

**2016**

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORY AND  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
REPORT NO 12**

**REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2014-2015**

**Presented by  
Andrew Barr MLA  
Chief Minister**

## **Government Response**

Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services Report No 12 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2014-2015.

### **Introduction**

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services reviewed annual reports for:

- Capital Metro Agency;
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – Sport and Recreation Services, Venues and Events, Architects Board of the ACT, Constructions Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004, Environment Protection Authority;
- Environment and Planning Directorate – Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change, Planning, Heritage, ACT Heritage Council, Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Report on the Operation and Administration of the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Act 2012 for 2014-15, Parking—Coordinator General;
- Land Development Agency;
- Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment; and
- Territory and Municipal Services Directorate - Information services; Waste and Recycling; Land Management; Regulatory Services; Capital Linen and Sustainable Transport, Roads ACT, ACTION, ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, Animal Welfare Authority, ACT Veterinary Surgeons Board.

The Committee made 5 recommendations.

## **Response to Committee Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

*The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with indigenous organisations with a view to having the management of Boomanulla Oval returned to indigenous leadership as soon as it is sustainable to do so.*

### **Government Response - Agreed**

### **Recommendation 2**

*The Committee recommends that the public be informed of the terms of Floriade's use of Commonwealth Park as soon as the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority have reached agreement.*

### **Government Response - Agreed**

Once the agreement between the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority in relation to Floriade has been signed, it will be tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly, by the Minister for Tourism and Events.

### **Recommendation 3**

*The Committee recommends that when the Key Performance Indicators for the manager of Westside are finalised they be made public so that the community can assess the success of the project.*

### **Government Response – Agreed-in-principle**

The Government agrees performance indicators, such as visitation and event numbers, and vendor satisfaction, should be made public to allow the community to assess the success of the Westside site. This information will be released as it comes available.

### **Recommendation 4**

*The Committee recommends that the Government update the Assembly on the plan of works in the ACT's water catchments during the April 2016 sitting week.*

### **Government Response – Noted**

The ACT Government has been successful in securing the balance of \$85 million of Australian Government funding, to complement \$8.5 million ACT government funding, to significantly improve water quality in our lakes and rivers and downstream in the Murray-Darling Basin. The ACT Basin Priority Project focuses on six priority catchments that collectively represent a variety of urban catchment types. These are the catchments of Tuggeranong, Yarralumla, Upper Molonglo, Lower Molonglo, West Belconnen, and Fyshwick.

Twenty-five priority water quality projects will be constructed across the ACT as part of the ACT Basin Priority Project.

- Tuggeranong catchment - nine projects (\$27 million)
- Fyshwick catchment – six projects (\$15.9 million)
- Yarralumla Creek catchment - five projects (\$16.3 million)
- West Belconnen catchment - two projects (\$6.5 million)
- Upper Molonglo catchment - two projects (\$3.4 million)
- Lower Molonglo catchment - one project (\$9.6 million)

Proposed improvements include bio-retention systems, ponds, channel naturalisation (swales) and wetlands.

This initiative will reduce the level of sediment, nutrients and other pollutants entering the ACT's lakes and waterways, including Lake Burley Griffin and Lake Tuggeranong, as well as downstream into the Murrumbidgee River. This includes long term improvements to environmental condition, urban landscapes, liveability, amenity and recreational opportunities.

Water quality improvement options were evaluated through a multi criteria analysis (MCA) process. The initial coarse filter scoping identified over 700 projects. This was narrowed down to 178 options based on the likely feasibility and constraints. Each of the 178 options were outlined and feedback sought through community consultation before finalising the concept designs, costing and scoring against the MCA criteria. The MCA prioritised water quality outcomes while considering critical cost, environmental and feasibility benefits and constraints.

All efforts will be made to deliver all of the priority projects within the allocated budget and timeframe. The detailed design process will ultimately inform whether any variation is required to the priority options proposed for delivery. A number of reserve projects have also been identified for each catchment to allow for contingencies that may emerge during the detailed design or construction phase. They will go ahead if any of the priority options are no longer considered viable, unexpected savings are made in completing the priority projects or additional funding becomes available.

Detailed engineering designs are currently being prepared for the proposed priority projects. Further community consultation will be undertaken in the second part of 2016 and development approvals sought, followed by construction which is scheduled to be complete by mid 2019.

#### **Recommendation 5**

*The Committee recommends that in future annual reports Libraries ACT include reporting on the number of digital visitors to libraries in the financial year.*

#### **Government Response - Agreed**

Libraries ACT supports reporting on the number of digital visitors to libraries.

There is currently a national project underway to develop national Key Performance Indicators for libraries, including digital services.

Once this project is completed, Libraries ACT will report on the number of digital visitors to libraries in their Annual Report.