

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

**Statement responding to advice given and recommendations made
to the Minister in the ACT Climate Change Council 2019-20 Annual
Report**

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Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

Statement by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability responding to advice given and recommendations made to the Minister in the ACT Climate Change Council 2019-20 Annual Report.

While the ACT Climate Change Council has not used its 2019-20 Annual Report to make any specific new recommendations to Government, the table below outlines the Minister's responses to advice and recommendations from Council in 2019-20 and related actions taken by the ACT Government during this time.

Advice/Recommendation	Minister's Response
<p><u><i>Advice on Development of the ACT Wellbeing Framework</i></u></p> <p>In 2019, Council provided input to the ACT Government's development of Wellbeing Indicators by providing a submission to the Wellbeing Indicators team in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate titled <i>Climate Change: A lens for the ACT Wellbeing Indicators</i>. In the submission, Council set out the impacts on climate change on the various domains of wellbeing and proposed a series of climate wellbeing indicators.</p>	<p>Advice provided by Council was considered by Government and incorporated into the <i>ACT Wellbeing Framework</i>. The final <i>ACT Wellbeing Framework</i> includes a Domain on 'Environment and Climate', as well as a number of the indicators proposed in Council's submission.</p>
<p><u><i>Learning from Canberra's Climate-Fuelled Summer of Crisis</i></u></p> <p>Council submitted this report to the Minister in late June 2020. It draws on consultations with community members and subject matter experts on the impacts of the 2019-20 summer, and how the ACT can better prepare for similar climate-fuelled crises in future.</p> <p>In the report, Council recommends a coordinated whole of government approach to better protect communities and ecosystems from climate-change impacts and makes 22 recommendations under the topics 'Pathway to Healing', 'Communication', 'Natural Habitat', 'Urban Canopy' and 'Built Environment'.</p>	<p>My Office has recently distributed this report to other Ministers for consideration. The report provides valuable insights which will inform current and future policy actions by the Government in response to climate change.</p> <p>Some recommendations in the report relate to ACT Government work already underway. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to upgrade thermal performance of ACT schools. • Public housing upgrades that improve the comfort and efficiency of these properties. • Efforts to ensure equity of access to tree cover between suburbs as we work towards 30% urban tree canopy cover. • Street tree selection already considers the suitability of species for the future climate.

<p><u>Submission to the ACT Sustainable Energy Policy 2020-25 Discussion Paper</u></p> <p>Council reviewed the ACT Sustainable Energy Policy 2020-25 Discussion Paper and three members provided a written submission. This advice noted that development of an ACT Sustainable Energy Policy for 2020-25 will be an opportunity to frame the energy policy suite with a clear vision of a broader end goal: a future ACT as a sustainable city and territory. The three contributing Council members provided detailed responses to questions framed in the discussion paper.</p>	<p>The advice provided by the Council has been considered in the development of the Sustainable Energy Policy 2020-25.</p>
<p><u>Minister's briefing</u></p> <p>In June 2020, Council members met with the Chief Minister, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Health, Minister for Community Services and Facilities and the Chief of Staff of the Deputy Chief Minister. Council provided an update on climate change projections for the ACT Region and tipping points, risks and potential for concurrent crises, as well as and an overview of Council's report, <i>Learning from Canberra's Climate Fuelled Summer of Crisis</i>.</p>	<p>Ministers appreciated the update on local and global climate change projections, and the foreshadowing of the recommendations in the <i>Summer of Crisis</i> report.</p>
<p><u>Community Listening Report on Adaptation to Climate Crises: The Summer of 2019-20</u></p> <p>Council compiled this report immediately after completing the three Community Conversations on the summer of crisis in March 2020. The report summarises what Council heard from the Community at these sessions. Key findings in the report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the negative impacts of the summer's events on health, wellbeing, and frame of mind; • the importance to participants of a strong, connected community for resilience to crises; • the need for improvements in Canberra's built environment to better protect from heat and smoke; and • community's views on the importance of strengthening, protecting or upgrading other infrastructure including electricity, internet, parks and wilderness. 	<p>The Listening Report is not formal advice and does not contain recommendations from Council; rather, it captures the views of the community as expressed in the Community Conversations. I attended one of the Community Conversations and the Listening Report accurately captures the sentiments expressed by the participants.</p>