



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

OFFICIAL

MEETING BRIEF

To: Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions
Reduction

Tracking No.: 24/82858

From: Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy

Date of meeting: Tuesday, 13 August 2024

Subject: ACT Climate Change Council meeting 58 – 13 August 2024

- DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 12/08/2024

Purpose of the meeting

To engage with the ACT Climate Change Council (Council) at its meeting on Tuesday, 13 August 2024. Key items for discussion include Council membership, cultural burning, and Council advice on emissions reduction targets post 2025 ACT Climate Change Strategy actions.

Recommendations

That you **note** the possible discussion topics for your meeting with the Council at Attachment A.

Noted / Please Discuss

Shane Rattenbury MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

Signatory Name: Ros Malouf
Action Officer: Mark Shorter

Phone: 6207 5335
Phone: 6207 8805

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Out of scope	

Out of scope

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- 1. [REDACTED]
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Topic 3: (cont.) Advice on ACT emissions reduction targets roadmap/next steps (Agenda item 3.3)

Background

- The Council undertook work to review the ACT's emissions reduction targets and concluded that the ACT Government should move to Net-Zero for Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions from 2045 to 2040 and commit to declining a scope 3 emissions trajectory. You were briefed on this at its 53rd meeting (17 October 2023) and the Council presented their work to the 21 November 2023 Climate Action subcommittee meeting. At the Council's 54th meeting (5 December 2024) you noted this work has exposed Cabinet to the science behind setting emissions targets and mentioned that in the short term, the ACT may not be in a position to change its targets.
- In parallel, various discussions have been underway around the ACT's *Climate Change Strategy 2019-25* (Attachment E) nominally finishing in 2025 and your expectations for the Council's contribution on future strategy considerations. At the Council's 55th and 56th meetings (7 February 2024 and 2 April 2024) the Council noted the current strategy emphasises mitigation with less focus on adaptation, health, and broader co-benefits. Discussions noted that an updated strategy should consider adaptation, complex risks, health, and housing programs along with mitigation and noted the importance of engaging with the ACT community in the development of an updated strategy. Overall, the updated

strategy should align broadly with the policy development currently underway in the ACT.

- In April 2024, your office reached out to the Chair of the Council, Professor Mark Howden and requested formal advice on an updated 2040 net zero emissions target, a post 2025 climate change strategy and overall climate adaptation. Professor Howden confirmed the Council would be keen on providing advice and suggested this be discussed at the Council's 11 June 2024 meeting.
- At its 57th meeting (11 June 2024) the Council updated you on their stakeholder engagement conducted over the past six months. How to amplify messages on the climate science and the need for accelerated action was discussed.

Suggested Talking Points

- I greatly appreciate and value the input the Council have previously provided on what net zero and interim emission reduction targets for the ACT should be. I welcome the Council's thoughts on how this can be communicated more broadly.
- I am interested in continuing to hear the Council's views on how other jurisdictions are responding to a reduced global carbon budget and updated advice on science-based targets, particularly in the context of meeting the more ambitious net zero targets that the Council has recommended.
- The Government is focused on making the ACT more resilient. I am interested in hearing from the Council on specific gaps and opportunities around climate adaptation.