

2025

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

ACT Climate Change Council 2024–25 Annual Report
in accordance with section 19 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010*

Tabling Statement

**Presented by
Ms Suzanne Orr
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
September 2025**

Statement by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water responding to advice given and recommendations made to the Minister in the ACT Climate Change Council 2024–25 Annual Report

Advice/Recommendations	Minister's Response
<i>Letter to the Minister – Establishment of the ACT Landscape Architect</i> In June 2025, the Council provided a letter to the Minister providing support for the proposed new position of ACT Landscape Architect and offered some suggestions to structure the role to maximise the effectiveness of this exciting new role.	The ACT Government values the ACT Climate Change Council for their independent and expert advice and notes the Council is a key stakeholder in climate policy and program development across government. The papers developed by the Council are considered by the Minister and where relevant, circulated to appropriate areas across government The ACT Government notes the support of the Council and considered the advice of the Council in the establishment of the ACT Landscape Architect and development of the ACT Landscape plan. The ACT landscape plan will consider adaptation and mitigation linkages as well as the benefits of nature and biodiversity in our city.
<i>ACT Climate Change Strategy Advice Document</i> The Council document highlights some of the opportunities for the natural, social, economic and built environment sector, along with the health, energy and transport sector to support the ACT's goal of a just transition to net zero emissions. The document also identifies that capitalising on the links between how the ACT region is planned, designed and delivered, with community quality of life and sense of well-being is critical to achieve a transition which will leave no one behind.	In the development of the next ACT climate change strategy, the Council's advice document was considered as part of early development and thinking for the next strategy across the areas identified by the Council including a focus on adaptation and building on mitigation actions.
<i>Lithium batteries and an electrified Canberra</i> The Council prepared a paper on the crucial role of lithium-ion batteries in Canberra, stabilising renewable energy generation and reducing overall energy costs. The paper presented some safety challenges and risks and noted ongoing research for alternatives to lithium-ion batteries. Recommendations included promoting improved battery information and discouraging indoor charging and expanding charging infrastructure for devices like e-scooters and e-bikes	Lithium-ion batteries can be found in a broad range of everyday devices As the ACT electrifies and batteries are increasingly used for energy storage, appliances and vehicles, the government is committed to ensuring the ongoing safety in operating these devices. Consumers should ensure they are aware of the risks of these types of batteries, and measures to reduce them. Information can be found on the Emergency Services Agency's website.
<i>Cultural fire / fire regime management in the ACT</i> The Council report explores the historical context of fire management in Australia, the re-emergence of cultural burning practices, challenges and controversies surrounding its implementation, and recommendations for future management strategies.	The ACT Parks and Conservation Service (ACT PCS) partners closely with Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians to care for Ngunnawal Country. ACT PCS are working with the Ngunnawal community to develop a Ngunnawal cultural burning framework.