



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2015-16

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MS MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), DR CHRIS BOURKE MLA, MS NICOLE LAWDER MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

**SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2015-16
PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 2 JUNE 2015**

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **12.00pm Friday 5 June 2015**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation:

Conservation Council ACT Region

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

Larry O'Loughlin Ph: [REDACTED] communications@conservationcouncil.org.au

3. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey and analysis.)

We are still compiling our responses and will provide to the Committee next Wednesday or earlier

4. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2015-2016 (you can expand on these in Question 5):

a. Waste to energy :

b. Environmental Weeds funding

c. Biodiversity Offsets:

5. Please detail your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

Waste: Improved Waste Resource Recovery

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Associated Expenses	1,975	830	0	0	2,805

The Government will undertake a feasibility study to investigate long-term options for the management and treatment of waste in the ACT, including the development of a full business case for a waste to energy facility. Budget Paper 3 page 129

We are concerned that there has been insufficient public consultation on the various ways of reaching our waste to landfill targets and / or of reducing our per capita waste generation. There are a range of options for reducing waste to landfill and for reducing our waste generation. Yet if significant funding (ie \$2.8 million) is allocated to develop a business case for a waste to energy option, then that technical option will get locked in.

Environmental Weeds funding: Our understanding is the environmental weeds budget will be reduced by approximately a third. In the ACT significant gains have been made in gaining control of environmental weeds however this reduction in funding is short-sighted. It will effectively mean the expenditure to date will be wasted in part and will lead to the need for significant increases in future years. We are not proposing an increase in funding rather the need to maintain prior funding levels.

Biodiversity Offsets:

Enhancing the Protection of Endangered Species and Habitat

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital	1,339	3,030	1,721	0	6,090
Depreciation	0	17	70	90	177
Associated Expenses	929	996	1,047	1,906	4,878

The Government will undertake vital environmental offsets works to improve the long-term condition and sustainability of endangered species and habitat. These works fulfil the Territory's offset commitments and will include improving 234 hectares of Golden Sun Moth habitat within Kinlyside Nature Reserve, extending Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo Nature Reserves and improving 549 hectares of Box Gum Woodland across sites at Kinlyside, Mulligans Flat, Goorooyaroo, Justice Robert Hope Park, Isaacs and the Pinnacle Nature Reserves. Budget Paper Three, page 128.

There are a number of projects in the ACT where the Commonwealth has required biodiversity offsets. The proponent is required to meet the costs of these biodiversity provision. In most cases the ACT Government is the proponent. The development of Offset Management Plans are not subject to public consultation requirements, nor are the funding arrangements transparent.

6. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

Funding for the One-Stop-shop for environmental approvals where Matters of National Environmental Significance are involved.

Divestment by ACT Government in investments for fossil fuel projects.

7. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

No (go to question 9.)

8. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

N/A

9. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 12 June 2015, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes

If you indicate yes, and the Committee decides to invite you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 10 June 2015 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
