
	5.04p	
5.15p		
	5.29p	
5.45p		
	5.55p	
6.29p		
	6.55p	
7.29p		
	7.55p	
8.29p		
	8.55p	
9.29p		
	9.55p	
10.29p		
	10.55p	



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

QUESTION ON NOTICE



Ms Bresnan: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

[Ref: ACTION, Budget paper 4, page number 139, output class 1.1]

In relation to: New ACTION timetable

1. When will improvements be made to the West McGregor service so that the weekday service is more frequent, and so that it gets a weekend service?
2. What consideration has been given to extending blue rapid routes to service West McGregor (routes 318 and 319)? Will this be a change in the future? If so, when. If not, why not?

Ms Gallagher: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. A review of bus services, including weekend services, in Belconnen will be undertaken in 2013. The review will include an examination of patronage to determine if the frequency needs to be increased.
2. Route 44 provides a weekday connection from West Macgregor to Kippax and the Belconnen Town Centre. At both Kippax and the Belconnen Town Centre it is possible to transfer to a Blue Rapid and continue to the City, Woden and Tuggeranong. Due to insufficient demand, there are no plans to implement a dedicated Blue Rapid service to West McGregor.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 9.7.12

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MR SMYTH on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 80

In relation to : Heritage Applications

MR SMYTH: Yes. Minister, accountability indicator (a) on page 316 talks about assessing development applications for heritage impact. Is there any delay to the processing of DAs as a consequence of the timeliness of council decisions?

Mr Corbell: I am sorry, Mr Smyth, I cannot quite hear you. Could you speak up, please?

MR SMYTH: Heritage output 1.4, accountability indicator (a), is there Heritage Council meeting their time frames, and how many development applications are held up by the heritage process?

Mr Corbell: Well, as you can see from that output's estimated outcome, Mr Smyth, the estimate outcome is 83 per cent against a target of 100 per cent. This indicates that there are a number of more complex issues that need to be addressed in some development applications, and often that is an iterative process involving advice from the Heritage Council, further discussion with the development proponent, adjustment, compromise and so on until there is an outcome that is acceptable to both the council, obviously, but also is workable for the development proponent.

So, in term of the actual numbers of applications referred, I would need to take that matter on notice. But you can see what the estimated outcome is there.

MR SMYTH: Right, so how many applications does the Heritage Council look at in a year?

Mr Corbell: Again, as I said, I would need to take that question on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In the year ended 30 June 2012, the Heritage Council provided advice on 188 development applications. Advice was given on 85% of applications within 15 days. Of the remaining applications, 96% were dealt with in less than 20 days.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for Environment & Sustainable Development, Minister Corbell



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MR SMYTH on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 81

In relation to : Heritage Register - Lanyon

MR SMYTH: All right, if you could do that. If you could also tell us what the situation was at the same time last year that would be good. In regard to a number of consultations that are on at the moment, what input does heritage have, for instance, in the consultation on the future of Lanyon?

Mr Corbell: Well, any place that is listed on the heritage register does involve consultation with the Heritage Council. Now I am not quite sure what you are referring to in relation to Lanyon, but there was—heritage places are required to have a conservation management plan. So it would depend on whether the issues arise are matters that germane to what the context of the conservation management plan should be and whether it requires involvement of the Heritage Council.. the Heritage Council is not automatically engaged if the matter that is being considered is consistent, for example, with the CMP. It is unlikely that the Heritage Council would need to express a view, because they have already signed off on a CMP, and if things are occurring within the context of a CMP, then there would not be a need to engage the Heritage Council. But if it is a higher order issue, then the Heritage Council may choose to be engaged, and that is entirely a matter for the Heritage Council. The Heritage Council determines of its own volition what matters it gets involved in and what matters it does not.

MR SMYTH: Well, the government is out with consultation on the Lanyon heritage precinct. So does the heritage unit not have anything to say about this?

Mr Corbell: Well, you asked about the Heritage Council previously. The heritage unit is different from the Heritage Council.

MR SMYTH: Well, I asked what your portfolio had—what interest your portfolio had in the consultation. I did not mention the council.

Mr Corbell: Well, I would need to take the question on notice, Mr Smyth, in relation to the engagement of the heritage unit.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The consultation on the future of Lanyon was undertaken by the Cultural Facilities Corporation in seeking to identify potential future community-based activities which could be accommodated at Lanyon.

Consultation was undertaken in two stages:

- The first stage involved direct consultation to identify ideas from the community for future community-based activities within the Lanyon Heritage Precinct.
- The second-stage evaluated these ideas considering the potential community demand, resource requirements and whether the proposed activities were consistent with uses identified in the Conservation Management Plan and would not impact the heritage values of the site. Both stages of the consultation project included input from one of the principal authors of the Conservation Management Plan. At this stage, there are no associated plans for any development or works at Lanyon.

Under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2004*, neither the ACT Heritage Unit nor Council have authority for determining a place's future use.

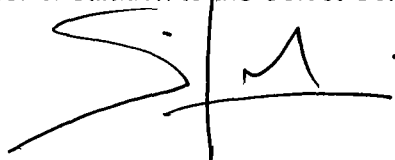
It is only if the future use involves any works or development that Council has a role in providing advice in relation to likely impacts on heritage significance.

As such, the involvement of the Heritage Unit and Council in the current community consultation of Lanyon is not required.

However, should there be any future proposals for works or development at the site arise from this consultation, Heritage Council advice would be sought as appropriate.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development, Minister Corbell



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MR SMYTH on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 81

In relation to : Cupacumbalong

MR SMYTH: All right. Does the heritage unit have any role in what is happening at Cupacumbalong at the moment in protecting the heritage values at Cupacumbalong?

Mr Corbell: What do you mean in relation to what is happening at Cupacumbalong at the moment? Can you be more specific?

MR SMYTH: Well, Mr Traves seems to know about it.

Mr Traves: No, I was just waiting for your clarification.

MR SMYTH: Okay. There is some work about the master plan that has been some years in the make for Cupacumbalong and the future use, the lease on Cupacumbalong that is as an arts precincts and it obviously has heritage values given its status. Does the heritage unit have a watching brief over what is going on at Cupacumbalong?

Mr Corbell: The heritage unit has a watching brief over all aspects of the management of heritage places.

MR SMYTH: So what has it done in relation to Cupacumbalong in the last year?

Mr Corbell: I would have to take the question on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Heritage Council (and Heritage Unit) are involved in the long term conservation of heritage values at Cupacumbalong having endorsed a Conservation Management Plan for Cupacumbalong on 1 December 2011 and a Masterplan for Cupacumbalong on 31 May 2012. The Heritage Unit is currently working with the ACT Planning and Land Authority Lease Administration Unit to prepare a suitable Heritage Agreement for Cupacumbalong.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 11.7.12

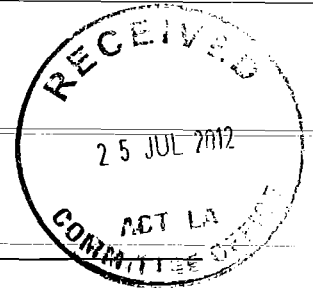
By the Minister for the Environment & Sustainable Development, Minister Corbell



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MR SMYTH on 27 June 2012 : MR TRAVES took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 82

In relation to : Tralee Hut and Couranga Homestead

MR SMYTH: Minister, in relation to some of the heritage assets in Hume, particularly the Tralee hut and the Couranga homestead, what is the heritage unit doing in regard to those two facilities?

Mr Traves: Alan Traves, Executive Director, Policy. Those two properties belong respectively to the LDA and to TAMS, and they are the managers of the properties. The heritage unit's role and the council's role, by association, is to ensure that the heritage values represented by those properties are not compromised and they give advice to the property manager on how that can be achieved. I understand that that is being done at the moment. While works are proceeding in those areas, the general solution is to fence them off so that no damage can possibly occur during the construction period and then to reassess what work may be required after heavy industrial work is completed in the area.

MR SMYTH: So how are they protected, given the recent damage to the Tralee hut, where the slabs were stolen?

Mr Traves: The fencing has been upgraded since then, I understand.

MR SMYTH: All right. And is there monitoring of the site, or are they just fenced off and you only act when there is reports of vandalism?

Mr Traves: Since we do not actually manage the sites, I would have to check with the property manager as to what extra provisions they have put in place.

SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

ACT Property Group, TAMS, as custodian, has arranged for periodic checks of the properties to ensure that any vandalism is identified and addressed as soon as possible. This will need to continue until the Homestead is further renovated as it is currently not fit for tenant occupation.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 25.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by MS HUNTER on 27 June 2012 : MR PAPPS took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012, PAGE 78

In relation to : FTEs break down.

MS HUNTER: Yes, I just wanted to follow through with your FTE and staffing figures for the Environment Portfolio are now mixed in with ACTPLA and other units that make up ESDD. So what is the number of full time equivalents in the Environment Portfolio of ESDD in the 2011-12 financial years?

Mr Papps: For ESDD, the—

Mr Corbell: Sorry, just to clarify, are you asking for elements of the directorate or the directorate as a whole, Ms Hunter?

MS HUNTER: I want to know the elements of the directorate.

Mr Corbell: Which element?

MS HUNTER: Well, I guess what I—start with all of ESDD and then we will go from there.

Mr Corbell: Sure.

Mr Papps: So those numbers are set out in the budget papers, and for 2011-12 the estimated outcome is 465 FTE.

MS HUNTER: Okay. So, do you then have broken down as to where people are employed within the department? Do you have that broken down any further?

Mr Papps: We do. I do not have those figures with me.

MS HUNTER: Could you take that on notice?

Mr Papps: Of course.

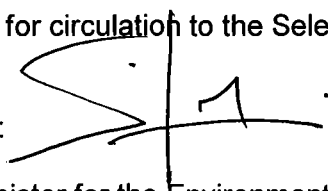
Mr Simon Corbell : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The following table provides a breakdown of staffing for the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate by key organisational area. Numbers shown are actual full time equivalent (FTE) staff at payday 21 June 2012:

Area	FTE
Office of the Director-General	9.00
Corporate	38.86
Regulation and Services Executive	2.00
Construction Services	80.20
Customer Services	53.98
Information Services	7.88
Office of the Surveyor-General	15.13
Planning Delivery Executive	1.00
Impact, Code and Estate Assessment	6.76
Lease Administration	27.07
Territory Plan Review and Implementation	13.71
Merit Assessment	24.85
Land and Infrastructure Policy	22.68
Strategic City Planning and Design	22.66
Transport Planning	14.46
Heritage	14.34
Policy Executive	1.00
Climate Change, Energy and Sustainability Policy	16.19
Environment Protection and Water Resources	22.63
Nature Conservation Policy	39.29
Sustainability Programs	21.29
Water Policy	6.00
Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	6.20
Total	467.18

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MS BRESNAN on 27 June 2012 : MR TRAVES took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 Page 89

In relation to: Nature Conservation Act

THE CHAIR: So what does this indicator mean, then?

Mr Traves: We are hoping that once we complete the review of the Nature Conservation Act and introduce amendments to that Act, then the strategy then will be put in place by the time frame indicated.

MS HUNTER: How long has that legislation been under review for?

Mr Traves: I would have to check that and take it on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* in response to various reviews have occurred in 1989, 1990, 1994, 1995 and 2004. Some of these amendments were technical in nature and others were as a result of more substantial policy review processes.

In 2008, Marsden and Jacob Associates¹ (MJA) were contracted to provide advice on the form, scope, function, policy principles and objectives of contemporary best practice nature conservation legislation. MJA reported in the 2008-2009 financial year and that report is available on the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate's website.

After extensive internal consultation across Government, the ACT Government released a Discussion Paper in December 2010. Submissions on the Discussion Paper were accepted until April 2011.

Following analysis of the community submissions, the Government is:

1. Preparing detailed drafting requirements for amendments to the Act; and
2. Incorporating community views into a proposal for revised nature conservation strategy

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

¹ Marsden Jacob Associates (2008) *Enhancing nature conservation policy in the ACT: outcomes from the review of the Nature Conservation Act 1980*. A report to TAMS.


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS


Asked by LE COUTEUR on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 Page 103

In relation to : Waste Strategy on Material Recovery Facility

MS LE COUTEUR: From a policy point of view, do you have a timeline when it needs to be delivered? Does this—

Mr Corbell: Well the timeline's outlined in the waste management strategy. I can take on notice exactly what it is but the waste management strategy specifically refers to this Material Recovery Facility from dry mixed commercial wastes and that is reflected in the Strategy.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

A Material Recovery Facility for dry-mixed-commercial-waste (Commercial MRF) is required to meet the *ACT Waste Management Strategy's* 2015 target of over 80% resource recovery. The *Waste Management Strategy* notes under sub-strategy 2.1 that the Commercial MRF should be operational by 2014.

The *USR-EcoWaste* (2010) and *Hyder* (2011) reports indicated that a Residual MRF is required to meet the Strategy's 2020 target of over 85% resource recovery. The full reports are available at http://www.environment.act.gov.au/waste/act_waste_management

The *Waste Management Strategy* notes under sub-strategy 2.2 that the Government will finalise details on procuring a Residual MRF after the Commercial MRF is established (post 2014).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

11.7.12

Date:

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MR COE on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 107

In relation to : ACTSmart programs total expenditure

MR COE: The programs, the wood heater replacement program, energy audit, including the home energy advice team, the rainwater tank rebate, toilet smart and toilet smart plus program, irrigation smart program and the gardening smart program, would you please provide the total expenditure for the last three financial years including this year to date.

Mr Corbell: I would refer you to the relevant annual reports, Mr Coe, the Government's already publicly reported that total.

MR COE: Well will you - well firstly, would you do it and secondly, would you also include this financial year perhaps as of 1 June?

Mr Corbell: Happy to provide this financial year and I would refer you to the annual reports for the other data that has been publically reported already.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The expenditure for the last three years for the ACTSmart programs listed is as follows:

Program	2009-2010 \$'000	2010-2011 \$'000	2011-2012 \$'000
HEAT audit and advice team	619	681	779
Rainwater tank rebate	228	188	141
ToiletSmart and ToiletSmart Plus	689	344	382
IrrigationSmart	4	61	88
GardenSmart	133	174	251

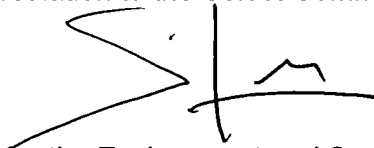
Funding for the Wood Heater Replacement Program has been provided solely by ActewAGL. ActewAGL has previously allocated up to \$100,000 annually for subsidies.

ESDD is responsible for the administration and promotion costs of the program.

Annual Program	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 to date \$'000
Wood heater replacement (ActewAGL Funded)	68.2	56.2	13.2
Wood heater replacement admin/promotion	15	15	15

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Corbell', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 11-7-12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MR COE on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 107

In relation to : ACTSmart programs budget allocation

MR COE: Sure. The wood heater replacement program. The heat energy audit including the home energy advice team. The rainwater tank rebate. The toilet smart and toilet smart plus program. The irrigation smart program and also the gardening smart program.

MS LE COUTEUR: Could I ask a supplementary about the heat program?

THE CHAIR: Mr Smyth.

MR COE: How much has been spent for each of those programs for the last three years, which they're refusing to give, and then how much has been budgeted for for the following few years.

THE CHAIR: Yes. So that's being taken on notice. Is that correct? Yes?

Mr Corbell: Yes. Look probably best I do take it on notice. A number of those programs are changing as a result of a government policy decision making or the fact that they have now being supplanted by other more comprehensive measures. So I will take the question on notice.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

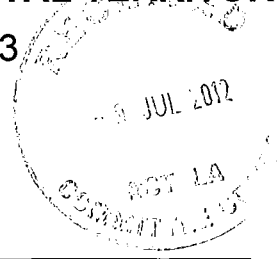
The **expenditure** for the last three years for the ACTSmart programs listed is as follows:

Program	2009-2010 \$'000	2010-2011 \$'000	2011-2012 \$'000
HEAT audit and advice team	619	681	779
Rainwater tank rebate	228	188	141
ToiletSmart and ToiletSmart Plus	689	344	382
IrrigationSmart	4	61	88
GardenSmart	133	174	251



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by MS LE COUTEUR on 27 June 2012 : MR CORBELL took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 PAGE 108

In relation to : Heat Audit

MS LE COUTEUR: Now my question was not whether the HEAT program was good or bad. It was really more about what analysis have - if any, has been done of the data given that we had to sign up. I mean, I actually did not get the heat rebate. I still had to sign up to give permission for my data to be used by the heat auditors.

Mr Corbell: Yes.

MS LE COUTEUR: Yes. It's an academic question not a - are we using this unparalleled data?

Mr Corbell: Yes. I think what happened is that people - when people do the audit, they provide a copy of their electricity bill so that the auditor has a bit of a sense of where their energy consumption is prior to the audit and that allows them to identify the most cost effective measures for the householders to consider to improve their energy efficiency and their overall energy consumption.

But then there is a second stage, Ms Le Couteur, where you provide your subsequent bills so that a comparison can be made before or after. In terms of exactly how the HET team is using that, I will take that question on notice.

Mr Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

All HEAT audit participants are required to provide 12 months of pre audit bill data for electricity and gas (where applicable). Participants also sign a consent form allowing Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD) to access 24 months of post audit bill data for the purpose of evaluation.

Pre audit data is collected to allow an accurate comparison with the post audit and post rebate (if applicable) data by ESDD.

The post audit bill data is being provided to ESDD by ActewAGL through a data licensing agreement. This data is expected to be available to ESDD later in 2012.

Contract negotiations are currently taking place to engage an external contractor to undertake an evaluation of the HEAT program using participants' consumption data.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 6.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Amanda Bresnan on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 111

In relation to : ACTSmart Office and Business – BP4 Page 319 - recurring costs

THE CHAIR: Okay. Just also regarding the ACTSmart Office and Smart Business programs—

Mr Corbell: Yes.

THE CHAIR: This might need to be taken on notice, what is the recurring costs for these programs? So it is for Smart Office and ACT Business Smart – Smart Business?

Mr Corbell: I think I will take the question on notice, Ms Bresnan.

THE CHAIR: Yes. If you could also take on notice, just under each program how many businesses and offices have signed up? And how many have been accredited?

Mr Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The recurring costs for the ACTSmart Business and Office program in 2012-13 are:

- Program costs: \$295,000
- Staffing cost: \$183,000.

Since the launch of the program in August 2009 and as at 28 June 2012;

- 311 businesses have signed up, of which 53 are accredited; and
- 182 offices have signed up, of which 31 are accredited.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date:

11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 112

In relation to : Inner North Reticulation Program

MRS DUNNE: And that \$7.5 million which is only part of the – part of the cost of that project, what – can you perhaps on notice provide the committee with the total cost of the project at this stage, including the cost for the Hordern (sic) St Pond and – and is there reticulation from the Hordern (sic) St Pond to anywhere or is that just for that site there?

Mr Corbell: Yes, Dickson and Lyneham are networked in their reticulation—

MRS DUNNE: Dickson and Lyneham are networked.

Mr Corbell: Through to Flemington Road. I am happy to take the question on notice.

Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The overall cost of the stormwater harvesting infrastructure for the Inner North Stormwater Reticulation Network, including the Dickson Pond (adjacent to Hawdon Street), is approximately \$14 million, comprising:

- \$7.5 million for pipelines linking the Lyneham Pond with Flemington Road Pond and to supply to end user sites;
- \$2.5 million for pump stations and filtration at Flemington Road Ponds; and
- approximately \$4 million for the Dickson Pond (adjacent to Hawdon Street), including the pump station and filtration system.

Stormwater captured in the Dickson Pond will irrigate the Dickson District Playing Fields only. Excess stormwater from the Dickson channel is captured downstream in the Lyneham Pond where it will be used for sport and recreation facilities included in the inner north network.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Corbell", with the date "25-7-12" written next to it.

Date:

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Brendan Smyth MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 114

In relation to : Storm Water Replacement

MR SMYTH: And the accelerating (re) placing storm water drains with wetlands was due for completion in September 2011 according to last year's budget paper. It is now put back to September 2012.

Mr Corbell: I am advised that this particular project is being delivered by the planning area in ESDD which, unfortunately officers are not here, so I will have to take the question on notice. They were present for the previous session last week. So I will take the question on notice.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice.

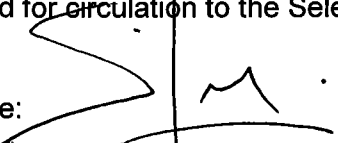
Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The question refers to the Dickson and Lyneham Ponds. Both Dickson and Lyneham ponds have now reached practical completion and are available for community use. The Dickson Pond development was completed and opened to the public in December 2011.

The Lyneham Pond project has experienced delays due to unusually wet weather. As the Lyneham Pond is in the stormwater channel, resulting in the pond filling up after every rain event. In turn, this prevented construction work for a period of 5-7 days. Lyneham Pond was opened to the public in April 2012. The projects will be financially completed in 2013-14 due to an extended consolidation period for landscape maintenance.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

 23.7.12

Date:

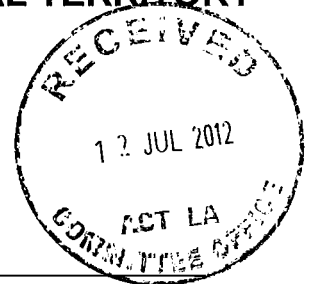
By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Meredith Hunter MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 115

In relation to : ACTSmart Office and Business

MS HUNTER: I was just wanted to get some idea about the standards for accreditation which then might answer the question around we have got, you know, 188 in the Officesmart program, 29 of them accredited, 303 in business and 53 accredited and more coming online, as you said, with the Tuggeranong Hyperdome. But could I get some idea about what are the standards of accreditation?

Mr Corbell: Look, I would have to take that on notice, Ms Hunter.

THE CHAIR: So that is taken on notice.

MS HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

ACTSmart *Office* and *Business* signatories are required to complete two audits of their waste streams using the data from their waste bills – an initial audit on commencement and a second audit after they have implemented the program and wish to be accredited. The waste audit is verified by ACTSmart staff. Individual participants' audit data is not made publicly available as it is commercial in confidence. Aggregate participant data across both programs is published in the Annual Report.

Accreditation requires achievement of measurable waste reduction outcomes. To reach accreditation, signatories must:

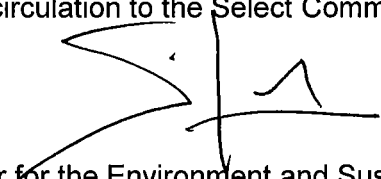
- implement the program as directed in the Best Practice Guide;
- have a reduction of waste to landfill;
- have 75% of staff attend an ACTSmart training session;
- implement mixed recycling, paper, cardboard and organic collection systems; and
- install ACTSmart stickers and signage to provide consistency across sites.

Accreditation is for 12 twelve months, after which the signatory must submit another audit and demonstrate that the accreditation requirements are still being met in order to achieve accreditation for the next 12 months.

E12-483

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line with a small peak.

Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Vicki Dunne MLA on 27 June 2012 : Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 120

In relation to : Lake Burley Griffin

MRS DUNNE: So what parts of Lake Burley Griffin are managed or owned by the ACT Government?

Mr Corbell: By the "lake", do you mean the water in the lake or do you mean the—

MRS DUNNE: I am going to take a holistic approach to the lake.

Mr Corbell:--the area that surrounds the lake?

MRS DUNNE: I do not want to limit myself.

Mr Corbell: Land management responsibility on the foreshores of Lake Burley Griffin, recognising that the lake is itself, the body of water that is the inundation of the Molonglo River. But land management of the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin and ownership of that land varies between the commonwealth through the National Capital Authority and the NCA—sorry, and the ACT Government.

MRS DUNNE: So, for instance, by way of answer to a question on notice, could you perhaps provide the committee with a map that says which bits are the responsibility of whom?

Mr Corbell: Foreshore management?

MRS DUNNE: Yes.

Mr Corbell: I will do my best.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Please see the map at attachment A - This map details the Management areas of Lake Burley Griffin.

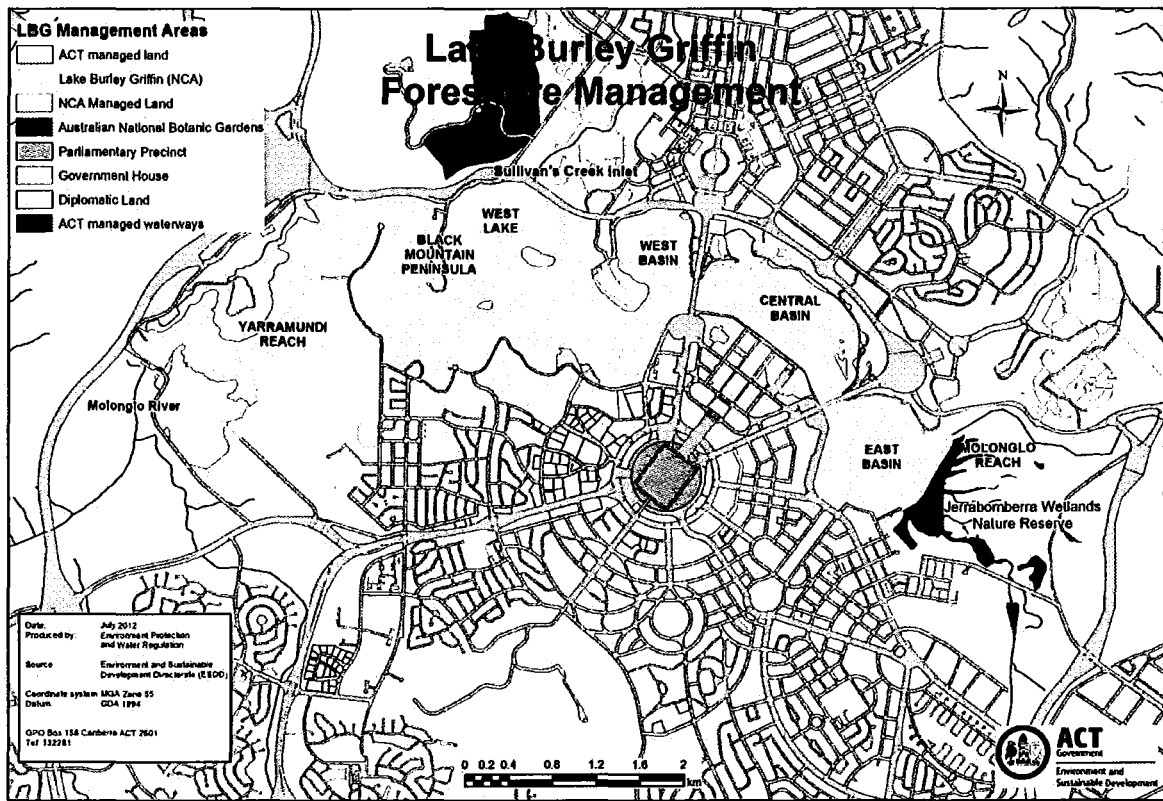
Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 6.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA

(Mrs Dunne: well here you have it! - A map!)





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Meredith Hunter MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 121

In relation to : EPA Staffing arrangements

MS HUNTER: Well, that is what I am trying to get a handle on. So, yes, you have got four or five, but when you actually distil it down, how many hours a week would be dedicated to this particular activity?

Mr Corbell: Look, I will take the question on notice, Ms Hunter.

THE CHAIR: Okay, so that is taken on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

There are five Environment Protection Officers (EPO) who are assigned different areas of the ACT. As part of their duties EPOs are responsible for ensuring developers comply with approved sediment and erosion control plans. The maintenance of sediment and erosion controls ponds form part of the approved plans.

On average each officer spends approximately four hours a week inspecting sediment control ponds in their area.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date:

6.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Meredith Hunter MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Daniel Walters took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 122

In relation to : EPA ACT Pond Development

MS HUNTER: Well, I have got some real concerns about, you know, what is happening with some of these ponds and not keeping it at the 20 per cent and not doing the right thing, and we are seeing a lot of turbidity in Lake Ginninderra that appears to be coming down from developments in Crace and so forth. So how many—or can you give us a breakdown—you might need to take this on notice—how many breaches have occurred in the last three financial years, including this one? Take that on notice?

THE CHAIR: Taken on notice.

MS HUNTER: And what is the usual response? So if you go out and find that someone is not complying, what action is taken?

Mr Walters: Generally because we have agreements with the developers and if we have approved a certain erosion control plan it is pretty blatant if something—I mean, I cannot speak for every case. There may be extenuating circumstances, but in most cases, it generally would not be a warning, it would be an infringement. However, having said that, we work—education is the most important component, particularly with the building industry, to educate them as to how they should operate. But we have the tools available for recalcitrant or people who are not doing that, and we will take, you know, appropriate action.

We have an enforcement policy which is basically warn and then we can infringe and then prosecute. To date we have not got to a prosecution, I believe, for those. That is only to date.

MS HUNTER: To date. Okay. So if I could have a breakdown, as I said, in this current financial year, and the previous two, and some idea about, you know, number of warnings, number of infringements, as you say, there has not been a prosecution to date. But it would be good to—

Mr Walters: We do produce those in the annual report, but we can give you those.

MS HUNTER: That would be great if we can produce it to this committee.

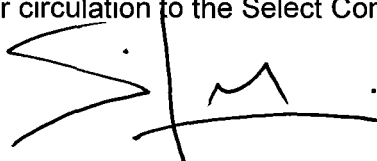
THE CHAIR: That is taken on notice. Okay. Did you have any further questions for Mr Walters?

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

From 1 January 2009 through to 30 July 2012 there has been nine investigations for which four infringement notices were issued to developers for discharge of sediment laden water. There is one investigation pending.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line, with a small 'M' above the horizontal line.

Date: 6.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS


Asked by Ms Vicki Dunne MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Daniel Walters took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 123

In relation to : Monitoring of Blue Green Algae

MRS DUNNE: So it is those that you use monitoring points in there. So how often are they monitored?

Mr Walters: I would have to take that on notice. I do not know off the top of my head.

THE CHAIR: That is taken on notice.

Mr Simon Corbell MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Streams are sampled for water quality (ie. nutrients, oxygen, suspended solids, salinity, clarity and pH) at different flow levels, rather than at fixed times, to better characterise the pollutant loads. The aim of the sampling strategy is to provide a fully representative assessment of river health over time by taking account of the impact of flow on water quality. The target for streams is eight flow based samples per year.

The major urban lakes, with the exception of Lake Burley Griffin which is a Commonwealth responsibility, are sampled eight months of the year during August, October to March, and May. The ACT Government also monitors Burrinjuck Reservoir as activities in the ACT could potentially impact on this reservoir

Details of the water quality monitoring and results are presented in the annual ACT Water Report which is available on the Directorate website.

Monitoring of blue-green algae in Canberra's lakes is undertaken mostly, but not exclusively, during the summer months by EPA officers with weekly visits and encompasses the recreation zones of the lakes and the Molonglo River.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

25.7.12

Date:

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS


Asked by Ms Vicki Dunne MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 127

In relation to : Water abstraction charge

MRS DUNNE: Does any other jurisdiction charge a water abstraction charge on surface water?

Mr Corbell: Have to take it on notice, Mrs Dunne.

THE CHAIR: So it is taken on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Although not using the same name, other jurisdictions impose similarly scaled water management and water planning charges for largely the same purposes as the ACT's water abstraction charge.

In New South Wales the Office of Water imposes water management and water planning fees separate to the cost of a water licence or allocation. Similarly, Queensland impose water planning and management charges 'to manage the State's water resources sustainably and to ensure adequate water supplies for future generations' (Queensland Department of Environment and Rural Management website).

Local governments can also impose water related charges. In NSW local governments often impose a stormwater management service levy as distinct from other charges imposed by city and regional water utilities.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission oversees and monitors water charges imposed by water utilities and jurisdictions particularly with respect to the Murray-Darling Basin.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 1.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Vicki Dunne MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr David Papps took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 128

In relation to : Yowani Golf Club Water Abstraction Changes

MRS DUNNE: And how much do you envisage raising from this phased-in water abstraction charge and how much do you envisage raising once it's fully operational at 51 cents a kilolitre?

Mr Papps: I would have to take that on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: So that's taken on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Under the Fees Determination of the *Water Resources Act 2007* and as outlined in correspondence to all relevant Golf Clubs, the current WAC is \$0.25 per/Kl for surface water, not \$0.51 cents as indicated in the question.

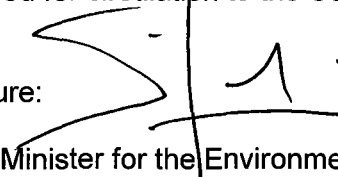
To ease the financial burden on Golf Clubs with the introduction of the WAC and then the impact of the drought on water usage, there had been a moratorium or waiver on charging the WAC on surface water up to and including 2009-10 but the WAC now is being phased-in on the following basis:

- 2010-2011 – WAC to be charged on surface water at a rate of \$0.10c/Kl
- 2011-2012 – WAC to be charged on surface water at a rate of \$0.20c/Kl
- 2012-2013 – WAC to be charged on surface water at a rate of \$0.25c/Kl and
- Onwards of 2013 – WAC to be charged on surface water at a rate specified in the Fee Determination for the relevant year, with no further adjustments.

The amount of funds raised from the WAC can vary and will depend on a number of factors. These factors include the rainfall and soil moisture conditions in any one year and the particular Golf Club's regime of water management arrangements and the option that the Golf Clubs can seek a credit towards the WAC on their surface water usage for expenditure during the financial year on water saving infrastructure and course re-developments.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



13.7.12

Date:

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Simon Corbell MLA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Meredith Hunter MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 136

In relation to : Action Plan 2 - Vulnerabilities

MS HUNTER: Okay. Another action in Weathering the Change Action Plan 1 was requiring agencies to have vulnerability assessments. How many agencies did complete a climate vulnerability assessment? Do you have that?

Mr Corbell: I would have to take that on notice.

MS HUNTER: Taken on notice. Okay.

THE CHAIR: That is taken on notice.

Mr Corbell: I am advised by Mr Traves that this work is being dealt with as part of risk management plans for agencies.

MS HUNTER: Right.

Mr Corbell: But I will take the detail in the question on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

On the basis that impacts upon operating efficiency arise from many sources (not just climate based impacts) ACT Government Directorates have chosen to undertake climate vulnerability assessments as part of their wider Risk Management Plan processes.

All Directorates have overarching Strategic Risk Management Plans that are supported by Operational Risk Management Plans that cover specific risks that impact upon those operations. In cases where climate impacts are noted as representing a risk they are assessed and remedied as part of the overall response plan.

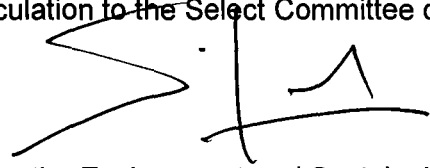
Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate released a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Framework for Infrastructure Discussion Paper earlier this year for public consultation until June 2012. This Framework will supplement rather than replace any element of the ACT Government's risk management framework, following steps described in Risk Management Standards (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009). The Framework is intended to provide Government with a diagnostic tool to assist in considering climate change and its impacts during the planning, development, renewal, maintenance and management of public infrastructure.



E12-492

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Minister Simon Corbell





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Meredith Hunter MLA on 27 June 2012: Mr Simon Corbell MLA took on notice the following question:

Hansard Transcript 27 June 2012 page 136

In relation to : Action Plan 2 - Vulnerabilities

MS HUNTER: Okay. Another action in Weathering the Change Action Plan 1 was requiring agencies to have vulnerability assessments. How many agencies did complete a climate vulnerability assessment? Do you have that?

Mr Corbell: I would have to take that on notice.

MS HUNTER: Taken on notice. Okay.

THE CHAIR: That is taken on notice.

Mr Corbell: I am advised by Mr Traves that this work is being dealt with as part of risk management plans for agencies.

MS HUNTER: Right.

Mr Corbell: But I will take the detail in the question on notice.

MR SIMON CORBELL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

On the basis that impacts upon operating efficiency arise from many sources (not just climate based impacts) ACT Government Directorates have chosen to undertake climate vulnerability assessments as part of their wider Risk Management Plan processes.

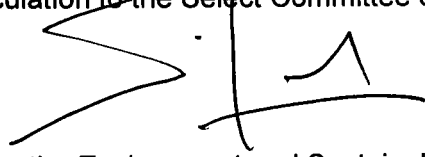
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E12-492

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line with a small peak at the end.

Date: 11.7.12

By the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Minister Simon Corbell



Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Framework for Infrastructure

Discussion Paper

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Framework for Infrastructure

Discussion Paper

Prepared for and in collaboration with
ACT Chief Minister's Department

Prepared by

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Disclaimer

AECOM has exercised reasonable care when completing this report. However, caution must be taken when considering our conclusions because significant uncertainty remains due to the inherent complexities involved in analysing the past climate and variables typically encountered when modelling future climate change. AECOM cannot guarantee the accuracy of the climate observations and projections described in this report and cannot be responsible for any third party's reliance upon on this information.

This document is available online at: www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/sustainability

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Any comments?

This paper is being released on the Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate website for public comment. If you would like to discuss the paper or provide feedback, you can contact Mr. Brook Dixon on 02 6205 0468 or Brook.Dixon@act.gov.au

Comments on the paper are due by COB Thursday, 21 June 2012.

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List of Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTPLA	ACT Planning and Land Authority
CMCD	Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DA	Development Application
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GIS	Geographical Information System
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
NCA	National Capital Authority
NSW	New South Wales
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAF	Performance and Accountability Framework
SAMF	Strategic Asset Management Framework
SAMP	Strategic Asset Management Plans

Executive Summary

This Discussion Paper proposes a framework for assessing the vulnerability of Australian Capital Territory's infrastructure to climate change. The framework builds on work undertaken by AECOM for ACTPLA in 2010 which examined the climate change risks associated with human settlement in the Territory.

This Discussion Paper is a further step in systematically embedding climate change risk assessment at important junctures of government decision making and planning. The Discussion Paper recognises that infrastructure has a long life span or 'design life'. In the future most infrastructure will experience climatic conditions that are likely to be different to those for which they have been designed.

It also recognises that climate change assessment, at strategic points in the decision making process, will be vital to the delivery of effective and efficient infrastructure over the coming decades.

The framework is intended to supplement, rather than replace any element of the existing risk management framework used by the ACT Government. Both frameworks follow the steps described in the Risk Management Standards (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009). Ultimately, the climate change vulnerability assessment framework may be fully integrated into the broader risk management framework used by the ACT Government.

Focus of the framework

The framework is intended to provide Government with a diagnostic tool to assist in considering climate change and its impacts during the planning, development, renewal, maintenance and management of public infrastructure. Its core focus is on the risks associated with managing infrastructure across all phases of the infrastructure life-cycle and within the context of a policy implementation cycle. Over time this framework may be further developed to ensure integration with broader climate change policies, including mitigation strategies.

Framework principles

The proposed framework is based on the principles of:

- *An integrated and flexible approach to infrastructure planning.* The adoption of a framework should ensure that social, environmental, financial and economic factors are considered when undertaking climate change vulnerability assessment. The framework should also allow changes in infrastructure, information technology, government plans and priorities to be reflected in the outcomes of the assessment process.
- *A risk management approach to infrastructure planning.* The adoption of a framework should ensure that climate change risks can be accurately determined and provide the nature and timing of responses to climate change to ensure that optimum infrastructure outcomes are achieved by agencies. The infrastructure risks associated with climate change should be managed in a prudent and efficient way.
- *A shared responsibility approach to planning and risk assessment.* The adoption of a framework should recognise the responsibilities of multiple agencies for the management of infrastructure.
- *A life-cycle approach to infrastructure development and renewal.* The adoption of a framework should recognise the basic life-cycle of public infrastructure and the key steps in managing infrastructure projects.

Framework logic

The framework logic is based on a:

- Clearly articulated relationship between aspects of climate change vulnerability, risk and adaptive capacity.
- Recognition that risk assessment processes differ between new and existing infrastructure projects, and therefore different methodologies and approaches are necessary for each type of project.
- Recognition that the entry points for climate change assessment can occur equally at a strategic whole of government level as well as at an operational agency level.

A logic map and a detailed explanation of the framework are provided in the body of the Discussion Paper.

1.0 Why a framework?

1.1 Introduction

Climate change is very likely to place increasing pressures on the community and its supporting infrastructure over the coming decades. Warmer temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, increased climate variability and more extreme weather events are expected to pose a potential risk to the owners, managers, regulators and operators of public infrastructure.

Infrastructure can be defined as the technical structures that support society, such as roads, water supply, sewers, electrical grids, telecommunications, etc. In the context of climate change, the principle focus is on 'hard' infrastructure, such as roads, sewers, fire roads, stormwater drains, natural reserves, etc. However, consideration also needs to be given to 'soft' forms of infrastructure where appropriate, such as emergency services management arrangements.

Climate change will potentially impact infrastructure through either a change in the pattern of extreme events such as storms, bushfires, floods, drought or through gradual changes such as air temperature, rainfall, and solar radiation. Most infrastructure projects have long life spans varying from a couple of decades for a road up to a century for a bridge or a tunnel. However, infrastructure is usually designed on the basis of past climate conditions and generally does not consider possible future climate. Therefore ACT's infrastructure is likely to experience future climate conditions different to the one they have been designed for.

This Discussion Paper proposes a framework for assessing the degree of climate change vulnerability for Australian Capital Territory (ACT) infrastructure. It is a further step in systematically embedding climate change risk assessment at important junctures of Government decision making and planning.

1.2 Climate change in the ACT

Worldwide industrial development has caused greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere in great volumes. Changes in land use have occurred with increasing surfaces being cleared for urban and agricultural development. Concurrently, substantial increases in air temperature have been observed during the 20th and 21st centuries.

Computer models representing the climate system have been used to estimate the relative contribution of various factors such as changes in radiation from the sun, dust from volcanic eruptions, etc. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) has concluded that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal [...and that] anthropogenic warming and sea level rise is likely to continue for centuries [...] even if greenhouse gas concentrations are stabilised".

The position of world leading scientists is clear – climate change is happening and the emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are largely responsible. The case for action is compelling and State, Territory and Local Governments have a critical role to play in preparing communities for future climate change. Numerous reports and studies, especially *Weathering the Change* (2007) and the *Gamaut Review* (2009), have highlighted the particular vulnerability of the ACT to climate change impacts.

Recent work carried out by AECOM for ACTPLA included findings by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) on a tailored climate scenario for the ACT. This tailored climate scenario suggests that a 2°C warming is expected by the mid 21st Century for ACT. Further modelling prepared by the CSIRO suggests that the future climate in the Canberra region is most likely to be hotter with some minor variance in rainfall.

This 50th percentile modelling of likely climate change impact suggests annual air temperatures that are between 1.8°C and 2.9°C warmer compared to current values; summer temperatures that are between 1.8°C and 3.1°C warmer, and mean rainfall changes between -4.6% and +4.4%¹. Additionally the number of hot days (>35°C) and very hot days (>40°C) could increase significantly (respectively from 5 days to 20 days and from 0.1 day to 2 days per year). Extreme rainfall events are also projected to increase.

The work also suggests that the Canberra region could experience even hotter temperatures with drier conditions than those stated. The most extreme climate change model scenarios would have profound implications for the

¹ It should be noted that rainfall projections are associated with high level of uncertainty and should be considered with great care.

ACT Government, the ACT community as well as the broader ACT/NSW region. Examples of potential impacts identified include:

- **Infrastructure** – changed rates of deterioration (roads/pavement), changing sizing requirements (stormwater), operational cost changes (buildings) and loss of amenity.
- **Health** – positive and negative effects from increased temperatures, changes in vector borne disease, heat wave frequency.
- **Natural resource management** – shifts in distribution of species (possible increase in local species extinction), changes to wetlands and waterways, decreased freshwater resources, increased pressure from pests, weeds and disease.
- **Emergency management** – changes in the pattern (intensity, frequency, seasonality and location) of extreme climatic events such as bushfire, storms and floods.
- **Agriculture** – change in productivity and crop selection, changes in seasonal activities, reduced water availability, greater pressure from weeds and disease.
- **Economic** – increased insurance costs, displacement of economic activity, uncertain budgeting environment, changes to amortisation schedules.
- **Social** – the increased cost of essential goods and services brought about by climate change may have a disproportionately greater effect on the budgets of lower income households, with consequent mitigation implications, such as the possible introduction of lifeline tariff pricing policies for essential services for lower income households.

1.3 Focus of the framework

The potential impact of climate change on the Territory's physical and natural infrastructure is the focus of this framework and Discussion Paper. The framework is intended to provide ACT Government with a diagnostic tool that can assist in considering climate change and its impacts during the planning, development, renewal, maintenance and management of public infrastructure. Its core focus is on the risks associated with managing infrastructure across all phases of the infrastructure life-cycle and within the context of a policy implementation cycle.

By focusing on the infrastructure risks associated with climate change the framework:

- Promotes good practice risk-based approaches to infrastructure planning, development, renewal, maintenance and management. Such good practices are anticipated to help agencies achieve enhanced value-for-money from infrastructure investment decisions.
- Promotes sustainable and longer term infrastructure outcomes through a deeper understanding of climate change vulnerability and possible adaptation options.
- Enhances the alignment between whole-of-government planning and decision making about public infrastructure through a common understanding of climate change. It also enhances the connections between infrastructure planning, strategic planning and resource allocation across Government.

1.4 Linkages with planning arrangements

Currently agencies are required to undertake a range of planning activities that assess the costs and benefits, risks and investments of infrastructure decisions. These activities must account for a number of ACT policies and frameworks that currently operate.

The climate change assessment framework will be embedded within the ACT Infrastructure Planning Process. It is anticipated to assist Government and directorates in the development of high quality infrastructure to further enhance the economic prosperity of community and support effective delivery of services. It will also provide decision makers with a set of assessment practices and processes that allow for a rolling program of climate change assessments that complement annual planning processes.

The framework will also be closely linked with the ACT's climate change strategy (*Weathering the Change*) as well as the broader objectives of the *Canberra Plan and Spatial Plan*.

Additional detail about these linkages can be found in Section 3.0 of this report.

2.0 Overview of the framework

2.1 Framework principles

The principles of the climate change vulnerability assessment framework are in part derived from previous climate change projects undertaken by AECOM for the ACT Government and are also in part derived from the key themes of the ACT Government's emerging *Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF)*.

The principles of the framework are:

- *An integrated and flexible approach.* The adoption of a framework should ensure that social, environmental, financial and economic factors are considered when undertaking climate change vulnerability assessment. The framework should also allow changes in infrastructure, information technology, government plans and priorities to be reflected in the outcomes of the assessment process.
- *A risk management approach.* The adoption of a framework should ensure that climate change risks can be accurately determined and provide the nature and timing of responses to climate change to ensure that optimum infrastructure outcomes are achieved by agencies. The infrastructure risks associated with climate change should be managed in a prudent and efficient way.
- *A shared responsibility approach.* The adoption of a framework should recognise the responsibilities of multiple agencies for the management of single infrastructure.
- *A project life-cycle approach.* The adoption of a framework should recognise the basic life-cycle of public infrastructure and the key steps in managing infrastructure projects. Project life-cycle management insights and practices can then be used by infrastructure investors and managers as part of existing management techniques.

The climate change assessment framework is intended to provide a broader strategic context for existing codes and standards for infrastructure. The strategic decision making decision-making process should apply the four principles mentioned above in the context of infrastructure planning and the application of the codes and standards.

2.2 Links to ACT Risk Management Framework

The climate change vulnerability assessment framework is intended to supplement, rather than replace any element of the existing risk management framework used by the ACT Government. Both frameworks follow the steps described in the Risk Management Standards (ASNZS 4360: 2004). Ultimately, the climate change vulnerability assessment framework may be fully integrated into the broader risk management framework used by the ACT Government.

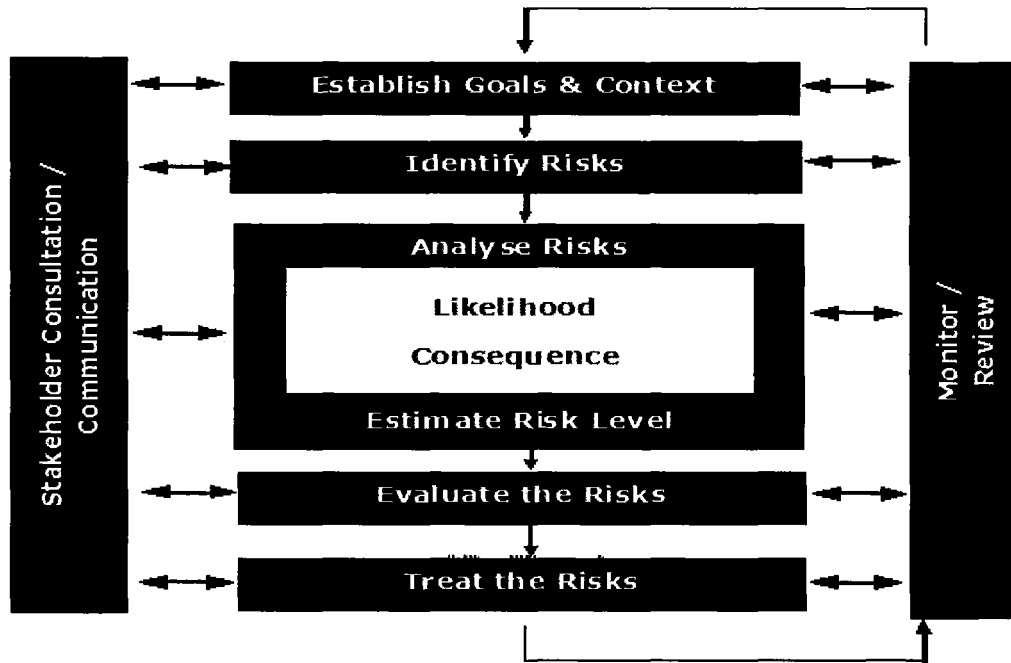
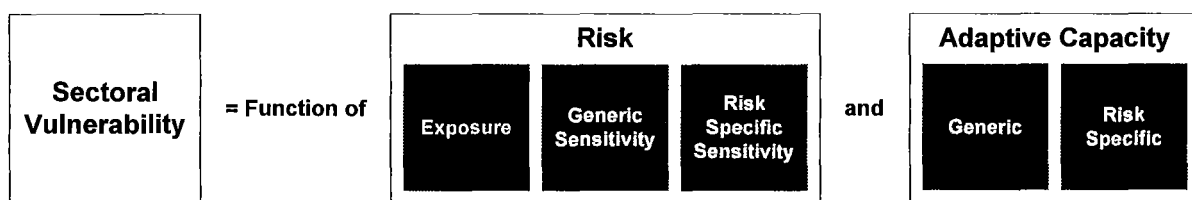


Figure 1 The risk management process

2.3 Framework logic

It is proposed that the ACT use a similar logic to assess ACT infrastructure vulnerability to climate change as that used in the ACTPLA study (AECOM 2010). Under this logic vulnerability is analysed as a function of risk exposure and sensitivity and adaptive capacity. The relationship between these different aspects is outlined in figure 1. below.

Figure 2 Relationship between vulnerability, risk and adaptive capacity



Source . AECOM 2010

Central to the issue of vulnerability (or risk) assessment is the concept of the likelihood of risk and the consequences of events. Specifically in relation to infrastructure, a very relevant consideration is the adequacy of the construction standards (e.g. built to withstand a 1 in 100 year flood). Analysis of whether the risk of such an event will increase due to climate change, and whether the consequence of such an event would be any greater than it currently is, are very real considerations. It may be possible that current construction standards already more than adequately allow for any changes due to climate change. However, without a focus on likelihood and consequence, construction standards may increase, adding cost to cover an event for which the likelihood may not have materially increased, or the consequence be of marginal difference to the current situation.

Exposure can be described as the nature and degree to which a system is exposed to significant climatic variations (IPCC 2001). This aspect of vulnerability mainly encompasses climate variables and biophysical elements strongly influenced by changes in the climate.

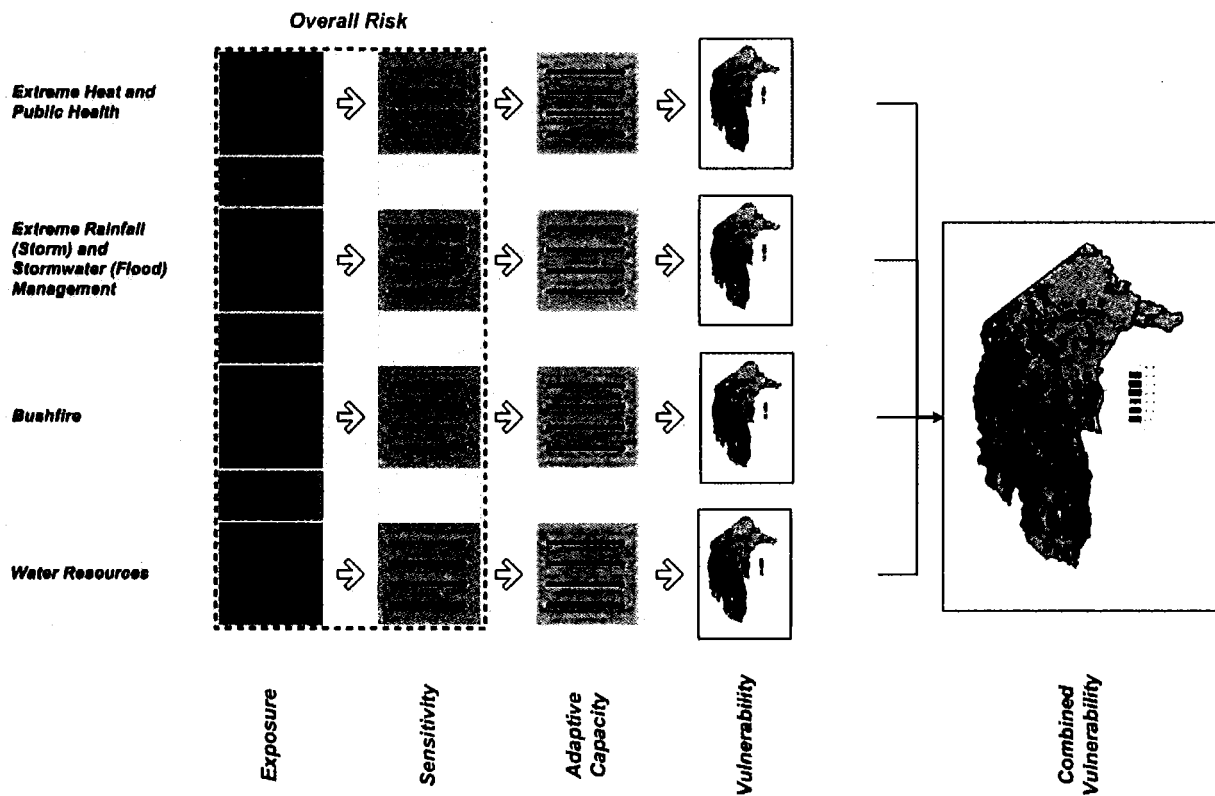
Sensitivity refers to the degree to which a system is affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate related variables including means, extremes, gradual changes and variability. Sensitivity is influenced by biophysical elements such as ground slope or aspects, infrastructure elements (e.g. drainage infrastructure) and

socio-economic elements (e.g. importance of this infrastructure service for the ACT population as a whole). Some aspects of the sensitivity are generic across all risks while others are specific to a particular risk or combination of risks.

The adaptive capacity can be defined as the ensemble of resources (human, natural, institutional, financial and technical) available to a group or an individual to cope with climate change risks or to realise benefits, through changes in characteristics or behaviour. Adaptive capacity can be an inherent property or it may have been developed as a result of previous policy, planning or design decisions of the organisation. Additionally the adaptive capacity may be generic (i.e. common across all climate change risks) or risk specific, at the local, regional and national level.

In the ACTPLA study, the scoring for each element was combined and weighted depending on data availability and its ability to represent the element of the considered risk. For each available variable, maps were developed using a Geographical Information System (GIS) framework. Figure 2 illustrates the approach to estimating the relative vulnerability of ACT human settlements to particular climate change risks and the combined effect of climate change.

Figure 3 Conceptual representation of the approach taken to assess vulnerability to climate change in the ACT



Source AECOM 2010

It is proposed that the exposure elements of the ACTPLA study be applied to the infrastructure framework, with some amendments and additions. The ACTPLA exposure risk included the risks of bushfire, extreme heat, heavy precipitation and reduced water availability. Other risks such as extreme winds were not analysed and would require additional work.

The following sections describe a logic map that can be used to consider the likely impact of climate change and to enable managers to understand the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the infrastructure systems they manage. By combining an estimate of the particular exposures (derived from the ACTPLA study), and a self assessment of the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the ACT infrastructure management system, it is possible to identify the overall vulnerability of ACT infrastructure to climate change.

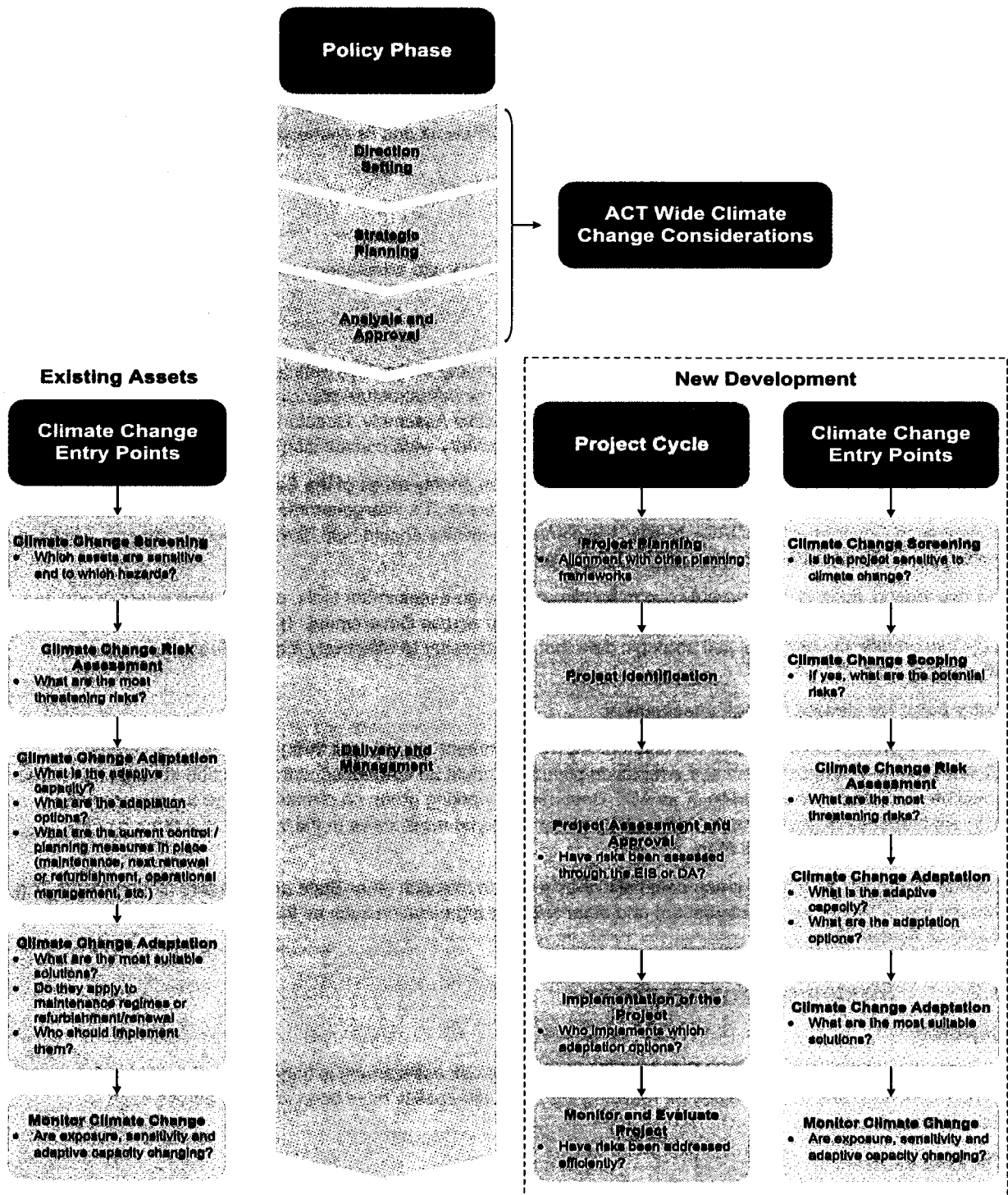
2.4 Entry points for climate change consideration

The diagram below illustrates the conceptual logic underpinning the framework. The flow chart shows how climate change assessment fits within a policy and infrastructure project life-cycle, and can augment existing tools and frameworks to improve infrastructure decision making across Government.

The framework has been adapted from the Risk Management Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 to meet the requirements of the ACT. This is based on previous analysis undertaken for ACTPLA (2010) on human settlement across the ACT. This is to provide consistency with previous studies.

An understanding of the policy environment should guide how and when climate change assessment is undertaken. The discussion, below, illustrates how the project cycle and risk assessment elements of climate change vulnerability assessment will need to be applied across the various policy phases of the ACT's broader Infrastructure Assessment Framework (2010).

Figure 4 Logic map of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Framework



Source Adapted from ACT Government Infrastructure Framework and AECOM 2010

3.0 Framework phases

This section provides a more detailed explanation of the framework and its elements.

3.1 Direction setting phase

Objective

The objective of this phase is to ensure that climate change risk and adaptation options are clearly identified at a whole-of-government and community level.

Planning context

This phase represents the highest level of infrastructure planning and priority setting, and the aggregation of planning activities across Government. It typically involves the infrastructure planning activities of individual Ministers, Cabinet Members of the Government and Legislative Assembly, Directors-General, Directorate representatives and the community of the ACT (through Territory-wide consultation).

The planning activities at this phase should reflect the seven priority areas of the Canberra Plan and short and medium-term priorities of elected governments, as well as the ACT's intergovernmental obligations under Council of Australian Governments (COAG). Ideally, the planning activities should help Governments to develop whole-of-government infrastructure priorities that are longer term.

For this reason, there is considerable scope for climate change assessment tools, such as longer-term trend and demand analysis and scenario planning, to be implemented across Government. The addition of such diagnostic tools can provide the technical and strategic data that is necessary to effectively manage future infrastructure investment risks.

Entry point for climate change assessment

A co-ordinated approach between the different ACT Government directorates through whole-of-government climate change risk assessment and adaptation planning should be embedded at the direction setting phase. This could be facilitated by the creation of an ACT Government working group on climate change representing the different branches of government. This working group would be most active in the lead up to a refresh of the *Canberra Plan* and the *Spatial Plan*.

Such an approach or working group could also play a liaison role with other State and Territory Governments (e.g. through the COAG group on adaptation) and other relevant organisation such as the National Capital Authority (NCA) or ActewAGL.

3.2 Strategic planning phase

Objective

The objective of this phase is to ensure that climate change risk assessment is undertaken at a whole-of-government level and the strategies for reducing the ACT vulnerability have been adopted across each Government directorate.

Planning context

The ACT Infrastructure Plan provides a link between the longer-term objectives set out in the *Canberra Plan* and *Spatial Plan*, the priorities in the Annual Budget, and the operational strategies outlined in the Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) of individual agencies. The planning activities at this stage are a consequence of the feedback from Community Roundtables, and the technical/operational information collected by individual agencies.

The infrastructure planning activities at this phase are intended to deliver:

- A clearly articulated medium (5 year) and long-term (10 year) infrastructure program encompassing investment in new infrastructure, as well as existing and ageing infrastructure.
- The integration of infrastructure programs and projects with other planning activities – such as the social and service delivery responsibilities of Government.

- A strong basis for improving Government services to the ACT community and the region, by ensuring that infrastructure development is aligned with community needs.

Planning activities at the strategic phase should help Government to develop strong linkages between risk assessment and the emerging and changing needs of the community. A consolidated *ACT Infrastructure Plan* will, over time, assist in the delivery of infrastructure projects that meet the major plans and priorities of directorates.

Entry point for climate change assessment

The strategic setting phase provides the opportunity to consider the broader climate change impacts not only in the ACT but also in the NSW surrounding region. Issues faced by NSW areas surrounding the ACT (such as shortage of water in Yass or Murrumbateman or flooding in Queanbeyan which have the potential to be exacerbated by climate change) can have significant implications for the ACT.

At this phase a multi-risk approach is recommended to capture the "larger picture" for the ACT. This consideration can be delivered through an inter-directorate workshop involving all ACT directorates engaged in this program. The key findings for the four risks considered in the Spatial Plan Evaluation (AECOM 2010) could constitute the basis for this discussion (bushfire, extreme heat and public health, extreme rainfall and flooding and reduction in water availability). They could be complemented by additional risks such as storms and extreme winds and natural areas/biodiversity vulnerability.

The outcomes of this phase would be an identification of ACT-wide impacts to inform Territory-wide master planning for large development programs such as sub-division or critical urban infrastructure.

3.3 Analysis and approval phase

Objective

The objective of this phase is to ensure that climate change assessment is an integral part of the design and approval of all types of infrastructure projects. The current ACT requirement to consider climate change (both mitigation and adaptation) as part of an ACT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ensure that climate change is considered for all large infrastructure projects. This needs to be complemented by tools and regulations not triggering an EIS.

Planning context

Prior to the allocation of budget funding and the commissioning of programs and projects, a range of analytical and approval processes for infrastructure occur within directorates to determine the costs and benefits of infrastructure investments. The ACT Treasury's Strategic Asset Management Framework (SAMF), provides directorate managers that are involved in the management of physical infrastructure and the delivery of Government services that are infrastructure dependent, with a set of consistent policies to work from. Under the SAMF, agency personnel are required to consider:

- A four year forward program of infrastructure.
- Government objectives with respect to the management of assets and infrastructure.
- Social, environmental and economic delivery needs of the ACT community and associated asset management decisions.

Within this context directorates are required to develop business cases and undertake feasibility studies of individual projects or programs of infrastructure. They are also required to follow policies on the physical and financial recording of assets, the use and performance of infrastructure, and the accountabilities for the management of assets and infrastructure. The outcomes of these activities (in particular, business cases and feasibility studies) will shape and be shaped by the annual budget process of Government. The Budget Papers provide a whole of government record of the decision making that has occurred at this phase of the framework.

Entry point for climate change assessment

As previously mentioned, a consideration of climate change is incorporated into the ACT approval process through the analysis contained in ACT EISs. However this needs to be reinforced by requiring similar and comparable analysis for smaller infrastructure projects.

3.4 Delivery and management phase

Objective

The objective of this phase is to ensure that infrastructure project delivery is managed with ongoing consideration of key climate change risks. This may include implementing appropriate measures to ensure ACT infrastructure projects continue to be “climate ready”.² The ongoing management of infrastructure should also reflect evolving best practice in climate change risk assessment and adaptation.

Planning context

The delivery and management of infrastructure projects will be shaped by the Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) prepared by agencies. SAMP's are used by directorates to identify the optimum mix and form of assets needed so that the agency can deliver the outcomes sought by Government.

The development of procurement plans and various project related plans assist directorates to manage the operation and maintenance, acquisition, disposal and financial aspects of infrastructure delivery. The detail and complexity of these plans is subject to the size and scope of infrastructure and risks associated with infrastructure failure.

Entry point for climate change assessment

This phase is where consideration of climate change needs to be presented with greater detail. To achieve this it is helpful for the project cycle to be broken down into a series of tasks. The tasks may relate to the development of new assets or the management of existing assets. These different types of tasks may require different types of activities.

New Development

1. Project Planning / Climate Change Screening

At this step the project manager and other core decision makers would screen for climate change vulnerability. This can be translated in the following question: *is the project sensitive to climate change?* Not all projects are sensitive to climate change and not all climate change risks are relevant to every project. Some of the key factors to be considered are the proposed location and service to be delivered by the infrastructure project, the budget and the design life of the proposed project.

Typically, infrastructure with very long design life (such as bridges and tunnels) are likely to be sensitive to climate change. Any risks to critical infrastructure (such as water storage, supply and distribution, electricity transmission, and major roads) should also be considered for these projects. Some temporary infrastructure or infrastructure providing non critical services might not require climate change vulnerability assessment.

The exposure elements of the ACTPLA project can be used to direct climate change assessment.

Whether climate change is considered or not, it is important to document with a clear rationale explaining why particular elements of analysis were or were not undertaken.

2. Project Identification / Climate Change Scoping

Once it has been determined that the project is sensitive to climate change a scoping approach should help identify which elements of the infrastructure project are sensitive to what climate related variables. This scoping should include consideration of maintenance objectives and decisions to commission or decommission infrastructure.

The scoping phase should also determine the different stakeholders involved in the climate change risk assessment, who will be conducting the assessment and the possible budget to deliver the assessment. If the project is likely to trigger an EIS, a scoping brief should be included in the EIS requirement.

It is possible that some risks and elements of the infrastructure project included in the scoping brief may not be relevant when the detailed assessment is performed. It is equally possible that additional risks and infrastructure elements are found to be relevant during the detailed assessment.

3. Project Assessment and Approval / Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning

² Ideally this should include consideration of climate variability as well as climate change.

The key objective of this step is to identify, analyse and prioritise the different climate change risks to the infrastructure project. To ensure consistency between different projects assessed and delivered in the ACT the same methodology should be used for all assessment.

For instance the methodology detailed in the risk management standards (ASNZ 4360 and ISO 31 000) could be selected. The risks would then be analysed as a function of their likelihood and consequences.

More detailed elements of risk exposure derived from the ACTPLA framework could be used to underpin the assessment for relevant variables (including mean and extreme temperature, mean and extreme rainfall, bushfire). Other risks such as flooding, that are partially covered in the ACTPLA framework, could be augmented by specialist studies such as local flood modelling.

The risk assessment would result in a list of prioritised risks. It is important that the rationale explaining the ranking of each risk is well documented. High and extreme risks would typically be the focus of the adaptation response.

Once the risks have been prioritised the second objective of this phase is to identify relevant adaptation options to address them. At this stage the range of adaptation options would be relatively wide and dependent on the infrastructure project in question.

4. Implementation of the Project / Climate Change Adaptation³

During this step, the range of adaptation options previously identified need to be first assessed to analyse which options are the most suitable to the project from an efficiency as well as from a suitability point of view. The aim is to prioritise a long list of options into a small number of options. Such prioritisation can be done using a Multi-Criteria Analysis framework (MCA). Criteria such as cost, efficiency, speed of implementation, technical feasibility, human capacity and acceptance can be used for the MCA.

Identified options can then be incorporated into the relevant phases of the project implementation. This can include the construction, maintenance, refurbishment and decommissioning phases. Funding should also be allocated to ensure that climate change assessment activities are reflected in the final outcomes of infrastructure projects.

5. Monitor and Evaluate Project / Monitor Climate Change

As with any other environmental and risk management process it is relevant to monitor and re-evaluate the risks and the measures in place to reduce risk over time. Depending on the size of the infrastructure project and its projected life-cycle climate change monitoring can be an ongoing activity or undertaken at key junctures in a project's design life. Critical thresholds can be established at the beginning of the project to trigger specific actions (e.g. temperature thresholds resulting in change of materials, rainfall thresholds resulting in sizing requirements).

Existing Assets

The actions described for new developments can be applied to existing assets. The ability of Government to consider current risks and control measures for the assessment of existing assets is equally important. This is because the assets already exist and the services are already being delivered to the ACT community, and the risk of existing infrastructure failures can have more immediate and direct implications for the health and well being of individuals.

³ As the ACT regulation requires all Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) to consider climate change (both mitigation and adaptation aspects), such concerns will be included in the EIS scope for each project triggering this process. In this instance, the main requirement would be to ensure that the process is followed thoroughly (both in terms of risk identification and adaptation options implementation). For projects which do not require an EIS it is important to follow the process described above (which may or may not result in a full assessment depending on the sensitivity of the proposed project to climate variability and climate change).

4.0 Next steps

There are a number of steps to finalise the Framework, including:

- 1) Public consultation, with comments due by Thursday, 21 June 2012.
- 2) The Framework will be reviewed in light of any feedback received through the public consultation process and considered by Government.

5.0 References

ACTPLA and AECOM, 2010, Human Settlement Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessment, (ACT Planning and Land Authority; Canberra).

ACT Government, 2007, Weathering the Change the ACT Climate Change Strategy (Publishing Services for Sustainability Policy and Programs, Territory and Municipal Services: Canberra).

ACT Risk Management Framework is available at: <http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/actia/RM.htm>

Agrawala, S, Kramer, A, Prudent-Richard, G and Sainsbury, M, 2010, "Incorporating climate change impacts and adaptation in Environmental Impact Assessments: Opportunities and Challenges" OECD Environmental Working Paper No 24. (OECD Publishing).

CMD (Chief Minister's Department) 2010, 'ACT Government Evaluation Policy and Guidelines', December.

CSIRO (2010), Climate Futures for Canberra, a consultancy report for AECOM, June 2010.

Garnaut, R. (2008), The Garnaut Climate Change Review, First Edition, Cambridge University Press, Victoria, Australia.

IPCC (2001), Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Houghton, J.T., Y. Ding, D.J. Griggs, M. Noguer, P.J. van der Linden, X. Dai, K. Maskell, and C.A. Johnson (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 881pp.

IPCC (2007). Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.



Salvaneschi, Sam

From: Burrows, Sarah
Sent: Thursday, 12 July 2012 7:47 AM
To: Salvaneschi, Sam
Cc: Pitts, Julia
Subject: FW: Questions on Notice

Authorised for publication

30/07/12

Hi Sam,
As requested
S

From: Robert Neil [<mailto:rwnel@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 July 2012 5:58 PM
To: Burrows, Sarah; Pitts, Julia
Subject: Questions on Notice

Sarah/Julia please forward the message below to the relevant Assembly people

The response to Questions Taken On Notice

- E12-493
- E12 -494
- E12 -495
- E12 -496
- E12 -497
- E12 -498
- E12-499
- E12 -500
- E12 -501

And
Questions on Notice
E12 -586
E12-587
E12-588

Are answers from me

Mr Robert Neil
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
11 July 2012

Burrows, Sarah

From: Robert Neil [rwnil@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 5:24 AM
To: Pitts, Julia; Burrows, Sarah
Subject: QoN 4,5,6
Attachments: QToN Answer Estimates 2012 4.docx; QToN Answer Estimates 2012 5.docx; QToN Answer Estimates 2012 6.docx

The answers to Questions taken on notice (Question 4,5 & 6) are answers provided by me.

Robert Neil
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

Sarah/Julia

I have changed some answers all in tracked changes
Regards
Rob



Burrows, Sarah

From: Robert Neil [rwnel@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 6:46 AM
To: Burrows, Sarah; Pitts, Julia
Subject: QoN 7,8 & 9
Attachments: QToN Answer Estimates 2012 7.docx; QToN Answer Estimates 2012 8.docx; QToN Answer Estimates 2012 9.docx

Sarah/Julia

Attached are responses, by me, to Questions taken on notice.

Robert Neil
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



Burrows, Sarah

From: Pitts, Julia
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 11:13 AM
To: Burrows, Sarah
Subject: FW: QTONS 3 of 3
Attachments: QToN Answer Estimates 2012 1-1.docx; Template - QToN Answer Estimates 2012 2.docx; QToN Answer Estimates 2012 3.docx

From: Robert Neil [<mailto:rwnil@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, 6 July 2012 5:17 AM
To: saah.burrows@act.gov.au; Pitts, Julia
Subject: FW: QTONS 3 of 3

Sarah/Julia

The Attached responses to Questions taken on notice are answers from me.

Robert Neil
Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by THE CHAIR on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 24-25]

In relation to : Does the Commissioner consider that the ACT Government has the correct policy settings in place to address the environmental pressures and issues evidenced in the latest ACT State Of the Environment Report?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

In the ACT State of the Environment Report 2011 I recommend the finalisation and implementation of a number of policies and strategies including:

- the ACT Planning Strategy;
- the Second Action Plan of *Weathering the Change*;
- the Sustainable Transport Plan; and
- the ACT Waste Minimisation Strategy

I also recommended the development of new strategies and policies including:

- an adaptable housing strategies to address the needs of changing population demographics in the future; and
- a catchment policy and integrated water supply catchment management strategy .

These recommendation have all been supported by the Government.

Recommendations in the State of the Environment Report 2011 also included improvements to existing strategies including

- developing a biodiversity monitoring strategy;
- better integrating biodiversity values within urban planning; and
- integrating adaptation planning outcome into existing ACT planning and management frameworks.

The Government has supported or supported in principle all these recommendations.

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will continue to monitor progress on the implementation of those recommendations supported or supported in principles, and will report in the findings in future Annual Reports

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2011, ACT State of the Environment Report 2011, <http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2011/index.html>

ACT Government 2012, Government Response to the 'State of the Environment Report 2011' prepared by the Commissioner for the Environment, 5 June 2012,
[http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250195/Government Response to the State of the Environment Report 2011 - prepared by The Commissioner for the Environment.pdf](http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250195/Government_Response_to_the_State_of_the_Environment_Report_2011_-_prepared_by_The_Commissioner_for_the_Environment.pdf)

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

Date: 6-7-12

By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner of Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Hunter on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 24-25]

In relation to : What is the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's understanding of what the Government will be doing to implement the Commissioner's recommendation on community education with respect to consumption and waste in the latest ACT State of the Environment Report?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The Government supported Recommendation 22 of the State of the Environment Report 2011 which stated:

Strengthen community engagement in sustainability by:

- a. undertaking research on attitudes to sustainability and consumption patterns and behaviours. This could be done through regular, comparable, community surveys similar to the annual NSW Who cares about the environment? with the outcomes informing focus areas for community engagement.
- b. foster behavioural change through community engagement to reduce our ecological footprint with a particular focus on:
 - i. sustainable transport; and
 - ii. impacts of consumption.

In their response, the Government stated " The Government fully understands and supports the need to ensure the community is engaged with sustainability and its importance to the future of the ACT community.

All of its key strategic positions and documents that are addressing the future of the Territory – *Weathering the Change*, *Transport for Canberra*, *ACT Planning Strategy*, *Think water, act water* and the *Waste Strategy 2011-25* - have been developed in strong consultation with the public, community and volunteer groups, community councils, and other key stakeholder groups. These consultations have used a range of mechanisms including online forums, public discussion papers, workshops, information sessions, surveys and submissions.

All these key documents recognise the importance of education, community participation and community 'buy-in' and have incorporated strategies and actions to ensure this occurs."

Government progress on community education with respect to consumption and waste will be tracked by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment and reported in future Annual Reports.

ACT Government 2012, Government Response to the 'State of the Environment Report 2011' prepared by the Commissioner for the Environment, 5 June 2012, [http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250195/Government Response to the State of the Environment Report 2011 - prepared by The Commissioner for the Environment.pdf](http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250195/Government_Response_to_the_State_of_the_Environment_Report_2011_-_prepared_by_The_Commissioner_for_the_Environment.pdf) p. 21

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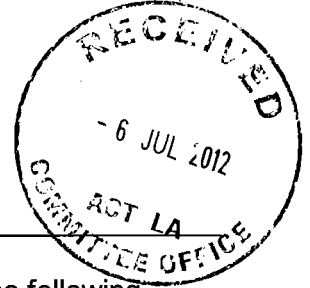
By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Hunter on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 1146]

In relation to : Does the Commissioner have a view on the process around managing urban development, urban development being a matter that was addressed by the Commissioner in the latest ACT State of the Environment Report? Do you have a view of the process that currently exist around managing urban development?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

One of the key issues the ACT State of the Environment Report 2011 highlights is the challenge Canberrans face in planning for our growing urbanisation while reducing our ecological footprint.

The way we design and use our urban areas, infrastructure and green spaces, will significantly affect the quality of the environments we inhabit. As reported in the ACT State of the Environment Report 2011 both greenfield and infill development are continuing to grow, with 72% of new development in Greenfield sites.

A number of recommendations in the report are focused on future development. In particular:

3. Update water management, monitoring and reporting programs to inform:
 - i. actions to mitigate impacts of urban development on water quality;

7. Better integrating biodiversity values within urban planning through:
 - i. integrating biodiversity corridors and habitat connectivity in the Territory Plan process;
 - ii. identifying, where possible, appropriate clearance thresholds for ecological communities across the ACT to maintain and improve biodiversity values and guide development decisions. To complement this the draft biodiversity offset policy should be finalised to ensure no net loss in ecosystems; and
 - iii. developing and implementing an ACT fauna sensitive road design manual

15. Finalise and implement the draft ACT Planning Strategy to provide an integrated approach to future planning. Particular attention should be paid to:
- i. determining indicators and measures for urban quality in the ACT that includes the benefits provided by green infrastructure and access to open space; and
 - ii. developing greenfield and infill targets, which take into account both the need for green infrastructure as well as strengthening a sense of community and self containment.

17. Finalise and implement the draft Sustainable Transport Action Plan to provide an integrated approach to transport and urban planning.

The Government supports all these findings with the exception of recommendation 7 which is supports in part.

It is a difficult to balance the differing and at times competing interests when developing our urban environment. The recommendations were provided to Government to assist in measuring urbanisation impacts and to bring to Governments attention the need to finalise and implement strategies and plans that contribute significantly to sustainable development.improving. Progress on the implementation of these recommendations will be tracked and reported in future Annual Reports

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2011, ACT State of the Environment Report 2011, <http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2011/index.html>

ACT Government 2012, Government Response to the 'State of the Environment Report 2011' prepared by the Commissioner for the Environment, 5 June 2012, [http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250195/Government Response to the State of the Environment Report 2011 - prepared by The Commissioner for the Environment.pdf](http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250195/Government_Response_to_the_State_of_the_Environment_Report_2011_-_prepared_by_The_Commissioner_for_the_Environment.pdf)

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Signature:



Date: 6-7-12

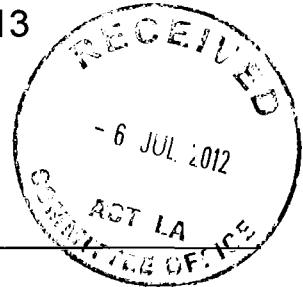
By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 27]

In relation to : Has the Commissioner been consulted on any aspects of the operations or the quality control standards for the proposed upgrade for Queanbeyan sewerage treatments?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has not been consulted on the proposed upgrade for Queanbeyan sewerage treatment plant other than to be advised that Queanbeyan City Council is in the process of organising a meeting of relevant stake holders. Queanbeyan City Council nominated ACT, Commonwealth and NSW Government Agencies that they intend to include in the initial consultations and sought the Commissioners views as to whether the suggested Departments were sufficient to cover relevant stakeholders.

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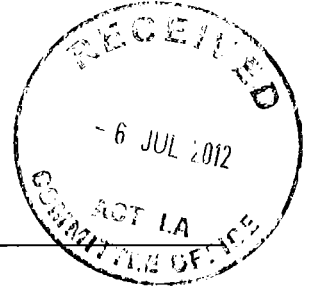
By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 27]

In relation to : What have been the areas of consultation, feedback has the commissioner provided, and the government's response on any aspects of the operations or the quality control standards for the proposed upgrade for Queanbeyan sewerage treatments?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has not been consulted on the proposed upgrade for Queanbeyan sewerage treatment plant other than to be advised that Queanbeyan City Council is in the process of organising a meeting of relevant stake holders. Queanbeyan City Council nominated ACT, Commonwealth and NSW Government Agencies that they intend to include in the initial consultations and sought the Commissioners views as to whether the suggested Departments were sufficient to cover relevant stakeholders.

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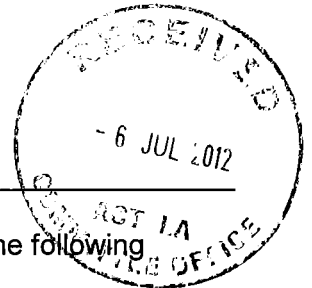
Date: 6-7-12

By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 28]

In relation to : What timeframe would the Commissioner envisage for the implementation of recommendations of the and for results indicating improved health of Lake Burley Griffin?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The water quality in Lake Burley Griffin reflects the overall pattern, composition and amounts of water and pollutant loads from the rivers, creeks and drainages that enter the Lake from its sub-catchments, as well as the biological, chemical, and physical processes that occur within the Lake. As such, the Commissioner would welcome early implementation of all recommendation in the report to mitigate poor water quality and prevent continuing degradation of the water quality in our urban lakes and ponds.

The Government is yet to respond to the recommendations in the report on the Investigation into the state of watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin. Once the Government has responded we will track progress on the agreed recommendations in our Annual Reports.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 6-7-12

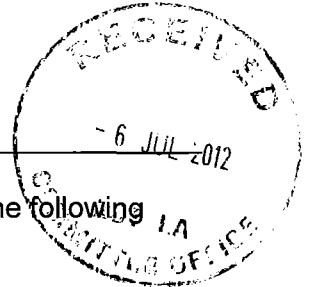
By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by THE CHAIR on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 27-28]

In relation to : What is the Commissioner's view on the construction of urban wetlands in terms of benefits to water quality? And just related to that is about any views on the inner north wetlands as well but, so just usefulness of constructing wetlands and other parks throughout the lakes in the ACT?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Wetlands , correctly sized and functioning effectively, provide significant improvements to urban water quality. The report on the Investigation into the state of watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin noted that since the year 2000 water sensitive urban design (WSUD) installations have been developed by the ACT government and/ or by private developers have been retrofitted in public spaces within the Lakes catchment; including water quality control ponds or wetlands retrofitted to existing infrastructure or associated with 'brownfield' redevelopment particularly wetlands in the Sullivans Creek Catchment at David Street in O' Connor, Banksia St O'Connor and at Dickson playing fields as well as Gungahlin at Flemington Ponds.

Further, the investigation found that "The design of urban development and stormwater drainage systems influences the water quality of urban lakes. Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) is a contemporary approach to urban design, for capturing and treating urban stormwater and removing some or all of the pollutants they carry. While WSUD has been applied in many parts of Canberra's stormwater system, particularly since the late 1990s, there has been little done to measure its effectiveness. The report found that a more strategic approach to WSUD is needed to ensure the most efficient and effective combination of WSUD interventions are developed. I recommended the following:

Comparison of ACT approaches to WSUD with those of other Australian urban areas to help ours remain consistent with developing technology and best practice be undertaken. I also recommended that the ACT Government should develop a strategic approach to WSUD and that this should include:

Recommendation 7:

- a) Identifying sites where installing catchment intervention, such as wetlands and pollution control ponds, would improve water quality entering Lake Burley Griffin. This should include:
 - i. initial feasibility studies into the construction of pollution control ponds or wetlands on the Yarralumla drainage line and Jerrabomberra Creek should be undertaken. Any installations should be designed to be of an appropriate size to treat the catchment area they service.

- ii. identifying WSUD that complement current programs of installing wetlands and water control ponds in both new urban areas and retrofitting in existing suburbs where applicable.
- b) Ensuring that WSUD requirements are enforced in particular;
 - i. ensuring that wetlands and ponds are of appropriate sizes to service their catchments; and
 - ii. undertaking auditing/compliance arrangements to ensure that temporary pollution control ponds for sediment control during the construction phase in new estates are maintained and functioning effectively.
- c) Monitoring the effectiveness of WSUD through improved monitoring following urban developments to determine whether water quality meets WSUD general code targets. Results should be used to inform improvements in WSUD standards.

The Government is yet to respond to this report.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, 2012, *Report on the Investigation into the state of watercourses and catchments for Lake Burley Griffin*, http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/248258/Part_1_-_Report.pdf pp. x.

Our recent ACT State of the Environment Report 2011, in relation to water quality (p60) recommended that :

- 3. Update water management, monitoring and reporting programs to inform:
 - a. actions to mitigate impacts of urban development on water quality;
 - b. the efficacy of Water Sensitive Urban Design measures;
 - c. improvements in sediment and erosion mitigation actions; and
 - d. management of ACT lakes.

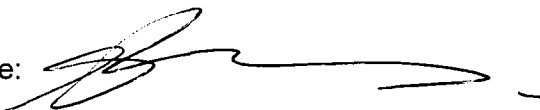
The Government has supported this recommendation.

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will continue to monitor progress on the implementation of those recommendations supported or supported in principles, and will report in the findings in future Annual Reports

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2011, ACT State of the Environment Report 2011, <http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2011/index.html>

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:



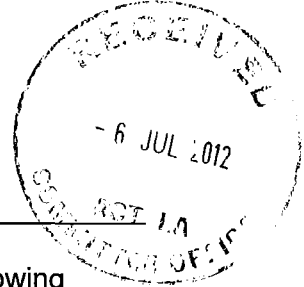
Date: 6-7-12

By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Ms Hunter on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 31]

In relation to : Has progress been made in developing operational plans for all nature reserves as recommended as a high priority action by the Report on the Canberra Nature Park (Nature Reserves) Molonglo River Corridor (Nature Reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation (July 2011)?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Government Agreed in Principle to the recommendation regarding the development of operational plans for all reserves. They stated in their response that:
 "Nature Reserve Operational Plans will be developed giving attention first to the highest priority reserves, rather than providing an operational plan for each reserve. Consideration will be given to grouping some reserves, such as those which are similar and do not have an individual Park Care group. Implementation arrangements and likely resourcing needs will require further consideration and examination"

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment will track progress on the implementation of this recommendation in future annual reports.

Minister for the Environment and Sustainability Development, 2012, *Government Response to the Report on the Canberra Nature Park (Nature Reserves), Molonglo River Corridor (Nature Reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation*, [http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/250413/Government Response - Nature Parks Investigation.pdf](http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/250413/Government_Response_-_Nature_Parks_Investigation.pdf) p.10

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature: 

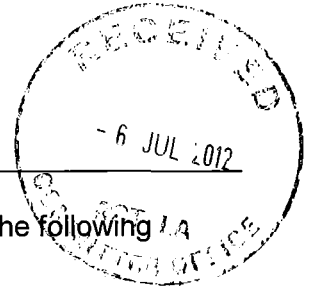
Date: 6-7-12

By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2012-2013

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS



Asked by Mr Smyth on 28 June 2012 : Ms Sarah Burrows took on notice the following question(s):

Hansard uncorrected proof Transcript 28 June 2012 [PAGE 32-33]

In relation to : Would it not have been reasonable though since the last report for the state of the ACT environment to expect some progress instead of a deterioration?

COMMISSIONER NEIL : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

As in previous reports, the 2011 ACT State of the Environment Report show both improvements and declines. For example waste, greenhouse gas emission and ecological footprint continue to increase. However, potable water use decreased and improvements have also been seen in ecological outcomes in relation to hazard reductions.

As noted in the report, the major challenge for Canberrans is planning for our growing urbanisation while reducing our ecological footprint. The report highlights the need for action so that the ACT can become a more sustainable and liveable city in the future. All Canberrans, Government, business and the wider community need to be more vigilant and proactive in planning our city and taking action to protect our environment now and for future generations.

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment 2011, ACT State of the Environment Report 2011, <http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2011/index.html>

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013

Signature:

Date: 6-7-12

By Ms Sarah Burrows for the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment