

2018

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CORRIGENDUM

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

B.2.1.3 COMPLAINTS

Complaints may be made to the Commissioner about the ACT Government's management of the environment or about issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the ACT (s13 of the Act). All complaints must be on a prescribed form (available on the ACT Legislation Register AF2017-157).

In addition to prescribed complaints, individuals and groups have, over time, indicated their concerns and

opposition to government actions in a manner of other ways. Simple inquiries which have resulted in complaints being formalised are addressed directly. Some of these inquiries are referred to the ACT Government and resolved. Telephone and email inquiries have not always resulted in complaint investigations. Some complainants express ongoing concern about continuing issues – such as the cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroos.

The first responsibility is to forward the complaints to the appropriate agency for their attention.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS FOR 2017–18

ISSUES STATUS	NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS	TOPIC
Complaints from 2016–17	1	Little Eagle, Strathnairn development, West Belconnen, received 22 June 2017. Closed on 23 February 2018 after a confidential ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal resolution between the parties.
Issues raised in 2017–18 (Potential Complaints – no complaint form received)	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inadequate management of CSIRO site at Ainslie 2. Development at Hume impacting environmental values 3. Split Environmental Impact Statement process for Fyshwick development 4. Illegal Waste dump at Hume 5. Kippax Master Plan 6. Overgrazing by rabbits and kangaroos at Mount Majura and Mount Ainslie
Complaints received in 2017–18	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of aged care facility at Kaleen, received 10 July 2017. Closed on 15 September 2017 after ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal resolution between the parties. 2. Cat containment – raised previous complaint from 2016 on 6 October 2017. Closed on 13 April 2018. The office is following this up as part of implementation of one of the Corrective Action Requests from the <i>Independent Audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment</i>. 3. Annual cull of Eastern Grey Kangaroo – two complaints received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First received 25 July 2017, raised issues with regard to Googong Foreshores. Closed 24 August 2017. • Second received 27 October 2017, with regard to CSIRO report from 2014 through Freedom of Information request from the complainant. Commissioner made several enquires and sought independent advice. Closed on 25 June 2018.

Since July 2017, five different complaints have been closed, one of which was pending from 2015–16, and one from 2016–17. The issue related to the Eastern Grey Kangaroo management continues to be actively raised with the office.